

Top ryegrasses in National Turfgrass Evaluation Program tests

Name	AR1	BC1	DC1	GA1	IA1	IL1	IL2	IN1	KS1	KY1	MD1	ME1	MI1	MO1	MO3	NE1	NJ1	OH1	OK1	PA1	QE1	RI1	UB1	UB2	VA1	WA1	WA3	Mean
LRF-94-MPRH	7.5	5.4	5.0	5.0	6.3	6.9	6.6	5.1	6.6	7.8	5.1	7.7	5.9	6.0	6.9	7.1	7.0	8.0	6.7	7.4	6.8	5.9	7.4	6.6	5.7	7.5	5.7	6.5
BAR USA 94-II	7.8	5.7	4.7	4.8	6.3	5.9	6.0	5.8	6.6	8.3	5.5	7.3	6.0	5.7	6.4	7.7	6.5	7.9	6.0	7.2	7.0	5.6	7.8	6.4	5.6	7.7	5.6	6.4
*Pennant II	7.6	4.3	5.3	5.0	6.6	6.1	7.3	5.3	6.8	8.4	5.4	6.7	6.1	5.3	6.7	6.7	6.6	7.9	6.7	7.6	6.7	5.8	7.3	6.9	5.1	7.6	5.7	6.4
*Imagine	8.0	4.7	4.8	5.1	4.8	6.2	6.9	5.3	6.8	8.3	5.4	7.9	5.9	5.7	6.8	7.1	6.0	7.8	6.5	7.4	6.7	5.9	7.5	6.6	5.5	7.8	5.3	6.4
PST-2M3	7.9	4.6	4.8	4.8	4.6	6.0	5.0	5.6	7.4	8.9	6.0	7.3	5.5	5.8	7.0	5.8	7.2	8.2	6.0	7.5	6.9	6.7	7.4	6.8	5.6	7.7	5.5	6.4
*Calypso II	7.5	5.7	5.2	4.9	5.7	6.0	6.0	5.7	6.7	7.8	5.9	7.3	5.5	5.3	6.7	6.3	6.8	7.8	6.0	7.3	7.2	6.9	7.4	6.4	5.1	7.5	5.6	6.4
MB 45	8.0	4.8	5.0	4.7	5.6	5.9	5.7	5.3	6.5	8.3	5.4	7.9	6.1	5.6	6.5	7.3	6.0	7.9	6.6	7.4	6.8	6.3	7.0	6.7	5.5	7.5	5.8	6.4
LRF-94-C8	7.6	4.5	5.0	4.8	5.1	5.9	5.7	6.0	7.0	8.4	5.0	8.5	5.9	5.7	7.6	6.1	6.5	7.8	6.7	7.1	6.9	6.1	7.1	6.6	5.7	7.7	4.9	6.4
Panther	7.7	5.5	5.3	4.8	6.1	6.4	5.0	5.8	6.9	8.4	5.1	7.9	6.3	5.5	6.4	6.9	6.7	7.8	5.9	7.1	6.6	6.2	7.1	5.9	5.6	7.2	5.4	6.4
RPBD	7.3	5.1	5.3	5.3	6.6	6.0	6.5	5.4	6.7	7.6	5.6	7.0	6.0	5.3	6.2	6.4	6.9	7.9	6.1	7.4	7.0	6.0	7.2	6.0	5.6	7.6	5.2	6.3
*Majesty	7.7	4.6	5.2	4.6	5.8	7.0	6.1	5.1	6.7	8.2	5.6	7.4	5.7	5.8	6.7	6.6	6.0	7.9	6.0	7.6	6.6	6.1	7.0	6.7	5.1	7.8	5.5	6.3
J-1706	7.3	5.3	5.4	4.8	6.6	6.2	6.4	6.1	6.6	8.0	5.4	6.9	5.6	5.4	6.9	6.4	6.7	7.8	5.3	7.1	7.0	5.5	7.3	6.1	6.1	7.5	5.3	6.3
*Line Drive	7.4	5.5	5.0	4.7	6.4	6.7	5.8	5.1	6.4	8.5	5.2	7.6	5.9	5.5	6.8	5.9	6.5	8.1	6.4	7.1	6.9	6.4	6.6	6.1	5.3	7.5	5.3	6.3
PST-2R3	7.5	5.8	5.5	4.8	6.3	6.6	6.1	5.5	6.0	7.7	5.3	7.3	6.5	5.7	6.7	6.3	6.3	7.9	5.8	7.3	7.0	6.3	6.9	6.0	5.2	7.2	4.9	6.3
*PST-GH-94	7.6	5.0	5.1	4.9	6.3	6.2	6.4	5.7	6.8	7.9	5.6	7.4	5.4	5.8	6.3	5.9	6.5	7.9	6.2	7.4	6.9	6.1	7.4	6.2	5.2	7.3	4.8	6.3
MB 44	8.0	4.9	5.0	4.7	5.3	6.2	5.2	4.9	7.4	8.6	5.4	7.3	5.5	5.6	7.0	6.4	5.8	8.1	6.4	6.8	6.7	5.8	7.0	6.6	5.5	8.0	5.3	6.3
PST-2DLM	7.7	5.0	5.0	4.6	5.8	5.0	6.4	5.5	6.4	8.5	5.4	7.9	5.6	5.8	6.5	6.2	6.4	7.8	5.7	7.1	6.7	6.8	7.4	6.5	5.1	7.3	5.0	6.3
LSD	0.7	0.9	1.0	0.6	1.2	1.3	1.3	0.9	0.7	0.4	0.7	1.3	0.9	0.6	0.6	1.2	0.7	0.4	1.1	0.9	0.4	0.6	0.5	1.0	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.2

Here are the locations of the field tests, followed by soil texture, soil pH, pounds of nitrogen applied per 1,000 square feet, and mowing height in inches. All were irrigated only to prevent stress, except BC1, MO1, MO3 and UB1 (only to prevent dormancy) and IL2, KY1 and VA1 (only during severe stress).

- AR1 — Fayetteville, Ark., silt loam and silt, 5.6-6.0, 3.1-4.0, 3.1-3.5.
- BC1 — Vancouver, B.C., sandy loam, 6.1-6.5, 4.1-5.0, 1.1-1.5.
- GA1 — Griffin, Ga., sandy clay loam, 6.1-6.5, 4.1-5.0, 2.6-3.0.
- DC1 — Washington Monument Grounds, D.C., N/A.
- IA1 — Ames, Iowa, sandy clay loam, 7.1-7.5, 2.1-3.0, 2.1-2.5.
- IL1 — Urbana, Ill., silt loam and silt, 6.1-6.5, 1.1-2.0, 2.1-2.5.
- IL2 — Carbondale, Ill., silty clay loam, 6.1-6.5, 4.1-5.0, 1.1-1.5.
- IN1 — West Lafayette, Ind., silt loam and silt, 6.6-7.0, 3.1-4.0, 0.6-1.0.
- KS1 — Manhattan, Kan., silt loam and silt, 6.6-7.0, 3.1-4.0, 1.6-2.0.
- KY1 — Lexington, Ky., silt loam and silt, 6.1-6.5, 2.1-3.0, 1.6-2.0.
- MD1 — Silver Spring, Md., sandy loam, 5.6-6.0, 2.1-3.0, 0-0.5.
- ME1 — Orono, Maine, N/A.
- MI1 — East Lansing, Mich., sandy loam, 7.1-7.5, N/A, 2.6-3.0.
- MO1 — Columbia, Mo., silty clay loam, 5.6-6.0, 3.1-4.0, 2.1-2.5.
- MO3 — St. Louis, Mo., silty clay loam, 6.6-7.0, 4.1-5.0, 2.6-3.0.
- NE1 — Lincoln, Neb., N/A.
- NJ1 — North Brunswick, N.J., sandy loam, 6.1-6.5, 5.1-6.0, 1.1-1.5.
- OH1 — Columbus, Ohio, silt loam and silt, 6.6-7.0, 1.1-2.0, 1.1-1.5.
- OK1 — Stillwater, Okla., silty clay loam, 6.6-7.0, 3.1-4.0, 2.1-2.5.
- PA1 — University Park, Pa., silty loam and silt, 6.6-7.0, 1.1-2.0, 1.1-1.5.
- QE1 — Quebec, N/A.
- RI1 — Kingston, R.I., silt loam and silt, 6.6-7.0, 3.1-4.0, 1.1-1.5.
- UB1 — Beltsville, Md., silt loam and silt, 6.1-6.5, 3.1-4.0, 1.1-1.5.
- UB2 — Beltsville, Md., (low mowing), silt loam and silt, 6.1-6.5, 3.1-4.0, 0-0.5.
- VA1 — Blacksburg, Va., silt loam and silt, 6.1-6.5, 3.1-4.0, 2.1-2.5.
- WA1 — Pullman, Wash., silt loam and silt, 6.1-6.5, 2.1-3.0, 1.1-1.5.
- WA3 — Puyallup, Wash., sandy loam, 5.6-6.0, 4.1-5.0, 1.1-1.5.

Supers cautious over rye diseases

BELTSVILLE, Md. — Certain disease problems in ryegrasses "are steering many people away from the use of ryegrass—at least in the transition zone," according to the national director of the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program.

"A lot of superintendents are considering going to bentgrass or zoysiagrass on fairways," Kevin Morris said from his office here. "A lot would like to go to zoysia, but the problem is cost and getting it established. Bentgrass is a more economical option for many of them, if they have a good irrigation system and the ability to keep thatch under control."

Morris said gray leaf spot — never a concern that far north before — was a big problem in the mid-Atlantic region last year.

"It may have been just the right climatic conditions. It may be that superintendents are using fungicides so much that they've wiped out beneficial organisms that keep gray leaf spot in check," he said. "So now we have this new problem on ryegrasses in this area. And the question is whether we have resistance to it. Most likely, we don't have a lot of resistance."

One more challenge to the breeders.

Ryes far superior

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tence under close mowing and fairway-type conditions."

While generic color "has always been highly correlated with quality ratings," he said, "that doesn't mean a grass will persist well. We stress them to the point where they have to be able to persist regardless of color."

"The color is fairly easy to improve. But improving the disease resistance takes a more concerted effort and more breeders are looking at that area."

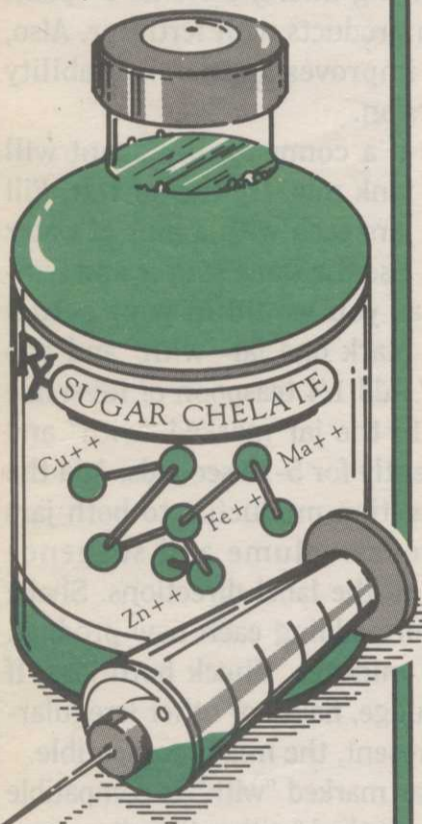
The new cultivars are so fresh from the laboratories that only three of the top 10 are commercially available this year. And it may take awhile to get others into production.

"Finding the acreage in Oregon is becoming more and more difficult," Morris said.

Meanwhile, all this improved breeding is good for the consumer, he said, adding: "If these grasses will persist and survive with less water, pesticides, etc., the consumer benefits."

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