

STOP: 5

## Perennial Ryegrass Cultivar Evaluation

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Perennial ryegrasses have traditionally been used as a "nurse grass" or a quick cover grass. Under Michigan conditions the older ryegrass varieties are short-lined perennials that often existed for only several years. Poor mowing quality has also been associated with the ryegrasses.

Perennial ryegrasses are also considered to be very aggressive and competitive during seedling establishment. Therefore, it is usually recommended that seed mixtures not exceed 20% perennial ryegrass.

The improved ryegrasses have been reported to have a reduced seedling development rate and a somewhat reduced vertical shoot growth rate. Thus, they are much more compatible in a mixture with Kentucky bluegrasses and fine fescues. However, more research needs to be done by establishing plots with ryegrasses mixed with Kentucky bluegrass and red fescue before these reports can be confirmed.

Of the improved ryegrasses that have previously been evaluated in Michigan, Manhattan has performed considerably better than the common varieties. It has exhibited better tolerance to both winter and summer conditions in terms of color and shoot density.

Many new ryegrass varieties have recently been developed. However, the cultivar Game, is merely a new name for the cultivar Persistenta which performed poorly in previous Michigan evaluations. Since many of the new cultivars included in this evaluation are already on the market, performance data is needed.

During July, 1976 the plot area was prepared by spraying with Round-Up at 2 pounds AE/acre. Surviving grasses were resprayed 10 days later. The sod was then stripped and removed. Sterilized soil was spread evenly to restore the original soil level. Twenty-nine cultivars of perennial ryegrass were seeded in triplicate on September 1, 1976.

The following ratings reflect the seedling establishment rate of the perennial ryegrass cultivars. It is important to note that these ratings do not suggest long term performance. In fact, those cultivars excessively aggressive during the first year may indicate incompatibility with desirable perennial ryegrasses.

1976 Perennial Ryegrass Cultivar Evaluation

Cultivar	Seedling Density - Seedling Vigor Rating (1-Best; 9-Poorest)
1. Barry	4.0
2. Caprice	5.3
3. Caravelle	5.7
4. Citation	5.7
5. Derby	4.7
6. Diplomat	4.0
7. Ensporta	6.7
8. Eton	6.7
9. Game	4.3
10. Grandstand	5.0
11. Idole	4.7
12. Lamora	5.0
13. Loretta	3.0
14. Manhattan	4.3
15. Norlea	5.3
16. NK-200	4.0
17. Omega	4.7
18. Paramount	5.0
19. Pennfine	5.3
20. Regal	7.0
21. Sprinter	5.7
22. Splendor	6.3
23. Syn D-1	4.3
24. Yorktown	5.3
25. EER-7	6.3
26. EER-8	5.7
27. EER-88	5.7
28. MOM-272	5.3
29. MOM-342	4.3

CAUTION!  
Seedling Vigor Ratings  
do not predict long term  
performance.