STOP 7

Prof. Stuart Hildebrand

Red Fescue Variety Evaluation. Twenty-four varieties under evaluation. The north half of each plot receives 1 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. per year and the south half 3 pounds. Pennlawn and Rainier continue to be the top ranking commercially available creeping red fescues (Table 9). Pennlawn is preferred due to better drought and low temperature tolerance.

A number of experimental red fescues rank superior to Pennlawn including S-59, Highlight, Oase, and MSU-47-Fr. The improved selections are characterized by a high density and improved leafspot resistance.

TABLE 9. 1966 RED FESCUE VARIETY PERFORMANCE

East Lansing, Michigan

(5 x 9' plots in 3 reps; planted July 11, 1962)

Variety	Quality Rating* (1-Best; 9-Poorest): 1966	1965	Density County (Shoots Per sq. dm.) 10/9/65	Leafspot Thinning (1-Least; 9-Most) 6/15/65
S-59**	1.6	1.6	546	2.0
Highlight**	1.7	1.8	445	1.5
Oase**	1.8	2.1	484	3.5
MSU-47-Fr**	2.0	2.0	498	2.7
Grand Prairie**	2.3	2.0	349	2.2
Golfrood**	2.4	5.1	428	3.5
Rainier	2.6	2.7	329	4.2
Pennlawn	2.6	2.6	299	3.8
Duraturf**	2.7	2.5	299	3.0
Olds	3.2	2.9	268	3.2
Illahee	3.4	3.7	245	5.8
Common Chewings	3.5	3.8	271	5.0
Common Creeping	4.2	4.0	285	5.8
Career Sheeps Fescue	5.8	5.3	299	5.8
Hard Fescue	8.7	7.5	217	8.6

*Average of monthly quality ratings.
**Experimental selections, not available commercially.

Ryegrass and Tall Fescue Variety Evaluations. Twenty-three varieties under evaluation for turf quality, density, leaf texture and winter hardiness. Among the ryegrasses Pelo and Norlea are ranking higher. Several MSU ryegrass selection show promise but lack good mowing characteristics.

Kentucky 31 tall fescue continues to rank higher than Alta through 1965. The MSU selections are continuing to perform well in terms of turf quality and winter hardiness.

TABLE 10. 1966 RYEGRASS AND TALL FESCUE VARIETY PERFORMANCE

East Lansing, Michigan

(5 x 9' plots in 3 reps; planted July 10, 1962)

Variety	Quality Rating* (1-Best; 9-Poorest) 1966	1965	Density Count (Shoots Per sq. dm.) 10/12/65	Percent Winterkill 4/20/66
		PERENNIAL RYEGRASS		
Pelo	2.1	3.0	209	32
MSU-12-Lp**	2.3	1.5	183	8
MSU-21-Lp**	2.8	2.4	188	38
S-23	2.8	2.8	197	45
Norlea	3.6	2.2	147	8
Common	7.0	4.4	200	53
		TALL FESCUE		
MSU-4-Fe**	2.8	1.7	164	18
MSU-5-Fe**	2.8	1.8	161	16
Syn A**	3.4	2.4	122	13
Kentucky 31	3.5	2.7	102	17
Alta	4.0	3.5	101	10

*Average of monthly quality ratings.
**Experimental selections, not available commercially.

Evergreen timothy has shown good turf quality, density and winter hardiness through the first two years. The quality declines during high temperature periods. It shows promise for the cool, wet soils of nothern Michigan, particularly under close cutting. Draylar upland bluegrass ranks better than Canada bluegrass.