

Recommended Species

Perennial Dryland Species:



Hard Fescue (*Festuca ovina*)
15-20 lb/seeded acre

Hard fescue establishes more slowly than sheep fescue and has little spreading tendency. It is more drought-tolerant than chewings or creeping red fescue, but less so than sheep fescue. It does not tolerate waterlogging. Both hard and sheep fescues perform well on sandy soils. Like other fine-leaved fescues, sheep and hard fescues tolerate certain grass herbicides used to control most weedy grasses.



Sheep Fescue
(*Festuca ovina* var. *duriuscula*)
15-20 lb/seeded acre

Sheep fescue is a short-statured, noncreeping bunchgrass that forms a dense turf. Because it is long-lived and relatively summer dormant, it is suited to drip-irrigated orchards. The cultivar 'Covar' is frequently used; it is somewhat slow to establish but is competitive once established. Similar to hard fescue, sheep fescue is very drought tolerant and can be established in orchards that do not have irrigation.

The written text descriptions have been taken from *Cover Cropping in Vineyards, A Growers Handbook*, Ingels et al., UC DANR Publication 3338.