



ROTUMA

Red Fescue

Festuca rubra L.

The first Swiss bred variety of red fescue

Things to know

Rotuma is the first variety of red fescue bred in Switzerland by Agroscope, combining the performance of established varieties with the adaptability of ecotypes collected from Swiss natural meadows. Thanks to its high performance across various characteristics, but above all its extraordinary resistance to rust diseases, it has been included in the list of recommended forage plant varieties in Switzerland since 2025.

Descent

Base material

Selection within the progeny of a cross between the varieties Roland, Bargaret and Reverent with rhizome-forming ecotypes from Swiss natural meadows.

MO seed

Row trial 2018 (FR1825) with seed harvest on 8 half-sib progenies from a polycross with 9 components

Literature

Suter D., Frick R., Hirschi H.-U., 2024. Sortenprüfung Timothe und Rotschwingel: Leichter Fortschritt. Agrarforschung Schweiz 15(1), 272-278

National listing

Situation in Switzerland

On the Swiss List of Recommended Varieties of Forage Plants since 2025

Further registered in the following countries

Agronomic characteristics

Results of the official Swiss variety trials 2021-2023 (Suter et al. 2024)

	ROTUMA	Mean
Yield	5.7	4.8
General impression	3.5	3.5
Juvenile growth	3.3	3.1
Competing ability	6.5	6.3
Persistence	3.4	4.4
Resistance to winter conditions	3.8	3.0
Resistance to leafspots and rust	2.7	2.9
Persistence at higher altitudes	3.5	3.4
Index (weighted average of all notes)	4.2	4.1

Scoring scale 1 = very good; 5 = medium; 9 = very poor
 Yield Mean of 6 experimental sites over 2 years
 Mean Mean value of standard varieties

Description according to UPOV guidelines

DUS test conducted at Schamhorst, BSA (DEU), 2022-2024

UPOV No	Characteristics	State of expression	Note
1	Ploidy	octoploid	8
2	Leaf sheath: anthocyanin coloration	medium	5
4	Plant: growth habit (without vernalization)	intermediate to semi-prostrate	6
7	Leaf: Intensity of green color	medium	5
10	Time of inflorescence emergence (after vernalization)	medium	5
12	Flag leaf: length	long to very long	8
13	Flag leaf: width	broad	7
16	Plant: natural height when fully expanded	tall	7