

Kentucky bluegrass Variety Trial

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Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis* L.) is the most important and most used cool-season turf worldwide. Known for its boat-shaped leaf-tips, racing-striped leaves, and white-fleshed rhizomes, the Kentucky bluegrasses are highly variable in terms of their morphologies. Noticeable differences in such characteristics as leaf texture, shoot density, color, growth habit, adaptation, fertility needs, and disease resistance exist among cultivars. Here at MSU, we can readily see many of these differences in this variety trial, which is sponsored by the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP).

Over 100 cultivars are represented in 6 ft by 6 ft plots with three replications. These plots were seeded at a rate of 1.5 lb of seed per 1,000 sq ft (M) on September 8, 1995. The seeded plots were then stabilized with a hydro-mulch. A starter fertilizer, 15-30-15, was applied at planting at a 1 lb N/M rate. Urea, 46-0-0, provided 1.5 lb N/M biweekly for six weeks until October 25 when urea was applied again, this time at a 1 lb N/M rate. This spring we applied 1.5 lb N/M on May 29 and 1 lb N/M on July 1, both times using urea. Weed control consisted of pre-plant sterilization with Basamid on August 1, 1995, and an application of LESCO Three-Way herbicide on May 21, 1996. No other pesticides have been applied. The area is mowed as needed to remove not more than 40% of the leaves. The height-of-cut is three inches and clippings are returned. We irrigate as needed to avoid visual wilt, which means that this summer we have irrigated almost daily. In relative terms, these are high-maintenance plots compared to the low-maintenance Kentucky bluegrass trial that was also established last fall.

That table that appears on the following pages shows a listing of the cultivars. The order of listing is based on the mean-quality ratings for this year to date. Other data shown are for spring green-up and percent germination, both rated on May 18.

KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS VARIETAL CHARACTERISTICS¹

(listed in descending order by average visual quality)

Rated on a scale of 1 to 9, with 9 being best.

Variety	Company Sponsor	% Germ- ination ²	Green- Up ³	Visual Quality ⁴
BAR VB 233	Barenbrug Holland	5.00	5.33	7.00
Haga	E.F. Burlingham & Sons	5.67	6.67	6.90
LKB-95	Lesco, Inc.	6.00	5.00	6.77
PST-B2-42	Pure Seed Testing/ Turf-Seed	4.33	5.67	6.77
Baronie	Barenbrug USA	6.00	6.67	6.77
BAR VB 5649	Barenbrug Holland	3.33	4.67	6.67
HV 130	Advanta Seeds West, Inc.	4.67	5.00	6.67
Pick-3561	Pickseed West, Inc.	5.00	5.33	6.67
Coventry	O.M. Scott & Sons	4.33	5.33	6.67
Pla5tini	DLF/Trifolium	4.67	5.67	6.67
Jefferson	Jonathan Green & Sons	5.33	6.00	6.67
Classic	Peterson Seed Company	5.00	6.00	6.57
H86-690	Jonathan Green & Sons	4.67	5.67	6.57
J-2579	Jacklin Seed Company	5.67	5.67	6.53
Ba 77-702	O.M. Scott & Sons	5.33	5.33	6.47
SRX 2205	Seed Research of OR, Inc.	4.67	5.00	6.47
ZPS-309	Zajac Performance Seeds	4.33	5.00	6.47
ZPS-2183	Zajac Performance Seeds	4.33	5.33	6.47
Chateau	Finelawn Research, Inc.	4.67	6.00	6.43
NJ-GD	C.R. Funk-Rutgers University	4.67	5.00	6.43
Pick 8	Pickseed West, Inc.	4.00	5.00	6.43
SR 2109	Seed Research of OR, Inc.	4.33	5.33	6.43
PST-A7-245A	Pure Seed Testing/Turf-Seed	4.67	5.33	6.43
BAR VB 3115B	Barenbrug Holland	4.33	5.33	6.37
Wildwood	Lesco, Inc.	4.67	5.33	6.33
LTP-621	Lebanon Turf Products	4.67	5.00	6.33
Marquis	Roberts Seed Co.	4.33	5.33	6.33
SR 2100	Seed Research of OR, Inc.	4.67	5.00	6.33

LSD Value⁵

0.95

0.98

0.65

Variety	Company Sponsor	% Germ- ination ²	Green- Up ³	Visual Quality ⁴
Ba 70-060	O.M. Scott & Sons	4.33	5.33	6.33
Ba 75-173	O.M. Scott & Sons	4.67	5.33	6.33
Blacksburg	Turf-Seed, Inc.	4.67	5.33	6.33
Cardiff	International Seeds, Inc.	4.33	5.67	6.33
Princeton 105	Loft's Seed, Inc.	4.33	5.00	6.23
HV 242	Advanta Seeds West, Inc.	4.00	5.00	6.23
Raven	Olsen-Fennel Seed Co.	5.00	5.67	6.23
J-1561	Jacklin Seed Company	4.00	4.67	6.23
Limousine	Jacklin Seed Company	4.00	4.67	6.23
Ba 81-058	O.M. Scott & Sons	4.00	5.33	6.23
Ba 81-270	O.M. Scott & Sons	4.67	5.67	6.23
PST-P46	Pure-Seed Testing, Inc.	4.00	5.33	6.23
PST-A7-60	Pure Seed Testing/Turf-Seed	4.33	5.00	6.23
NJ 1190	Pure Seed Testing/Turf-Seed	4.00	5.33	6.23
ZPS-429	Zajac Performance Seeds	4.33	5.33	6.23
Glade	Standard Entry	4.67	5.33	6.23
Kenblue	Standard Entry	5.33	6.00	6.23
Baruzo	Barenbrug USA	4.33	4.33	6.23
NuStar	Jacklin Seed Company	4.00	4.67	6.23
Shamrock	Lesco, Inc.	4.00	4.67	6.20
Ba 76-197	O.M. Scott & Sons	4.67	5.33	6.20
Allure	International Seeds, Inc.	5.33	6.00	6.20
A88-744	Loft's Seed, Inc.	3.67	4.67	6.13
MED-1497	Medalist America	4.67	5.33	6.13
Ba 81-227	O.M. Scott & Sons	3.67	5.00	6.13
PST-638	C.R. Funk-Rutgers University	4.33	5.33	6.13
Compact	DLF/Trifolium	4.67	5.00	6.13
MED-18	Medalist America	4.67	4.67	6.10
MED-1580	Medalist America	4.33	4.33	6.10
Caliber	Peterson Seed Company	4.67	5.33	6.10
Pick-855	Pickseed West, Inc.	3.67	5.00	6.10
Ba 75-490	O.M. Scott & Sons	3.67	4.33	6.10

LSD Value⁵

0.95

0.98

0.65

Variety	Company Sponsor	% Germ- ination ²	Green- Up ³	Visual Quality ⁴
Ba 87-102	O.M. Scott & Sons	4.67	5.00	6.10
LTP-620	Lebanon Turf Products	3.67	5.00	6.10
PST-BO-165	Pure Seed Testing/Turf-Seed	4.00	5.67	6.10
Conni	DLF/Trifolium	4.33	5.00	6.10
Nimbus	Jonathan Green & Sons	5.33	6.00	6.10
NJ-54	C.R. Funk-Rutgers University	3.67	4.33	6.10
Baron	Standard Entry	4.33	5.00	6.00
America	Pickseed West, Inc.	4.33	5.67	6.00
MED-1991	Medalist America	5.00	6.00	6.00
Eclipse	Jacklin Seed Company	4.00	5.00	6.00
Award	Jacklin Seed Company	4.67	5.33	6.00
J-1576	Jacklin Seed Company	4.33	4.67	6.00
J-2582	Jacklin Seed Company	4.00	5.67	6.00
Ba 76-372	O.M. Scott & Sons	4.33	5.33	6.00
Ba 79-260	O.M. Scott & Sons	4.00	5.33	6.00
Unique	Turf-Seed, Inc.	4.00	5.33	6.00
Livingston	Turf-Seed, Inc.	4.00	5.67	6.00
BA 75-163	O.M. Scott & Sons	3.67	4.67	5.90
J-1555	Jacklin Seed Company	4.00	5.00	5.90
J-1567	Jacklin Seed Company	3.67	5.00	5.90
Abbey	O.M. Scott & Sons	4.00	5.00	5.90
PST-BO-141	Pure Seed Testing/ Turf-Seed	3.67	5.00	5.90
Challenger	Turf-Seed, Inc.	3.67	5.00	5.90
Bartitia	Barenbrug USA	4.00	4.67	5.90
Lipoa	Deutsche Saatveredelung	4.33	4.67	5.87
Midnight	Standard Entry	4.33	5.00	5.87
Ba 73-373	O.M. Scott & Sons	4.00	5.00	5.80
Fortuna	International Seeds, Inc.	4.33	5.67	5.80
NuGlade	Jacklin Seed Company	4.00	4.67	5.77
ZPS-2572	Zajac Performance Seeds	4.33	5.33	5.77
Ascot	O.M. Scott & Sons	4.33	4.67	5.77
Ba 81-113	O.M. Scott & Sons	4.33	5.33	5.77

LSD Value⁵ 0.95 0.98 0.65

Variety	Company Sponsor	% Germ- ination ²	Green- Up ³	Visual Quality ⁴
Ba 81-220	O.M. Scott & Sons	4.00	5.00	5.77
J-1936	Jacklin Seed Company	4.33	5.33	5.70
DP 37-192	DLF/Trifolium	4.00	4.67	5.67
BAR VB 6820	Barenbrug Holland	3.67	4.67	5.67
SR 2000	Seed Research of OR, Inc.	4.33	4.67	5.67
Sodnet	Turf Merchants, Inc.	3.67	4.33	5.67
VB 16015	International Seeds, Inc.	4.00	5.00	5.67
PST-A418	Pure Seed Testing/ Turf-Seed	3.33	5.00	5.57
PST-B3-180	Olsen-Fennel Seed Co.	4.00	5.00	5.57
TCR-1738	Jacklin Seed Company	3.67	4.33	5.47
Sidekick	O.M. Scott & Sons	4.33	5.67	5.43

LSD Value⁵ 0.95 0.98 0.65

¹Maintained with medium-high inputs (see text).

²The mean of three replications for percent of seed that had emerged on 4/18/96.

³The mean of three replications for color rated on 4/18/96.

⁴The mean of three replications and three 1995 observation dates for visual quality.

⁵With 95% confidence, two varieties can be considered statistically different if they differ by at least the LSD (Least Significant Difference) value .