

THE SCORES ARE IN... PALMER RYE IS #1

The tournament? Twenty-one different locations, from New York to California, from Minnesota to Mississippi. The contest was the USDA National Perennial Ryegrass Test. The competition was tough, but Palmer beat 27 other commercially available perennial ryegrasses.

U.S.D.A. National Perennial Ryegrass Test

Variety	1984 Average, 21 Locations Turf Quality 1-9; 9 = Best	Variety	1984 Average, 21 Locations Turf Quality 1-9; 9 = Best
Palmer	5.9	Derby	5.5
Gator	5.9	Cowboy	5.4
Prelude	5.8	Dasher	5.4
Tara	5.8	Diplomat	5.3
Repell	5.7	Ovation	5.3
Citation II	5.7	Pennfine	5.3
Manhattan II	5.7	Regal	5.2
Premier	5.6	Delray	5.2
All Star	5.6	Barry	5.2
Blazer	5.6	Omega	5.2
Ranger	5.6	Elka	5.1
Birdie II	5.6	Manhattan	5.1
Fiesta	5.5	Citation	3.6
Yorktown II	5.5	Linn	
Pennant			

Test locations: Kingston, RI; Ithaca & Riverhead, NY; North Brunswick & Adelphia, NJ; Beltsville & Fairland, MD; Blacksburg & Springfield, VA; Lexington, KY; Mississippi State, MS; Ames, IA; St. Paul, MN; Lincoln, NB; Stillwater, OK; Fort Collins, CO; Everett & Puyallup, WA; Hubbard, OR; San Jose & Riverside, CA.

Palmer rye beat them in heat and drought. Beat them against brown patch and leaf spot. Palmer beat them with its overall outstanding performance and appearance! Just like the man it was named for, Palmer perennial ryegrass is a winner.

Grounds maintenance managers who know the score choose Palmer rye, because they know Palmer is number one for use on golf courses, athletic fields, cemeteries, parks and home lawns.

Palmer perennial ryegrass... available only from Lofts and its authorized distributors.



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Editorial

Golf course superintendents are professionals, not magicians. An analogy between superintendents and medical doctors can be drawn to illustrate the point.

After years of training and experience, both superintendents and doctors are prepared to examine ailments and prescribe treatment. Both are dealing with living objects. Both are concerned that the life continue. A great deal of mystery and misconception surrounds both occupations and their practices. Often, the cost of their services is considered too high, in some instances, exorbitant. Appreciation is expressed only when the "patient" approaches some near tragedy and is "saved," to be useful and complete again.

One major difference between superintendents and doctors (other than income) is that superintendents must work to keep their "patients" at the verge of death, through extremely close cutting, followed by an armada of golfers and carts. The "intravenous bottles" of fertilizer and other soil conditioners can never be turned off, and should some virulent "infection" invade the course in the form of fungus, insects, drought, etc., the superintendent cannot let the "patient" recover through bed rest. He is lucky if he can keep carts on paths, let alone golfers off the course to let it recover naturally.

Each year, stories circulate of how a superintendent has been fired because the "course didn't measure up." Seldom do we hear of those who overcame tremendous odds and did keep the course in great condition, and almost never do we hear of course officials recognizing what may have caused the course not to measure up without pointing a finger at the superintendent. The common cold can remain uncured, but superintendents can have nothing short of perfection.

There are those who contend that all of this is what the superintendent gets paid for, and few superintendents would argue that particular point. What they might like to add, given the opportunity, is that should the "patient" suffer a setback or lose some vitality, conditions other than the superintendent's abilities and actions should also be given consideration. Superintendents are professionals not magicians and they can only perform minor miracles, regardless of budget golfers' desires and demands or other factors.

Although there may be a few charlatans in the business, superintendents overall are more interested and aware of the conditions of their course than any golfer, professional or amateur, could ever pretend to be. If you wouldn't tell a doctor how to remove an unsightly wart, why should golfers assume so much knowledge and tell the superintendent how to perform his responsibilities?

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