NTEP lists leading zoysiagrasses in test categories

The latest data in the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program trials reveals not only where each zoysiagrass cultivar stands in "mean quality ratings," but in a number of other categories as well. And the leading varieties in the overall tests are sometimes overshadowed by others when it comes to such judgments as spring greenup, drought tolerance and fall density. The leaders in each category are:

- **Genetic color:** DALZ 8516, 6.6; Emerald, 6.5; DALZ 8508, 6.3; Belair, Royal and Cavalier, 6.2.

- **Spring greenup:** Sunburst and TC 5018, 9.7; DALZ 8508 and Korean Common, 9.0; TK 5198, 8.7; Royal, Diamond and Sunburst, 8.0; DALZ 8516 and Diamond, 7.5; Palisades, 7.3; TC 5018 and JZ-1, 7.7.

- **Leaf texture:** Cavalier, 7.6; DALZ 8508 and Diamond, 7.5; Emerald and Royal, 7.4; Omni and QT 2004, 7.1.

- **Summer density:** Cavalier, Royal and Diamond, 7.5; Emerald and DALZ 8508, 7.4; DALZ 8516, 7.3.

- **Fall density:** Diamond, 7.2; Marquis, 7.1; Cavalier and Emerald, 7.0; DALZ 8501 and 8516.

- **Percent living ground cover (spring):** CD 259-13, 82.6; Crowne, 81.6; DALZ 8516, 10.6; Meyer and QT 2004, 80.5; Sunburst, 79.8; Korean Common, 73.7; JZ-1, 78.9; TC 5018, Marquis and TGS-W10, 78.9.

- **Percent living ground cover (summer):** Sunburst, 91.2; CD 259-13, 90.0; QT 2047 and TC 5018, 87.6.

- **Percent living ground cover (fall):** All were within range except lowest three — DALZ 8501, Diamond and DALZ 8701.

- **Frost tolerance:** Crowne, DALZ 8516, EL Toro, Omni, QT 2004 and Marquis, 9.0; Cavalier and Palisades, 8.7; DALZ 8701 and Emerald, 8.3; DALZ 8508, Royal, Diamond and Sunburst, 8.0; CD 2513-1 and JZ-1, 7.7.

- **Winter color:** Diamond, 6.8; DALZ 8501, 5.8.

- **Drought tolerance (wilting):** Crowne, 8.3; Palisades, 7.3; DALZ 8701 and TC 5018, 7.0; JZ-1, 6.7.

- **Drought tolerance (dormancy):** Emerald, 5.8; Cavalier, 5.4; DALZ 8508, 5.1; DALZ 8516 and Diamond, 5.0; DALZ 8501 and Royal, 4.9.

- **Fall color (Dec.):** DALZ 8516, 7.7; Belair, DALZ 8701 and Palisades, 7.3; Meyer, QT 2004, Marquis and TGS-W10, 6.7.

- **White patch:** Emerald, 9.0; Cavalier and Palisades, 8.7; CD 259-13, 8.2.

- **Percent dying ground cover (fall):** All were within range except lowest three — DALZ 8501, Diamond and DALZ 8701.

- **Frost tolerance:** Crowne, DALZ 8516, EL Toro, Omni, QT 2004 and Marquis, 9.0; Cavalier and Palisades, 8.7; DALZ 8701 and Emerald, 8.3; DALZ 8508, Royal, Diamond and Sunburst, 8.0; CD 2513-1 and JZ-1, 7.7.

- **Winter color:** Diamond, 6.8; DALZ 8501, 5.8.

- **Drought tolerance (wilting):** Crowne, 8.3; Palisades, 7.3; DALZ 8701 and TC 5018, 7.0; JZ-1, 6.7.

Quicker is cheaper
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we will see two crops in a year, or three crops in two years, even here in the Dallas area.

Yet, quicker production is not universal. JacklinGolf, whose fields are in Georgia, has found difficulty speeding up seedhead production.

“We thought it [three crops in two years] was possible the first year or two because they [zoysiagrasses] do put out good seedheads,” JacklinGolf associate plant breeder Susan Samudio said. “But if your location gets a freeze, that fall crop is not worth the harvest because the germination is so low and you still have the expenses. We just keep the fall crop mowed. Further south you might be able to do it.”