

## FESCUE IMPROVEMENT AND EVALUATION OF TURFGRASSES

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The development of cultivars of Festuca rubra which have a consistent rhizomatous growth habit and resistance to Helminthosporium leaf spot is the principal objective of the turfgrass breeding project at Michigan State University

The 26 clones reported as having survived heavy screening at the 1972 Turfgrass Conference were again inoculated and all but 13 were eliminated. These, plus 5 which had survived the 1971 tests, (18 clones in all) were allowed to intercross in an isolation nursery in 1972. Good seed production was obtained from most clones. Seed from those with sufficient yield was planted (September 1972) in a small three-replication trial (3 x 3 foot plots) for the first evaluation of this germ plasm for disease reaction when mowed as turf. Good establishment was obtained.

Maternal line screening is under way (Winter '71-'73) in the greenhouse using seed from the 18 clones. Initial trials indicate that a spore load heavier than the 30,000/c. c. initially used will be required to reveal a differential resistance response at this level of selection.

The winter hardy meadow fescue developed at M. S. U. was distributed for trials following seed increase in Oregon. In tests planted at M. S. U. in September 1971, it survived the winter 100% while Kentucky 31 tall fescue was reduced by nearly 50%, as has been experienced previously. Seedlings of the meadow fescue in the Detroit area appear promising for park and extensive lawn areas.

Appearance ratings (1 = excellent, 9 = very poor) of selected Kentucky bluegrass cultivars have been compiled from 1969 to 1972. Tests were at East Lansing, Michigan and include 18 ratings over the 4 year period with three replications each or 54 observations.

<u>Cultivar</u>	<u>Appearance Rating</u>
Nugget	1.8
Adelphi	2.0
Sodco	2.0
Baron	2.1
Bonnie Blue	2.3
Merion	2.6
Pennstar	3.2
Fylking	3.4
So. Dak. Cert.	6.1