

## VARIETY REVIEW BOARD LAWN CULTIVAR LISTINGS

Scores of new lawngrasses have been bred in recent years. The sampling here is of horticultural varieties which have sought acceptance from the Lawn Institute's Variety Review Board. Included are a few older cultivars because they are especially well-adapted to a particular region, helpful for extending other more expensive cultivars in short supply, or have a time-tested image. Any such list is ephemeral, with newer selections becoming available as others drop out. Only "cool-season" species planted from seed are considered in the epitomizations which follow.

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**KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS, *Poa pratensis*.** A stately species, making great sod from spreading rhizomes; tenacious, easily maintained, but somewhat slow to establish; lackadaisical in hot weather, but revives well; widely adapted (from extreme North to upper South) and adaptable (most any soil, although preferring fertile, limey ground with good structure). Newer cultivars have been bred for resistance to commonplace diseases, low stature (much foliage remains below normal mowing height) and singular beauty (rich color, density that fights weeds, etc.). Proprietary cultivars are more costly than common grass, because seed yields are generally low; but the seed is of high quality, genetically certain and essentially free from contaminants.

'Adelphi', 'America', 'Bonnieblue', 'Eclipse' and 'Majestic' are hybrids from select bloodlines at Rutgers University, real "Dandies". 'Glade', 'Plush', 'Ram I', and 'Touchdown' are natural standards mainly screened at Rutgers. 'Arboretum', 'Merion', and 'Nugget' have received special emphasis regionally ('Arboretum' is durable southward; 'Nugget' glamorous northward; 'Merion' the traditional standard of excellence). 'Merit' and 'Vantage' are low-maintenance, broadly-adapted selections from California. 'Birka', 'Enmundi', 'Fylking', 'Monopoly' and 'Sydsport' are accommodative European selections.

**Adelphi** -- Widely acclaimed, responsive to care (but attractive even under low maintenance). J. & L. Adikes.

**America** -- Displaying the fine turf characteristics typical of an elite hybrid -- handsome, low, of excellent color. Pickseed West.

**Arboretum** -- Natural selection from stressful Missouri habitat, lasting under low maintenance (leading cultivar in Kansas); best mowed tall. Mangelsdorf.

**Birka** -- Swedish fairway selection, steady performer even under low maintenance. E. F. Burlingham.

**Bonnieblue** -- Another nifty hybrid with good winter color and long season; deserving of adequate care. E. F. Burlingham.

**Eclipse** -- Highly promising hybrid for topnotch turf, its credentials first-rate. Jacklin.

**Enmundi** -- Selection from Holland of outstanding quality, noteworthy shade tolerance. International Seeds.

**Fylking** -- Elegant Swedish selection, suited to low mowing; widely adapted and not invasive nor aggressive in blends. Jacklin.

**Glade** -- Outstanding selection from upstate New York, dark, tenacious, tolerating shade well, gaining strength as the season progresses. Jacklin.

**Majestic** -- Hybrid gem, dense and strongly rhizomatous, with lengthy season and good winter color. E. F. Burlingham.

**Merion** -- The original elite bluegrass, aggressive and benefitting from generous fertilization; suffers some disease but excellent resistance to leafspot. Merion Bluegrass Association.

**Merit** -- An impressive Scotts origination, dwarfish, widely adapted. International Seeds.

**Monopoly** -- A well-thought-of selection from Holland, aggressive, fairly light green, suited to heavy wear. Pioneer Hi-Bred.

**Nugget** -- Selection from Alaska, exceptionally neat and tight, tolerating shade and smog; sometimes prone to dollarspot. Pickseed West.

**Plush** -- Selection from New Jersey, a steady performer adapted to minimal maintenance. FFR Cooperative.

**Ram I** -- Top-rating beauty from a golf green in Maine, tolerant of low mowing and compatible in blends. Lofts.

**Sydsport** -- Swedish introduction, responsive, vigorous, prized for sportsturf. E. F. Burlingham.

**Touchdown** -- Dynamic fairway selection from Long Island, responsive to fertilization but may thatch (encouraging summer "Disease"?). Pickseed West.

**Vantage** -- A Scott selection, widely adapted when mowed tall and fertilized, with good early summer vigor. International Seeds.

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**PERENNIAL RYEGRASS, *Lolium perenne*.** New cultivars are as handsome as bluegrass but sprout more quickly and grow more rapidly; they do not spread, and are not so hardy as bluegrass in extreme climates, enjoying mild maritime environments most. They are esteemed for winter-seeding in the South. Leading cultivars are polycrosses derived from widely collected germplasm. Compared to common ryegrass they are low-leafy, rich green, exceptionally winter-hardy, and mow neatly. Restrict perennial ryegrass to 20 percent in bluegrass mixtures because the aggressive seedlings may delay bluegrass establishment.

**Blazer** -- Of generally outstanding quality, East and West. Pickseed West.

**Citation** -- Well-mannered and companionable, highly rated. Turf-Seed.

**Derby** -- A workhorse cultivar, broadly useful. International Seeds.

**Diplomat** -- Beauteous top-performer, dense and fine-textured. Lofts.

**Fiesta** -- Hardy summer and winter, enjoying excellent ratings. Pickseed West.

**Manhattan** -- The definitive Rutgers polycross mostly from Central Park sources, topflight; excellent winter hardiness. Whitney-Dickinson.

**NK-200** -- Attractive Minnesota selection noted for winter durability (weaker in hot climates); good in mixtures. Northrup King.

**Omega** -- A worthy beauty acclaimed among the best. Turf-Seed.

**Pennant** -- Excellent general quality plus novel insect resistance. AgS.

**Pennfine** -- Splendid polycross from Penn State, strong in summer. SPIC.

**Regal** -- All-around quality plus insect resistance. International Seeds.

**Yorktown II** -- A leading cultivar not "stemmy" in summer. Lofts.

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**FINE FESCUES, *Festuca rubra*.** The fine-leaf or red fescues are well adapted to dry, infertile soil and shaded locations. They often suffer from summer heat-and-humidity, so that permanency is better in northerly climates. Fescue thatch decomposes less