**Foothills Rough Fescue**  
(*Festuca campestris*)

**Description:**  
_Foothills Rough Fescue_, Rough fescues originated from the arctotertiary flora. They were adapted to the subalpine and boreal forest climates and continue to this day to be grasses of the subalpine or grasses of the forest edge.

**Growth Habit:**  
_Foothills Rough Fescue_ is a densely tufted plant, often forming large tussocks, with fibrous roots. Spreads through seeds and rhizomes. Grows erect, solitary bunch grass. Plant grows from 0.3 to 0.8 m range in height. Foliage grey to blue green.

**Adaption:**  
_Foothills Rough Fescue_ is found on mountain slopes and is a dominant climax species in the foothills grassland. Grows in dry grasslands, forest openings and rocky mountains especially where moisture limitations are significant. Good early spring protein.

**Reclamation Uses:**  
_Foothills Rough Fescue_ is a must usage on dry slopes where there is a thin black layer of soil. Recommended for revegetating disturbances as well as restoring altered rangelands. Best used in a mix with early successional grasses that will provide the necessary cover while the rough fescue establishes itself.

**Quick Facts:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Growth Habit</th>
<th>Flooding Tolerance</th>
<th>Drought Tolerance</th>
<th>Seeds/g</th>
<th>Seeds/lb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Densely Tufted</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>168,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Sheep Fescue**

**Description:**  
_Sheep Fescue_ is an introduced cool season, bunch grass adapted to central and northern latitudes of the U.S.

**Growth Habit:**  
_Sheep Fescue_ is a densely tufted, low growing bunchgrass. It has fine leaves growing to a height of 15-30 cm (6-12 inches). It is a blue-green color and can be used for turf in shade. It has excellent winter hardiness and develops a large root mass making this a long-lived variety. Sheep fescue differs from hard fescue in that it is shorter (5-10 cm or 2-4 inches), slightly more drought tolerant, and has a blue-green color.

**Adaption:**  
_Sheep Fescue_ is very shade tolerant, more so than creeping red fescue or hard fescue. Sheep fescue does well in sandy, gravelly soils but can grow well in loam soil. It is only fair in clay soils. Sheep Fescue is tolerant of acid soils.

**Reclamation Uses:**  
_Sheep Fescue_ establishes slowly, but has better seedling vigor than common sheep fescue. Due to the slow establishment and non-aggressive nature of sheep fescue it is a non-invasive species. Once the root system has developed it will persist. Sheep Fescue will establish on sandy and gravelly soils of low nutrient levels. It is shade tolerant and tolerant of competition of faster establishing, taller species in a seed mix. It is not tolerant of saline or alkaline soils, which limits its use under some prairie conditions.

**Quick Facts:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Flooding Tolerance</th>
<th>Drought Tolerance</th>
<th>Seeds/g</th>
<th>Seeds/lb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low growing Bunchgrass</td>
<td>Fine leafed</td>
<td>Blue-green color</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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