# On-Site Fairway Overseeding Trials

**National Turfgrass Evaluation Program**

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Start Date: 1999
Number of Years: 2
Total Funding: $ 20,674

Objectives:

*Evaluate new cultivars on bermudagrass fairways at golf courses in the Southern and Western United States that will provide scientific information of a more applied nature about cultivars for overseeding.*

With the initiation of on-site testing of bentgrass and bermudagrass on putting greens, interest is now increasing for the evaluation of other grasses used on golf courses. Grasses are needed that provide exceptional playing surfaces with less pesticides, fertilizer and water. Therefore, grasses that have superior drought, cold, heat, disease and insect resistance need to be identified. Overseeding bermudagrass fairways is a common practice throughout the southern half of the United States. Millions of pounds of seed are bought and sown each autumn on golf courses in this region. Golf course owners, managers and superintendents seek grasses that establish quickly, exhibit exceptional playability, are aesthetically pleasing and require less inputs. This project will evaluate new cultivars on bermudagrass fairways at golf courses in the Southern and Western U.S. This on-site testing program will provide scientific information of a more applied nature about cultivars for overseeding.

The evaluation trials are jointly sponsored by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), the United States Golf Association (USGA) Green Section and the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP). Ten evaluation trial sites have been chosen. Trials are positioned strategically in the following areas: southern California, Arizona, Houston, TX, Dallas, TX, Mississippi, central Florida, Myrtle Beach, SC, Virginia, Atlanta, GA, and St. Louis, MO. Trials are conducted with named cultivars and commercially available blends or mixtures. The trials are located on active play sites where golfers hit fairway golf shots and/or drive golf carts. Plot size is large, 5 x 20 feet, replicated three times.

Thirty-eight (38) entries were submitted by sponsoring companies for inclusion in this trial. In addition, four standard entries chosen by the advisory committee for comparison purposes were included bringing the total number of entries to forty-two (42). Seed was received in late August and divided into the following seeding rates: perennial ryegrass -300, 450 or 600 lbs./Acre; *poa trivialis* - 100 or 200 lbs./Acre; perennial ryegrass/*poa trivialis* mixtures - 250 or 400 lbs./Acre. Locations received seeding rates for each species based on common seeding rates for each area. Seed for each location was prepared and mailed in mid-September, 1999. Tests were seeded in September and October. Data is currently being collected on establishment rate, transition from bermudagrass to overseeding grass and turfgrass