MAINTENANCE

Kentucky bluegrasses making comeback

By Mark Leslie

There is a resurgence in Kentucky bluegrasses that are better able to handle drought, disease and low maintenance, according to the director of the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program.

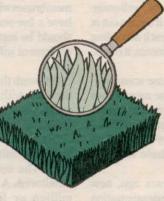
Kevin Morris was reporting on the final reports of the five-year test of bluegrasses and four-year test of ryegrasses.

Speaking from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Beltsville (Md.) Agricultural Research Center, Morris said, "Tall fescues and ryegrasses came on in the 1980s.

But I think there is a resurgence in the bluegrasses."

In the 1980s, he said, golf course superintendents and others started using tall fescues because they had no disease problems and were able to survive low-maintenance situations and drought.

"It fit a big market niche. But through breeding, we have moved tall fescues away from that. We tried to take the old tall fescue and make it darker green, denser and lowergrowing. We have been able to do all that. We've moved it closer to Kentucky bluegrass, but it's not



Kentucky bluegrass. So we've moved it away from some of its more

positive traits, and added some problems. It tends to be slower to establish and has a harder time getting through the first summer after establishment."

Morris said Europeans, who have worked with the bluegrasses a long time, are doing major breeding research.

"They are trying to open up their market and are looking at the United States more closely and more aggressively than in the past. They don't have the disease problems we have over here - on the East Coast, particularly. So generally their

grasses don't have the disease re sistance we need," he said.

"But they are working to improve that. In general, they've probably done a pretty good job.'

Morris said European cultivars of bluegrass tend to have more wear tolerance.

"They use the bluegrasses, ryegrasses, fine fescues and chewings fescues a lot on their athletic fields. They seem to be more refined about breeding for those (wear) traits than we are here."

Morris added that U.S. universities are conducting a national test

Kentucky bluegrass national field test tabulations

Nam	e	BC1	CA2	CA3	CA4	DC1	GA1	IA1	ID1	ID2	IL1	IL2	IN1	KS1	KS2	KY1	MB1	MD	MI1	MN	1MO1	INC2	NC4	NE1	NE2	NE3	NJ1	NJ2	NM	2 OH1	OK1	OR1	PA1	PA2	RI1	SD1	UB1	VA1	VA2	VA3	WA1	WA3	WA4	MEAN
*Bla	cksburg	6.3	4.5	5.1	6.3	2.4	5.8	4.9	7.2	7.3	6.5	7.2	6.7	7.2	8.0	6.4	8.3	6.8	6.4	4.3	6.5	4.0	6.3	6.0	5.4	5.8	7.1	7.1	6.0	6.0	5.2	7.3	6.1	7.8	7.4	7.2	7.9	5.6 5	5.9	4.7	7.3	6.4	5.6	6.2
*Mic	Inight	5.7	4.3	5.6	6.7	3.9	5.7	4.3	7.8	7.4	6.2	6.0	6.9	7.3	8.4	5.9	7.6	7.1	6.9	3.0	6.3	3.7	6.1	6.2	6.0	5.7	7.2	6.8	7.3	6.5	5.7	7.0	4.6	5.8	6.8	7.3	7.7	5.6 5	5.4	5.4	6.9	6.7	3.4	6.1
*Prin	nceton 104	6.2	3.1	4.8	5.8	2.6	5.3	4.7	7.2	6.8	6.6	6.0	6.5	6.7	8.1	5.6	7.2	6.9	7.2	5.0	6.4	4.3	6.2	5.4	5.6	5.4	7.0	6.7	5.5	6.0	5.3	6.7	5.4	-	6.9	6.5	7.3	5.8 5	5.1	4.6	7.2	7.8	4.9	6.0
*Ass	et	6.0	4.1	5.5	6.1	5.1	6.0	4.4	5.8	6.9	6.1	5.4	6.8	6.6	7.2	6.1	7.9	6.0	6.5	5.3	6.3	4.8	5.7	5.4	5.8	5.3	6.6	6.3	6.5	6.4	5.9	6.5	4.9	6.3	6.8	7.1	6.9	5.4 5	5.7	4.2	6.5	6.9	5.8	5.9
*Cha	iteau	6.1	4.2	5.3	6.1	3.6	6.2	4.5	8.0	6.2	5.8	6.2	6.4	6.7	7.3	5.7	7.3	5.7	5.9	4.0	6.7	4.8	5.8	5.8	6.1	5.8	5.7	5.8	6.0	6.7	5.2	6.1	4.8	6.2	6.8	6.7	6.6	5.4 5	5.6	5.2	6.9	6.6	6.4	5.9
*Lof	ts 1757	5.8	3.1	5.2	6.8	3.7	5.8	5.3	7.3	6.7	6.1	5.9	6.5	6.9	7.8	5.7	7.2	6.5	6.5	3.7	6.5	3.8	5.9	5.1	4.9	4.8	6.6	6.5	7.0	5.7	6.2	6.3	5.0	5.6	6.8	6.7	7.2	5.7 5	5.4	4.7	6.5	6.6	5.2	5.9
*Cos	entry	6.3	5.4	5.2	5.9	3.8	6.0	4.3	7.5	6.4	5.7	6.7	5.7	6.8	7.0	5.7	7.1	6.0	5.9	4.7	6.6	3.8	5.3	5.4	6.0	5.7	5.6	5.2	6.7	6.3	5.5	5.9	5.2	5.3	6.3	6.7	6.6	5.6 5	5.3	5.5	6.3	6.9	5.9	5.9
*Fre	edom	x M	14.9	5.5	x	x	5.7	5.7	7.3	6.7	6.4	5.9	6.3	x	7.0	5.8	7.0	6.3	5.6	5.0	6.8	3.5	5.0	5.8	5.3	4.8	5.4	5.2	6.8	5.5	5.5	5.7	5.0	x	6.5	6.9	6.5	5.3 5	5.0	5.2	6.4	6.0	6.7	5.8
BA7	3-540	6.3	5.0	5.3	6.0	4	6.0	4.6	7.0	6.7	6.0	6.2	5.5	6.4	7.2	5.7	7.5	6.3	6.0	2.7	6.3	4.7	5.5	5.6	6.0	6.1	5.7	5.5	6.3	6.5	6.5	6.0	4.4	6.1	6.7	6.7	6.8	5.1 5	5.6	4.6	6.9	6.5	4.5	5.8
*Am	erica	5.3	4.9	4.8	5.7	3.9	5.9	4.7	5.0	6.8	6.0	6.3	6.9	7.1	7.5	6.6	7.5	6.1	5.8	3.3	6.5	4.3	4.9	5.7	4.9	5.2	6.2	6.2	7.2	6.3	5.8	6.3	5.9	5.6	6.8	7.5	7.5	5.5	1.7	5.1	6.6	4.9	7.6	5.8
*Ecl	ipse	5.8	4.0	4.6	5.9	3.3	5.6	4.8	7.7	7.1	6.3	5.9	6.6	6.8	7.6	6.2	7.6	6.2	6.7	2.3	6.2	3.5	6.3	5.8	5.8	5.5	6.5	6.4	6.3	5.9	6.1	6.6	4.9	6.5	7.2	7.3	7.5	5.7 5	5.2	4.7	6.7	4.4	4.9	5.8
*Asp	en	5.5	5.3	5.1	5.9	3.5	5.4	4.6	7.2	6.2	6.8	6.1	6.6	7.0	7.3	6.3	7.5	6.2	6.1	3.0	6.4	4.0	6.4	5.1	5.5	5.3	6.3	6.1	6.5	5.3	5.2	5.7	5.8	6.8	6.6	7.3	7.3	5.1 5	5.3	5.4	6.3	5.7	4.7	5.8
*Est	ate	6.4	4.7	5.3	6.5	4.0	6.3	4.6	7.3	6.5	5.7	6.2	6.0	6.5	7.0	5.7	7.2	5.8	5.5	2.0	6.6	4.7	6.3	5.3	6.1	6.0	5.8	5.5	6.8	6.2	5.5	6.3	4.6	5.6	6.7	6.8	6.7	5.1	5.2	5.2	6.4	6.9	4.0	5.8
*Gla	de	5.9	5.6	5.3	6.3	4.8	5.4	4.4	6.2	7.0	5.2	5.7	6.3	6.6	7.4	5.9	7.8	6.0	6.0	3.3	6.4	3.8	7.2	6.0	5.8	6.1	6.2	5.9	6.3	6.1	4.7	5.5	5.1	6.5	6.7	6.9	6.9	5.1 4	5.3	4.6	6.5	5.5	4.8	5.8
*Cla	ssic	5.6	5.8	5.5	6.3	3.7	5.7	5.0	6.8	6.6	6.2	5.8	6.4	6.7	6.9	6.2	7.5	6.3	5.9	4.7	6.6	3.5	4.9	5.2	5.5	4.8	5.6	5.4	7.3	5.4	5.7	6.0	4.6	5.5	6.2	7.2	6.4	5.4	1.9	5.3	6.1	6.4	5.9	5.8
WW	AG 496	5.7	3.5	5.3	5.6	4.2	5.4	5.0	7.3	6.4	6.5	6.5	6.2	x	7.3	5.8	8.2	6.6	5.2	4.0	6.4	4.8	5.8	6.2	5.5	5.3	5.6	5.7	7.5	5.9	5.2	5.6	5.1	6.1	6.6	7.0	6.7	5.3 5	5.5	4.5	6.1	6.3	4.1	5.8
* Ab	le 1	5.4	3.7	4.8	6.8	3.2	5.9	5.2	7.3	6.8	6.5	5.8	6.7	7.1	6.8	6.0	7.7	6.1	6.1	3.7	6.2	4.2	6.0	5.1	5.6	5.2	6.4	6.2	6.8	5.5	4.9	6.3	5.1	7.3	6.9	7.0	6.9	5.0 5	5.0	4.4	6.6	6.4	5.9	5.8
*Wa	bash	4.9	4.8	5.2	5.4	5.6	5.6	5.7	7.0	6.2	6.8	7.0	6.8	6.4	6.5	6.2	7.7	6.0	5.6	5.3	6.6	4.5	5.5	5.5	6.0	6.2	4.9	4.9	6.3	5.8	5.7	4.9	6.0	4.3	6.8	7.3	6.6	5.1 5	5.3	4.9	5.9	4.4	5.8	5.8
*A-3	4	6.1	4.3	5.3	6.1	4.8	5.6	5.1	6.7	6.9	6.5	5.9	6.5	6.4	7.1	5.8	7.5	6.7	5.1	3.7	6.6	3.5	5.7	6.2	5.9	5.8	5.4	5.0	6.5	5.9	6.2	6.0	5.1	6.3	7.1	5.9	6.4	5.2 !	5.0	4.7	6.2	6.4	5.8	5.8
BAG	9-82	6.0	3.6	5.4	5.9	4.4	6.2	4.5	7.8	6.5	6.4	6.0	5.8	6.6	7.1	5.9	7.3	5.3	5.9	2.7	6.5	4.7	5.8	5.1	5.4	5.3	5.3	5.2	6.7	6.5	5.9	5.9	4.0	5.9	6.5	7.0	6.7	5.4 !	5.3	4.8	6.4	6.6		5.8
	VB 534	5.5	4.2	5.3	4.9	3.6	6.3	4.8	6.5	6.5	5.9	5.6	6.8	x	6.8	5.5	8.2	6.5	5.1	5.3	6.2	4.0	5.6	6.4	5.7	6.3	5.6	5.5	6.5	5.7	5.9	5.3	5.3	6.3	7.0	7.4	6.7	5.1	1.6	4.3	5.4	5.7	6.2	and the second s
*Che		6.2	4.7	5.4	5.9	3.4	6.0	4.1	7.7	6.7	6.0	5.9	5.9	6.9	7.2	5.8	7.7	5.8	5.8	2.7	6.5	5.2	6.2	5.7	6.0	5.3	5.6	5.5	6.2	6.1	5.2	5.9	4.3	5.6	6.6	6.5	6.7	5.3	1.9	4.9	6.7	6.0		5.8
*Bri			4.5		6.5	3.4	5.4	4.5	7.5	6.3	5.7	5.9	6.3	6.8	7.5		7.0	6.2	6.4	3.3		3.7	5.2	5.7	5.0	5.0	6.5	6.2	5.7	6.0	5.9	6.5	5.1	5.8 .	6.6	7.0	6.8	5.1	5.0	4.6	6.4	6.8		5.8
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Bluegrass test sites

The site descriptions and management practices for the 1986-90 National Kentucky Bluegrass Test follow, with location listed first, then soil texture; nitrogen (pounds per 1,000 square feet); mowing height in inches;

and irrigation practiced: BC1: Agassiz, British Columbia; Ioam; 2.1-3.0; 1.1-1.5; only during severe stress. CA2: Santa Ana, Calif; N/A.

CA3: Riverside, Calif.; sandy loam; 2.1-3.0; 1.6-2.0; to prevent stress. CA4: Ventura, Calif.; silty clay loam; 8.1+;

1.1-1.5; to prevent stress

DC1: Washington Monument Grounds; loam; 1.1-2.0; 2.1-2.5; no irrigation.

GA1: Experiment, Ga.; sandy clay loam; 3.1-4.0; 2.1-2.5; to prevent stress. IA1: Ames, Iowa; silty clay loam; 3.1-4.0;

1.6-2.0; no irrigation. ID1: Moscow, Idaho; silty clay loam; N.A. ID2: Post Falls, Idaho; sandy loam; 2.1-

3.0; 1.6-2.0; to prevent stress.

IL1: Urbana, Ill.; silty clay and clay; 3.1-4.0; 1.6-2.0; to prevent stress. IL2: Carbondale, Ill.; silty clay and clay;

0.0-1.0; 2.1-2.5; only during severe stress. IN1: West Lafayette, Ind.; silt loam and

silt; 3.1-4.0; 2.1-2.5; to prevent stress KS1: Manhattan, Kan.; sandy clay loam;

3.1-4.0; 2.6-3.0; to prevent stress. KS2: Wichita, Kan.; sandy loam; 3.1-4.0;

2.1-2.5; to prevent stress. KY1: Lexington, Ky.; silt loam and silt;

2.1-3.0; 1.6-2.0; only during severe stress. MB1: Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada; silty clay and clay; 2.1-3.0; 0.6-1.0; to prevent stress. UB1: Beltsville, Md.; silt loam and silt;

2.1-3.0; 1.1-1.5; to prevent dormancy. MD1: Silver Spring, Md; sandy loam; 3.1-

4.0; 2.1-2.5; to prevent dormancy. MI1: East Lansing, Mich.; sandy loam; 2.1-3.0; 1.6-2.0; to prevent stress.

MN1: St. Paul, Minn.; silty clay loam; 3.1-4.0; 1.6-2.0; to prevent stress MO1: Columbia, Mo.;silty loam and silt;

3.1-4.0; 2.1-2.5; to prevent stress NC2: Charlotte, N.C.; silty clay loam; 2.1-

3.0; 1.1-1.5; only during severe stress. NC4: Goldsboro, N.C.; sandy loam; 2.1-

3.0; 1.1-1.5; only during severe stress. NE1: Lincoln, Neb.; silty clay loam; 3.1-4.0; 1.6-2.0; to prevent stress.

NE2: Lincoln, Neb.; silty clay loam; 3.1-4.0; 2.1-2.5; to prevent stress. NE3: Mead, Neb.; silty clay loam; 3.1-4.0; 0.6-1.0; to prevent stress.

NJ1: North Brunswick, N.J.; sandy loam;

- 4.1-5.0; 1.6-2.0; to prevent dormancy. NJ2: Adelphia, N.J.; sandy loam; 5.1-6.0;
- 1.6-2.0; to prevent dormancy

NM2: Farmington, N.M.; loamy sand; 2.1-3.0; 2.6-3.0; to prevent stress. OH1: Columbus, Ohio; silty clay loam;

1.1-2.0; 2.1-2.5; to prevent stres

OK1: Stillwater, Okla.; N/A.

OR1: Hubbard, Ore.; silt loam and silt; 4.1-5.0; 1.1-1.5; to prevent dormancy. PA1: University Park, Pa.; silty clay silt;

2.1-3.0; 0.0-0.5; to prevent stress.

PA2: University Park, Pa.; silt loam and silt; 2.1-3.0; 1.1-1.5; to prevent stress.

RI1: Kingston, R.I.; silt loam and silt; 3.1-

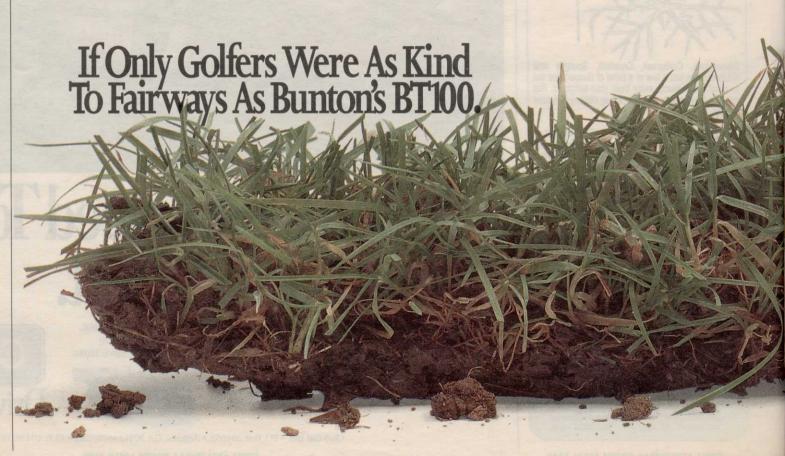
4.0; 1.1-1.5; to prevent stress

- SD1: Brookings, S.D.; silty clay loam; N/ A; 2.1-2.5; to prevent stress. VA1: Blacksburg, Va.; sandy loam; 2.1-
- 3.0; 1.6-2.0; to prevent dormancy.
- VA2: Blackstone, Va.; sandy loam; 2.1-3.0; 1.1-1.5; only during severe stress.

VA3: Remington, Va.; loam; 2.1-3.0; 2.1-

- 2.5; only during severe stress. WA1: Pullman, Wash.; silt loam and silt; 2.1-3.0; 1.6-2.0; to prevent stres
- WA3: Puyallup, Wash.; sandy loam; 3.1-4.0; 1.1-1.5; to prevent stress. WA4: Ritzville, Wash. (dense shade); silt

loam and silt; 0.0-1.0; 2.1-2.5; only during severe stress



while ryegrass improvements continue

for bluegrasses under low-maintenance situations in more than two dozen locations. "A lot of the bluegrasses look pretty good under these situations - in how quickly they establish and their looks," he reported.

RYEGRASS IMPROVEMENTS

Extraordinary advances are being made yearly in ryegrass breeding, Morris said.

"If you take the top cultivars in this (completed) test and compare them with the current test (planted in 1990), you will find there will

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• — Varieties available in the marketplace

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*SR 4100

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*Prelude

*Allaire

*Gator

*Tara

*Goalie

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*Patriot

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*Birdie II

*Lindsay

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*Manhattan 11 5.8

*Charger

The progress made over the past four or five years in color, density, lower-growing growth habit — is amazing."

— Kevin Morris

probably be 30 new varieties or so that are better . "The progress made over the past four or five years - in color, density, lower-growing growth

BC1 DC1 ID2 IL1 IL2 IN1 KS1 KS2 KY1 MA1 MD1 MI1

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habit - is amazing." Morris said the supply of new varieties is probably limited. "But

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you need to watch pretty closely because there will be a lot of varieties coming out on the market that are better than what's available now.

"I'm not sure yet if we've improved the stress and disease tolerance, but we've improved the appearance

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of them a lot."

TESTS A STARTING POINT

Morris called the four- and fiveyear test results "a starting point ... a guideline" for superintendents on the lookout for a purchase.

"Within the 'mean' figure (for each cultivar in the test), there is a varying amount of data," he said. "Some locations collected a lot more data than others. One location might be able to collect data all year around, while another can only do it four months. It can be a little misleading but, in general, one location

doesn't significantly impact the mean.

"You're trying to determine if there are some cultivars that really won't grow in an area, or that really stand out. Usually you have a group in the middle that are hard to separate out."

New cultivars of bluegrasses and ryegrasses were planted in 1990, and the first results from those plots will be made available this spring, Morris said.

In those tests, one-third to onehalf of the cultivars were included in the last tests as well. The rest are new varieties.

Descriptions **Ryegrass national field test tabulations** of sites for ryegrass tests

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The site descriptions and management practices for the 1987-90 National Perennial Ryegrass Test follow, with location listed first, then soil texture; nitrogen (pounds per 1,000 square feet); mowing height in inches; and irrigation practiced:

- BC1: Agassiz, British Columbia; loam; 2.1-3.0; 1.6-2.0; only during severe stress DC1: Washington Monument Grounds;
- loam; 1.1-2.0; 2.1-2.5; no irrigation. ID2: Post Falls, Idaho; silt loam and silt;
- 2.1-3.0; 1.1-1.5; to prevent stress. IL1: Urbana, Ill.; silt loam and silt; 3,1-4.0;
- 2.1-2.5; to prevent stress II.2: Carbondale, Ill.; silty clay and clay;
- 4.1-5.0; 2.1-2.5; to prevent stress IN1: West Lafayette, Ind.; silt loam and
- silt; 3.1-4.0; 2.1-2.5; to prevent stress KS1: Manhattan, Kan.; silty clay loam;
- 3.1-4.0; 2.6-3.0; to prevent stress. KS2: Wichita, Kan.; sandy loam; 3.1-4.0;
- 2.1-2.5; to prevent stress. KY1: Lexington, Ky.; silt loam and silt;
- 2.1-3.0; 1.6-2.0; only during severe stress. UB1: Beltsville, Md.; silt loam and silt; 2.1-3.0; 1.1-1.5; to prevent stress
- MA1: Amherst, Mass.; silt loam and silt; 2.1-3.0; 1.6-2.0; to prevent stress
- MD1: Silver Spring, Md; sandy loam; 3.1-4.0; 2.1-2.5; to prevent stress
- MI1: East Lansing, Mich.; sandy loam; 2.1-3.0; 1.6-2.0; to prevent stress.
- MO1: Columbia, Mo.; sandy clay loam; 3.1-4.0; 2.1-2.5; to prevent stress NE1: Lincoln, Neb.; silty clay loam; 3.1-
- 4.0: 1.6-2.0; to prevent stress
- 5.0; 1.1-1.5; to prevent stress. NJ2: Adelphia, N.J.; sandy loam; 5.1-6.0;
- NM1: Los Lunas, N.M.; sandy clay loam;
- 2.1-3.0; 1.6-2.0; to prevent stress.
- 1.1-1.5; to prevent stress.
- 1.1-1.5; to prevent stress
- 3.1-4.0; 1.6-2.0; only during severe stress. OK1: Stillwater, Okla.: N/A.
- OR1: Hubbard, Ore.; silt loam and silt;
- OR2: Corvallis, Ore.; sandy clay loam; N/
- PA2: University Park, Pa.; silt loam and
- RI1: Kingston, R.I.; silt loam and silt; 3.1-4.0; 1.1-1.5; to prevent stress.
- A; 2.1-2.5; to prevent stress
- 2.0; only during severe stress.
- 3.0; 2.1-2.5; no irrigation.
- 5.0; 0.0-0.5; to prevent stress.
 - February 1992 25



The BT100 Lightweight 5-Gang Fairway Mower is lighter than other 5-Gangs, so it lessens compaction and produces a healthier, better-looking fairway.

Despite its modest weight, this mower is loaded with features: independent full-floating and pivoting reels for quality cutting on all terrains; all-wheel drive and power assist for increased maneuverability; a 100"cutting width for quicker work of larger cutting areas; and much more.

If fairway mowers were golfers, then our BT100 Lightweight Gang Fairway Mower would be the leading money winner on the tour. Why don't you put it to a test? For more information, contact your Bunton representative. While you're at it, askabout our expanded line of golf course maintenance equipment.



NJ1: North Brunswick, N.J.; loam; 4.1-1.6-2.0; to prevent dormancy

- NY1: Ithaca, N.Y.; sandy loam; 2.1-3.0;
- NY2: Riverhead, L.I.; sandy loam; 2.1-3.0;
- OH2: Marysville, Ohio; silty clay and clay;
- 4.1-5.0; 1.1-1.5; to prevent stress.
- A: 2.1-2.5; to prevent stress.
- PA1: University Park, Pa.; silt loam and + 21-30.00-05. to
- silt; 2.1-3.0; 1.1-1.5; to prevent stress.

SD1: Brookings, S.D.; silty clay loam; N/

- VA1: Blacksburg, Va.; loam; 3.1-4.0; 1.6-
 - VA7: Lynchburg, Va.; sandy loam; 2.1-
 - WA3: Puyallup, Wash.; sandy loam; 4.1-