New vigorous-rooted, drought-tolerant

Turfgrass geneticists and breeders are continuing extensive research that, over the past 30 years, has bred grasses that are more resistant to disease and insects and do not need to build up thatch, according to Dr. Elliot Roberts, executive director of The Lawn Institute.

Within the past 25 or more seed companies in North America and various land grant universities conduct research to improve seeds, the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) is a network of participating evaluators throughout the United States.

NTEP is a cooperative extension service under the administration of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program is used as a tool for evaluating new seeds. Each year, more than 20,000 plots across the United States are evaluated, and the results are published in a report.

The report includes information on the variety of turfgrass, the location of the evaluation, the date of evaluation, and the results of the evaluation. The report is available online at the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program website, and it is updated annually.

The report is a useful tool for turfgrass professionals, including farmers, landscapers, and homeowners, to help them make informed decisions about which turfgrass to plant.

The report is also a valuable resource for researchers and scientists who are studying the effects of climate change on turfgrass growth and development.
better varieties, in one way or another, than the fall than other grasses, says Roberts. "In these instances, their increased tolerance of summer heat and drought stress make them more reasonable to maintain," Roberts says. In more northern locations, he says, zoysiagrass and bermudagrass are used through much of the "transition zone" between the North and South, even though their growth period is shortened by cold spring and fall weather.

"These same grasses are adapted to fall, winter and spring conditions in the transition zone and upper South. But they suffer from hot summer conditions, and are increasingly difficult to keep healthy as one moves further south," Roberts says. "Zoysiagrass and bermudagrass are used effectively in these locations."