

BREEDING IMPROVED SEEDED BERMUDAGRASS FOR TURF

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY
Las Cruces, New Mexico

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NuMex S-1 (temporary designation) was released in the spring of 1987. The NMSU Variety Release Committee approved an exclusive release and the New Mexico Crop Improvement Association selected Farmers Marketing Corporation, Phoenix, Arizona, for seed increase and marketing of this variety. A 'Breeder Field' of NuMex S-1 was established near Roll, Arizona for seed production in 1987 and future years. This seed will be used by the company to establish Foundation Seed Fields in 1988.

NuMex S-1 is a seed-propagated cultivar with medium texture, density and plant height developed for general purpose use such as golf course fairways. NuMex S-1 was developed by intercrossing eight clones selected on the basis of polycross progeny performance for turf quality. Subsequently, progeny plants were subjected to several cycles of phenotypic recurrent selection for shorter internodes and increased color and density.

As a part of the overall bermudagrass breeding program, the third heritability study was completed and published as a thesis in December 1986. An additional study of seed fertility and seed set was completed in May 1987. These studies have been helpful and should be helpful in the future in determining the most effective breeding procedure for tetraploid bermudagrass populations.