

Rhizomatous Tall Fescue (RTF™) is a new type of tall fescue, which produces rhizomes. A rhizome is a creeping stem or runner that extends outward from the main plant underground. The rhizome will send a shoot up to the soil surface while extending new roots downward, forming a new plant. RTF the 'self-repairing' turf.



RTF is now available in mature turf. Barenbrug has licensed the rights to produce and market RTF turf to the RTF Turf Producers Association. The Association controls the production of RTF turf and maintains the highest quality standards. Only members of the Association are licensed to produce RTF turf.

Besides all the benefits of a turf lawn, installing a lawn with RTF turf has an additional benefit: due to the rhizome development of RTF, the turf will “anchor” faster than regular turf. This means that it will root down quicker. The result is that your lawn establishes faster and is faster growing on its own root system. Advantage: you can use your lawn quicker and can reduce watering rates earlier, thereby saving on irrigation costs.

What is RTF?

Rhizomatous Tall Fescue (RTF™) is a new type of tall fescue, which produces rhizomes. A rhizome is an underground stem that till through the soil to spread the plant underground and form new growth. RTF behaves like a smoothstalked meadowgrass, but is a unique type of tall fescue. The variety LABARINTH being the first ever of this type of tall fescue.



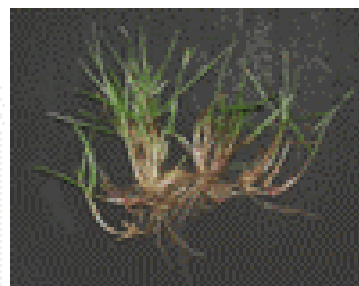
What makes RTF unique?

RTF has the ability to repair itself. Many traditional turf grasses clump together, not filling in the bare spots and producing an uneven lawn. With bare spots, weeds are more apt to take over the lawn.



What makes RTF unique is its ability to fill in these open areas with rhizomes. Young plants first build the root and shoot system to sustain life and then concentrate on a bare area of lawn with rhizomes, knitting the lawn together.

Plants taken from RTF turf that clearly show the rhizome activity of RTF, knitting the turf together.



FOR AVAILABILITY OF RTF TURF & PRICES CALL FREE ON **0800 915 9846**

RTF Characteristics

Strong, deep root system

- Ability to draw its moisture from a deep profile
- Excellent drought and heat tolerance with less irrigation

Excellent colour and disease resistance

- Withstands stressful weather conditions
- Holds its rich green colour, even through winter's low temperatures

Fine leafed

- The RTF variety "Labarinth" is very fine leafed for a tall fescue. It is probably the finest leafed tall fescue variety on the market today!

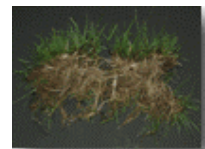
All about LABARINTH

First RTF variety has been named!

The first RTF variety ever has been named **LABARINTH**. Many Barenbrug variety names have traditionally started with the prefix BAR (e.g. other prominent tall fescue varieties such as Barlexas and Barrera). The unique characteristics of the first RTF variety ever, warranted a name that would depict its specific qualities. The name Labarinth highlights the traits of RTF, while still showing its heritage! Labarinth is bred for increasing rhizome number and rhizome length in turf. The rhizomes produced by Labarinth form a labyrinth or mesh of roots unequalled by any other variety.



Labarinth forms a very dense and fine turf.



Labarinth's root system

What is a Rhizome?

A rhizome is an underground stem that sends out roots and shoots from its nodes. What makes RTF™ unique is its ability to fill in an open area in the sod with rhizomes. Young plants will first build the root and shoot a system to sustain life, it will then fill the sod with rhizomes, knitting the sod together. In a dense stand, such as a sod field, the rhizomes are present, but not easily seen without digging. However, if there are open spaces or a thin stand, these rhizomes will extend themselves into the open area, and then will rise above the surface and fill in.



Here you can see how the rhizomes form new plants



More about Endophyte

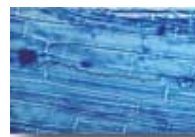
The endophyte fungus has a symbiotic relationship with the host plant. The fungus grows between the plant cells and is only visible through a microscope. The fungus does not cause any negative effects on the grass plants, on the contrary: while the fungus "feeds" on the host plant, it produces alkaloids that protect the host from environmental influences in return. These alkaloids are toxic to pests, thus giving the host plant a natural protection. A win - win situation for both species!

Alkaloids are not harmful to humans, but certain alkaloids can, under certain conditions, be harmful to livestock feeding from the host plant. For turfgrass applications the type of alkaloid is not relevant and still we can benefit from the built in protection that endophytes provide. Many perennial ryegrass and tall fescue varieties contain endophyte. (There are specific endophytes that can be used for forage grasses, which produce alkaloids toxic to pests, and not to livestock).

About 80% of the seeds of the RTF variety Labarinth contain the endophyte fungus, providing excellent protection against insects and diseases and enhancing drought tolerance. This is a very high percentage, seldom found in other fescues.



Endophyte in RTF seed



Endophyte in RTF leaf

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