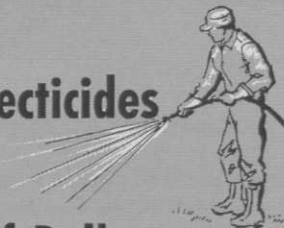


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Turfgrass research review

by Dr. James B. Beard

Turfgrass variety Evaluations

Performance of Kentucky Bluegrass, Perennial Ryegrass, and Tall Fescue Varieties.

C. R. Funk and R. E. Engel. 1967 Report on Turfgrass Research, New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin 818. pp.67-71. (from the Department of Soils and Crops, Rutgers, the State University, New Brunswick, N.J.).

Nine Kentucky bluegrass, five perennial ryegrass and six tall fescue varieties were established March 30, 1963, on a fertile loam soil of moderate drainage at New Brunswick, N.J. The plots were mowed at a height of three-fourths of an inch with clippings returned. The area received minimal irrigation with two irrigations applied in 1964 and in 1965. Thus, the area had severe drought stress at times. A split plot fertility treatment involved four and six pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet a year.

Disease observations on the Kentucky bluegrass varieties are as follows: Fyking (0217) and Merion had good resistance to *Helminthosporium* leafspot and formed the highest quality turfs during the test period. Some deterioration in the turfgrass quality of Merion occurred in the spring of 1966 which was caused by stripe smut. Windsor also exhibited some injury. NuDwarf and Delta were seriously thinned by

Helminthosporium leafspot. Newport, Primo and Campus had moderate damage from this disease.

Among the perennial ryegrass varieties tested, Norlea exhibited the slowest rate of vertical growth and also tended to be somewhat less difficult to mow. Norlea has a dark green color which is particularly evident during the cooler fall period. Under New Jersey conditions, Norlea has shown good persistence and density. NK-100 has also shown good persistence and density. Linn and Tasmanian have rated relatively low in turfgrass quality because of steminess and low density. They also tend to produce a higher percentage of reproductive tillers in late spring. Norlea, NK-100 and Viris tend to be leafier and of higher density during this spring period.

Kenwell tall fescue has shown good promise compared to the common tall fescue varieties now available. Kentucky 31 and Backfall ranked somewhat lower in overall quality than Kenwell. Goar and Alta ranked lowest in turfgrass quality of the tall fescue varieties included in this test. *Comments:* This progress report on turfgrass variety evaluations at Rutgers is a contribution in the continuing long term turfgrass varietal evaluation program at various universities across the United States. The observations regarding relative disease resistance and susceptibility of the Kentucky bluegrass variety are of particular interest.