

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC & INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH (DSIR)
NEW ZEALAND

Colonial Bentgrass Breeding

1991 Research Grant: \$10,000
(Completed)

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Principal Investigator

The original objective of this project was to breed a colonial bentgrass cultivar for U.S. golf courses using New Zealand breeding materials, and doing the breeding work in New Zealand. The resulting cultivar would hopefully require much less water and maintenance than those currently available in the USA, but still be attractive and persistent. The project took the pragmatic approach that breeding material fulfilling the objectives would probably be found on sites such as non-irrigated, low-input fairways of golf courses in hot, dry regions of New Zealand.

Breeding materials from this project have been under evaluation at Rutgers University by Dr. Reed Funk. Results from the performance of colonial bentgrass in the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program Trials indicate that the species may be useful in maritime climates in the USA. The continuation of the breeding program by a U.S. university is currently being considered.