

TURFGRASSES SELECTED BY THE PROFESSIONAL MEET MANY CRITERIA

One of the marks of a professional in the turfgrass business is the ability to mix the various strengths of different turfgrasses and provide the client or customer with an outstanding combination. These men and women combine grass seed so the final turfgrass meets the criteria for each project, considering terrain, use and climate.

As these turf specialists scan the varieties, three turfgrass seeds continue to curry favor. They are Fylking Kentucky bluegrass, Glade Kentucky bluegrass and Ram I Kentucky bluegrass. All three elite bluegrasses have characteristics that make them particularly suitable for mixes. Their ultimate product is a lawn that is beautiful, more disease and drought resistant and geared to hang in there as young adult trees grow bigger.

Each of these bluegrasses has an interesting story behind its discovery. Glade Kentucky bluegrass was found strongly persisting in shaded areas near the New York State Capitol building. A Rutgers selection, Glade was carefully tested to see if it would establish quickly and form a dense, deep-green turf as the original plants did. Not only was it successful in the tests, it also proved to have above average resistance to Fusarium blight and powdery mildew, both very destructive diseases to many turfgrasses. These factors helped Glade prevail even in up to 60% shade.

Fylking Kentucky bluegrass was discovered in Sweden. Translated, the name means, "Great numbers standing in a field", and it was selected because the grass plants

produced a thick luxurious, low-growing, fine-textured turf. Fylking was thoroughly tested in this country and Canada, where it proved to be tough with improved resistance to many diseases and with a greater tolerance for drought, heat, cold, smog and foot traffic. It has been touted as the great backbone for any seed mix. These were some of the reasons it was selected as the official grass for the grounds of the Spokane World's Fair in 1974.

Ram I was found growing on a putting green at a golf club in Maine. Like Fylking, it grows vigorously even when mowed short. Under vigorous testing at Rutgers, Ram I showed that it too had superior qualities and could thrive, even in some shade.

Most Professional researchers, sod growers and buyers who seek out superior quality turfgrass seed opt for a special mix of grass seeds such as these three. Each will provide varying strengths in different areas so that the golf course superintendent, the park manager or the homeowner won't experience any single disease wiping out his beautiful turf.

The chances are good when you see a well-planned lawn that greens up earlier in the spring, holds its color longer in the autumn, survives the summer semi-drought conditions and even looks great in the shade, you've spotted a lawn planned by a professional who recognizes the difference between the old models, and the newer improved elites such as Glade, Fylking and Ram I Kentucky bluegrasses.

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