KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS PERFORMANCE

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Since the establishment of the Kentucky bluegrass trials in 1981, disease and insect pressure has caused differential thinning among the plots. The most common diseases include Leafspot, Dollarspot and Snowmold. Leafspot has caused the greatest damage. As can be seen in the following list, the least affected cultivars in 1984 are the newer improved types while the most seriously affected are a mixture of common and improved cultivars.

Leafspot Rating (6-9-84)

Least Infection	Greatest Infection
Barblue	Adelphi
Baron	Kenblue
Bristol	Mystic
Eclipse	Ram I
Touchdown	Wabash

Dollarspot infection during the month of July was uncharacteristically severe on the bluegrass trials. Even though the plots are mowed at 1 3/4" and receive 3# of nitrogen/1000 ft^2 annually, Dollarspot thinned many of the cultivars. The following lists the most and least affected of the cultivars.

Dollarspot Infection

Least Infection	Most Infection
Adelphi	Barblue
Baron	Cheri
Bristol	Nugget
Merit	Touchdown
Plush	Welcome

Bluegrass Billbug populations reached damaging levels during the month of July. Severity of damage appeared to be related more to lack of irrigation rather than cultivar preference.

Recommendations for Kentucky bluegrasses continue to be twofold. When selecting bluegrasses for low-maintenance areas (no irrigation, less than 2#N/M/annually) cultivars should be restricted to the older common types such as Park, Kenblue and others. New, improved cultivars often fail to perform well under low-maintenance. Selection of improved cultivars for moderate to high maintenance areas may be limited by availability, but should include some of the following.

Adelphi	Barblue	Baron	Bristol
Eclipse	Majestic	Merit	Parade
Plush	Touchdown	Victa	Enmundi
Ram I	America	Cheri	Glade

Regardless of the final selected cultivars, blending of 2 or 3 cultivars should guarantee blended strengths which will mask out individual disease, insect and stress weaknesses.