

## NATIONAL KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS VARIETY TRIAL

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The 1985 National Kentucky bluegrass variety evaluation is sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture and was established in fall of 1985. The trial contains 72 varieties and is replicated around the country. Each year the USDA compiles all the results from around the country and prepares a report based on the results at each location in the United States.

The maintenance level of this study would be considered high. The site receives 3 lbs N/M/YR and is irrigated to avoid drought stress. The site is mowed twice per week at a height of 1.75 inches and herbicides are applied as needed to control weeds.

The varieties are evaluated monthly beginning in April of each year. The data in Table 8 displays the ratings taken for April, May, June, and July of 1988; the mean of those four ratings; and the grand mean from the 1987 monthly ratings. The ratings show wide variances in turf quality. Some outstanding new cultivars are providing top quality turfs throughout the growing season. Varieties such as Princeton 104, Midnight, Chateau, Challenger, Blacksburg, Able 1, and Abbey are relatively new cultivars providing outstanding quality. Some older varieties such as Bristol, Glade, and Eclipse also provide excellent quality.

The biggest concern when selecting turfgrass varieties is their relative resistance to diseases. Data collected in the summer of 1987 shows the relative occurrence of dollar spot on these Kentucky bluegrass varieties (Table 9). With the exception of Mystic and Blacksburg, most of the high quality varieties also have good resistance to this disease. Probably the biggest disease problem with Kentucky bluegrasses is necrotic ring spot (NRS). We have been inoculating 25 high quality Kentucky bluegrasses with the causal organism of NRS in the field. By next year we should have some information available on varietal susceptibility to NRS.

When choosing Kentucky bluegrass cultivars, our recommendation is to blend 2-3 of the top 20 cultivars from Table 13 and seed with that blend. Unfortunately, varietal availability is still a big problem. Growers often find that when they try to choose a variety, only a handful of varieties listed in Table 13 are actually available. The best advice is to plan well ahead. Order seed at least a year in advance of your planting date.

TABLE 8. 1985 National Kentucky Bluegrass Trial.

Variety	1988 Quality Ratings					1987 Mean (Rank)
	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	MEAN	
Princeton 104	6.5	7.3	8.3	8.7	7.7	7.6 (1)
Bristol	7.2	8.2	7.2	8.0	7.6	7.1 (3)
Lofts 1757	7.2	7.8	7.3	7.5	7.5	6.6 (25)
Midnight	6.2	8.0	7.8	7.8	7.5	7.6 (1)
Chateau	7.0	7.2	8.0	7.3	7.4	7.1 (3)
BA 73-540	7.0	7.7	8.0	6.3	7.3	6.6 (25)
Glade	6.8	7.7	7.5	7.0	7.3	6.5 (29)
Mystic	6.3	6.7	8.7	7.2	7.2	5.6 (64)
Challenger	7.3	7.3	6.7	7.5	7.2	6.7 (14)
Aspen	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.8	7.2	7.1 (3)
Blacksburg	5.7	7.7	7.7	7.8	7.2	6.9 (7)
Able 1	6.7	6.8	8.3	6.8	7.2	6.7 (14)
Abbey	6.7	7.5	7.8	6.7	7.2	6.2 (42)
Haga	7.3	7.2	7.5	6.5	7.1	6.4 (36)
Coventry	6.8	7.0	7.2	7.3	7.1	6.8 (11)
Destiny	6.7	7.2	7.7	6.8	7.1	6.8 (11)
Eclipse	6.7	6.7	7.7	7.2	7.0	7.1 (3)
Liberty	7.0	6.7	7.5	7.0	7.0	6.7 (14)
Classic	7.0	6.8	7.2	7.0	7.0	6.5 (29)
Dawn	6.8	7.2	6.7	7.2	7.0	6.7 (14)
Merion	6.8	7.0	6.8	7.2	7.0	5.8 (59)
Cheri	6.7	7.0	7.5	6.7	7.0	6.7 (14)
WW Ag 491	6.7	7.0	7.2	7.0	7.0	5.8 (59)
RAM-1	6.7	5.8	7.7	7.7	7.0	6.8 (11)
Asset	7.3	6.8	7.3	6.2	6.9	6.7 (14)
Estate	6.7	6.8	7.2	7.0	6.9	6.7 (14)
Julia	6.8	7.2	7.0	6.7	6.9	6.0 (52)
BA 69-82	7.0	7.3	7.2	6.2	6.9	6.6 (25)
Trenton	6.7	6.8	7.2	6.8	6.9	6.9 (7)
Georgetown	7.0	7.5	7.0	6.0	6.9	6.5 (29)
Rugby	7.0	6.8	6.8	6.5	6.8	6.7 (14)
PST-CB1	7.0	7.2	6.0	7.0	6.8	6.1 (47)
BA 70-242	6.5	7.7	6.5	6.3	6.8	6.3 (38)
America	6.2	6.5	7.3	7.0	6.8	6.9 (7)
Sydsport	6.5	6.7	7.0	6.7	6.7	6.7 (14)
Gnome	7.0	6.2	7.0	6.7	6.7	6.7 (14)
Merit	6.3	7.5	6.8	6.0	6.7	6.3 (38)
Victa	6.3	6.5	7.5	6.3	6.7	6.7 (14)
Suffolk	6.7	7.5	6.2	6.3	6.7	6.2 (42)
Tendos	6.2	6.0	7.3	7.2	6.7	6.5 (29)
Adelphi	7.0	6.7	6.2	6.8	6.7	6.5 (29)
Welcome	6.0	6.7	6.8	7.0	6.6	6.0 (52)
Somerset	6.3	6.3	7.0	6.7	6.6	6.0 (52)
K1-152	7.2	7.0	6.0	6.2	6.6	6.4 (36)
WW Ag 496	6.7	6.0	6.8	6.7	6.5	5.9 (56)
BAR VB 577	6.0	6.7	6.3	7.0	6.5	6.1 (47)
Monopoly	6.3	6.8	6.7	6.2	6.5	4.4 (75)
Aquila	6.7	6.3	6.0	7.0	6.5	5.3 (70)
Ikone	7.0	6.7	5.7	6.7	6.5	5.8 (59)
K3-178	6.7	7.2	5.5	6.7	6.5	6.2 (42)

TABLE 8 cont. 1985 National Kentucky Bluegrass Trial.

<u>Variety</u>	<u>1988 Quality Ratings</u>					<u>1987 Mean (Rank)</u>
	<u>APR</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUNE</u>	<u>JULY</u>	<u>MEAN</u>	
NE 80-88	6.8	6.2	6.0	6.8	6.5	6.1 (47)
Touchdown	6.5	6.2	6.0	7.2	6.5	6.1 (47)
Freedom	7.0	6.7	6.0	6.2	6.5	6.5 (29)
Nassau	6.3	6.2	6.3	6.8	6.4	6.9 (7)
WW Ag 468	5.7	7.0	6.3	6.7	6.4	6.2 (42)
BA 73-626	6.5	6.0	6.3	6.7	6.4	5.9 (56)
Connie	5.8	6.0	6.8	6.7	6.3	5.8 (59)
Harmony	5.8	6.8	6.3	6.0	6.3	5.8 (59)
Compact	5.8	6.2	6.7	6.3	6.3	5.6 (64)
HV 97	6.0	6.8	6.3	5.8	6.3	5.6 (64)
Parade	6.3	6.5	6.0	6.0	6.2	6.3 (38)
Baron	6.0	6.0	6.7	6.2	6.2	6.2 (42)
A-34	6.0	6.0	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.0 (52)
Barzan	6.3	5.0	6.8	6.2	6.1	6.6 (25)
Amazon	5.7	5.5	6.5	6.5	6.0	6.5 (29)
WW Ag 495	5.8	6.0	5.3	6.5	5.9	6.1 (47)
Majestic	6.3	4.8	5.8	6.7	5.9	6.3 (38)
Huntsville	6.8	5.0	5.3	6.3	5.9	5.5 (69)
BAR VB 534	5.8	5.0	5.7	6.7	5.8	5.6 (64)
Cynthia	5.3	5.0	6.0	6.7	5.8	5.9 (56)
Wabash	6.3	4.7	5.7	6.3	5.8	5.2 (71)
Annika	5.5	4.7	6.0	5.3	5.4	5.6 (64)
Joy	5.8	3.3	5.7	5.7	5.1	5.0 (72)
Kenblue	5.3	4.0	5.0	6.2	5.1	4.7 (74)
South Dakota Cert.	5.7	3.0	3.7	6.0	4.6	4.8 (73)

TABLE 9. Kentucky Bluegrass Varietal Susceptibility to Dollar Spot

Variety	# Lesions/ plot*	Variety	# Lesions/ plot	Variety	# Lesions/ plot
WW AG 495	36	Kenblue	5	Cheri	1
Connie	28	Merit	5	Liberty	1
Julia	27	Glade	5	Huntsville	1
Ikone	23	Ram-1	4	Aspen	1
Aquila	22	Ba73-540	4	Trenton	1
WW Ag 491	20	Touchdown	4	K3-178	1
Mystic	17	Ba 69-82	3	Midnight	1
Annika	14	Parade	3	Challenger	1
Welcome	10	239	3	WW Ag 468	1
South Dakota Cert.	10	Rugby	3	Adelphi	1
Monopoly	9	Able 1	3	Gnome	0
Blacksburg	9	Classic	2	Tendos	0
Joy	8	Barzan	2	Somerset	0
BAR VB 577	8	P-104	2	Bristol	0
BAR VB 534	8	Compact	2	Victa	0
NE 80-88	8	Haga	2	Ba 72-492	0
Amazon	7	A-34	2	America	0
WW Ag 496	7	Cynthia	2	HV 97	0
Sydsport	6	Dawn	2	Lofts 1757	0
Merion	6	F-1872	2	Eclipse	0
Wabash	6	Georgetown	1	Destiny	0
PST-CB1	5	Ba70-242	1	Nassau	0
K1-152	5	Ba72-441	1	Harmony	0
Ba72-500	5	Asset	1	Majestic	0

LSD<sub>.05</sub> = 12

\*data taken 7-21-87 and represent the mean of three replications.