

# Seasonality - Warm and Cold Season Grasses

Different species of turf grass have different characteristics. Knowing the seasonality of the species that make up your lawn can teach you a lot about it.\*

## Turf Grasses with Generally Good Drought Tolerance:

Species	Seasonality	Suitability
Little Bluestem	warm	Native to most of U.S.
Bermuda grass	warm	Non-native adapted to southern & mid-Atlantic U.S.
Pennsylvania sedge	warm	Eastern and central U.S.
Zoysia grass	warm	Non-native adapted to southern U.S.
Tall fescues	cool	Mid-Atlantic region
Fine fescues	cool	Mid-Atlantic region

## Difference Between Warm and Cool Season Grasses:

Warm-Season Grasses	Cool-Season Grasses
Summer growing season	Spring and Fall growing season
Best time to plant is summer	Best time to plant is fall
Winter dormancy, which overall lasts longer than grass with summer dormancy (turning brown is normal)	Dormant in summer (turning brown is normal) but may stay green in winter
Prefer temps between 80-95 degrees F	Prefer temps between 60-75 degrees F
Better able to withstand hot summers; can be killed off in harsh winter	Better able to withstand cold winters; can be killed off in harsh summer

Substantial information for these tables used from: Vickers, Amy. [Handbook of Water Use and Conservation](#). Amherst, MA. Waterplow Press (2001): 173.