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THE RYEGRASS REVOLUTION

Only a decade ago the then available perennial ryegrass was field run stuff, occasionally used in lawn seed but mostly for pasture. Came the revolution, sparked principally by a fine selection of bloodlines collected in the major turfgrass regions. The stage was set for creation of today's remarkable adaptive polycross cultivars. Innumerable perennial ryegrass varieties of excellent quality and well suited for fine turf now can be had. The range runs from three-clone Citation so impressive in mixtures everywhere, through up-coming Jackpot, to a series of synthetics utilizing over 30 clones in their parentage.

All of which means little if performance in the field doesn't back up beauty. Fortunately, the newer perennial ryegrasses seem almost as widely adapted as Kentucky bluegrass itself. Save for some of the older selections, most perennial ryes today are quite winter hardy, maybe not all the way into New England, but certainly well north (and south) of the country's mid-section once deemed perennial ryegrass' stamping ground. Today we see hardy perennial ryegrasses recommended as far north as Minnesota (although where weather is extreme, liberal quantities of bluegrass or fescue are still worth including as survival insurance). The new perennial ryegrasses are especially notable for low, dense, more delicate growth than the old pasture types had. They are capable of forming turf of outstanding good looks. And unlike the older cultivars, they mow neatly; the leaf tips fray no more than does bluegrass, and probably less than with fescue. All in all, the so-called "turf-type" perennial ryegrasses have become all-around favorites, with beauty, good tolerance of disease, and only moderate care required.

Of course, the big bonus in planting perennial ryegrass is its quickness to make cover. A new seeding sprouts in only a few days if kept moist in warm weather. Because ryegrass is so fast getting started, it is generally restricted to only about 20% of a seed mixture, lest it gain such a jump on bluegrass that the latter makes little headway. Of course there is no problem with ryegrass planted alone in locations well suited to the species. Even if some loss should occur, quick repair is easy by scratching a bit of new seed into the blemish. Because perennial ryegrass seed is fairly large, it is best sown five pounds or so to the 1,000 sq. ft.; mixtures with bluegrasses can be held to a more economical three-pound rate. Whatever way perennial ryegrass is used, the versatility of the new varieties such as Jackpot, Citation and Elka guarantees good results with so little bother that lawn making and repair requires little effort.

Jacklin Seed Company

LABOR-SAVING GRASSES



GLADE KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS

- Does Great in Sun Or 60% Shade
- Excellent Disease Resistance to Powdery Mildew - Stripe Smut - Leafspot - Rust
- Quick Recovery - Fast Germinating

Adelphi

KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS

- Greens Up Earlier in Spring - Stays Green Longer In Fall
- Great Resistance To Disease

- Low Growing - Tolerates Close Mowing

CITATION

FINE LEAF PERENNIAL RYEGRASS

- Improved Mowing Qualities
- Blends Well With All Other Grasses

- Performs Great In Hot, Humid Areas

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