



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

### **Hardin County Extension News Release**

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### **Turf Tips: Kentucky Bluegrass**

*By Barb Snyder, OSU Extension Master Gardener Volunteer*

*Hardin County* – Kentucky Bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*) is one of the most popular cool-season grasses with excellent color, texture, and density. The biggest advantage of this grass is its underground stems, referred to as rhizomes. They are aggressive and spread quickly, repairing damaged areas in your lawn without reseeding. The grass will return after a fire, even though it looks dead on the surface but underground buds are still alive and the grass will grow again. The plant can stand months of drought and will go dormant. It will come back, however that requires some supplemental watering. If that water is not available, you might choose another grass species.

Kentucky Bluegrass cannot tolerate deep shade or wet soils, and is slow to germinate, taking a period of 2-5 weeks. Newer cultivars are available that can crowd out weeds and show increased resistance to disease. Bluegrass is used for home lawns, parks, schoolyards, golf courses, cemeteries, and athletic fields. The common pests of this type of grass include leaf spot, dollar spot, grubs, rust, sod webworms, chinch bugs, and bluegrass billbugs. There are more than 100 cultivars of bluegrass so consult your Extension office or a local nursery for the best one for your growing conditions and area.