



Creeping Bentgrass Variety Trial

*Scott Warnke, Bruce Branham, and Mark Collins
Department of Crop and Soil Sciences*

The 1993 creeping bentgrass variety trial is coordinated by the United States Department of Agriculture as part of the national turfgrass evaluation program. The 1993 trial contains 28 entries with half of those entries being experimental varieties. Turfgrass breeders at both public institutions and private companies have been working hard to improve the range of adaptability, disease resistance, stress tolerance, and overall quality of creeping bentgrass.

The 1993 creeping bentgrass variety trial provides an opportunity to evaluate the breeding progress that has been made with this species since the early 1900's. The variety Seaside was released in 1923 and was the only available source of seeded creeping bentgrass in the United States for almost 30 years. The quality of Seaside is marginal, therefore, during this time most of the better golf courses utilized vegetatively propagated creeping bentgrass. However, as more and more golf courses became interested in using creeping bentgrass on fairways, tees and greens; the need for an improved seed propagated bentgrass became important. In 1955, Pennsylvania State University released the variety Penncross which was a tremendous improvement over Seaside and was used to establish approximately 90% of putting greens from 1955 to 1975. As the market for creeping bentgrass exploded in the 1970's and 1980's, it simply was not possible to produce enough Penncross seed, therefore, breeding efforts increased with the result that approximately 20 different named varieties are available today.

The named and experimental varieties that have shown promise here in Michigan are Providence, L-93, G-2 and A-4. Providence was the highest rated creeping bentgrass variety from the 1989 bentgrass variety trial. L-93 is an experimental from Loft's seed company that is supposed to have improved resistance to dollar spot. G-2 and A-4 are experimentals from Penn State University that have excellent putting green quality and density. Currently only five monthly ratings have been taken on this material, therefore, the long term persistence of the experimental varieties in this trial can not be evaluated.

Name	Species	Sponsor	Mean Quality
A-4	Creeping	Tee-2-Green	6.3
L-93	Creeping	Loft's Seed	6.3
G-2	Creeping	Tee-2-Green	6.2
Cato	Creeping	Pickseed West	5.9
Providence	Creeping	Seed Research	5.9
Syn 92-5-93	Creeping	Texas A&M	5.9
BAR Ws 42102	Creeping	Barenburg Holland	5.9
Crenshaw	Creeping	Loft's Seed	5.9
Southshore	Creeping	Loft's Seed	5.8
SR1020	Creeping	Seed Research	5.8
Pennlinks	Creeping	Tee-2-Green	5.7
Lopez	Creeping	Finelawn Research	5.7
18th Green	Creeping	Johnson Seeds	5.7
Regent	Creeping	Barenburg USA	5.7
G-6	Creeping	Tee-2-Green	5.7
Syn 92-1-93	Creeping	Texas A&M	5.6
Syn 92-2-93	Creeping	Texas A&M	5.6
DG-P	Creeping	ProSeeds Marketing	5.6
Penncross	Creeping	Standard entry	5.5
A-1	Creeping	Tee-2-Green	5.5
MSUEB	Creeping	Mississippi State	5.5
ISI-Ap-98150	Creeping	International Seeds	5.5
PRO/CUP	Creeping	Forbes Seed & Grain	5.3
Trueline	Creeping	Turf Merchants	5.2
Syn-1-88	Creeping	Texas A&M	5.2
Tendenz	Colonial	Finelawn Research	4.3
Seaside	Creeping	Standard entry	4.1
BAR As 493	Creeping	Barenburg Holland	4.0
			LSD = 0.56