Off The Fringe

Bent Placed on the Back Burner

AG DEPARTMENT WANTS MORE DATA ON ROUNDCUP READY

CREEPING BENTGRASS BEFORE SIGNING OFF ON IT

Roundup Ready Creeping Bentgrass will be running a little late. The arrival of the first-ever genetically modified bentgrass cultivar, created jointly by The Scotts Co. and Monsanto, has been delayed because the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) asked the two companies for more information about the grass before giving them the go-ahead to produce it commercially. Subsequently, Scotts and Monsanto temporarily withdrew their joint application to have the cultivar approved for commercial sale.

Scotts and Monsanto say they will collect the additional data, provide it to APHIS and resubmit their application. A spokesman for Scotts said the APHIS request was not uncommon in such applications. Scotts and Monsanto had hoped to have Roundup Ready Creeping Bentgrass on the market in 2003. It may be delayed until 2004, though.

Eric Nelson, a senior turfgrass scientist at Scotts, told Golfdom earlier this year that Roundup Ready Creeping Bentgrass will be the “most thoroughly studied bentgrass cultivar ever” before it hits the market.

Scotts and Monsanto say that Poa annua, Poa triv and bermudagrass are difficult to control selectively or suppress in conventional creeping bentgrass without also damaging the bentgrass. “Roundup Ready creeping bentgrass should permit selective control of both grassy and broadleaf weeds without any observable phytotoxic reaction on the bentgrass,” according to the companies.

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Seed Availability Additions

In October, Golfdom published a seed availability guide. The following cultivars and marketers were inadvertently left out of the guide. The complete guide is available at www.golfdom.com.

**CULTIVAR** | **MARKETER** | **AVAILABILITY** | **PRICE**
--- | --- | --- | ---
Kentucky Bluegrass
- Blacksburg II | Turf-Seed | C- new | 
- Brilliant | Turf-Seed | B | S
- Challenger | Turf-Seed | B | S
- Midnight II | Turf-Seed | C- new | 
- Midnight Star | Turf-Seed | C- new | 
- North Star | Turf-Seed | B | L
- Rita | Turf-Seed | B | S
- Voyager | Turf-Seed | B | H

Perennial Ryegrass
- Brightster SLT | Turf-Seed | C | H
- Catalina II | Turf-Seed | C- new | 
- Chaparral II | Turf-Seed | C- new | 
- Citation Fore | Turf-Seed | C | H
- Manhattan 4 | Turf-Seed | C- new | 
- Salinas | Turf-Seed | C- new | 
- Quick Trans | Turf-Seed | C | H

Tall Fescue
- Apache II | Turf-Seed | B | S
- Coronado Gold | Turf-Seed | B | S
- Endeavor | Turf-Seed | B | S
- Matador | Turf-Seed | B | S
- Olympic Gold | Turf-Seed | B | S
- Tar Heel | Turf-Seed | B | S
- Wolfpack | Turf-Seed | B | S

Fine Fescue
- Aurora | Turf-Seed | C | S
- Discovery | Turf-Seed | B | S
- Little Bighorn | Turf-Seed | C- new | 

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**CULTIVAR** | **MARKETER** | **AVAILABILITY** | **PRICE**
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Seabreeze | Turf-Seed | C | H
Shademaster II | Turf-Seed | B | S
Tiffeny | Turf-Seed | B | S

Bentgrass
- Alistier Colonial | Turf-Seed | C | S
- Penn A-2 | Tee-2-Green | B | S
- Penn A-1 | Turf-Seed | B | S
- Penn A-4 | Turf-Seed | B | S
- Penn A-4 | Tee-2-Green | B | S
- Penn G-2 | Tee-2-Green | B | S
- Penneagle | Tee-2-Green | B | S
- Pennlinks | Turf-Seed | B | S
- Pennlinks | Tee-2-Green | B | S
- Pennntrio | Tee-2-Green | B | H
- Seaside II | Turf-Seed | B | S

Bermudagrass
- Savannah | Turf-Seed | B | S
- Transcontinental | Turf-Seed | B | S
- Princess-77 | Pennington Seed | B | S
- Mohawk | Pennington Seed | B | S
- Sahara | Pennington Seed | B | S
- Sultan | Pennington Seed | B | S
- Sydney | Pennington Seed | B | S
- Yuma | Pennington Seed | B | S
- Bermuda Triangle | Pennington Seed | B | S
- Royal Blend | Pennington Seed | B | S

Poa Trivialis
- Winterplay | Turf-Seed | B | S
- Winterplex | Turf-Seed | B | S

KEY (AVAILABILITY):
- A = expected surplus;
- B = adequate supply;
- C = limited supply.

KEY (PRICE):
- H = higher price than last season
- S = stable, equal to last season
- L = lower prices than last season