

the earlier studies was that though differences in transplant rooting were not evident between soils, differences were apparent in comparing sods grown on different production operations. Evidently transplant rooting can be significantly affected by the pre-transplant production practices on a particular farm.

It should also be indicated that the Michigan Transplant Rooting Strength Test does not measure proneness of sod following transplant rooting to shearing caused by the twisting, turning pressures occurring on football fields. In this case, any sod with attached soil that has a distinctly different texture from the underlying soil would be prone to tearing out of sod pieces. For this reason sod grown on muck soil should not be used on football fields, golf greens, and golf tees.

KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS CULTIVAR SOD STRENGTH COMPARISONS

Twenty eight Kentucky bluegrass cultivars have been evaluated for sod strength utilizing the Michigan Sod Strength Test. These experiments have been conducted on seedings made in August of 1968, 1969, 1970, and 1971. Three sod strength readings were made per year over a three-year period on each of the four seedings. Thus, the resulting data should be a strong, reliable indicator of the comparative sod strengths of these cultivars.

The comparative sod strengths of 28 Kentucky bluegrass cultivars are presented in Table 3. The sod strengths ranged from as high as 188 pounds to tear to as low as 30 pounds. Sods having a strength of less than 80 pounds were judged to be inadequate. Six commercially available cultivars were found to have good sod strength. They ranked in order from highest to somewhat lower, as Nugget, Baron, Pennstar, Fylking Sydsport, and Sodco. It should be pointed out that even the lower ranking cultivars in this group still produce very acceptable sod strengths. The five cultivars listed in the center column as intermediate had reasonable sod strengths except for periodic weaknesses attributed to serious disease attacks, usually Helminthosporium species. The sod strength-cultivar evaluation studies have now been terminated. These results should be considered as the final assessment of the comparative sod strengths of the commercially available Kentucky bluegrass cultivars.

Table 3. Relative sod strengths on 28 Kentucky bluegrass cultivars based on the Michigan Sod Strength Test.

Excellent (►130 lb)	Good (110 to 130 lb)	Intermediate (90 to 110 lb)	Poor (70 to 90 lb)	Very Poor (◄70 lb)
Nugget	Arista	Prato	Newport	Park
Baron	Belturf	Palouse	Delft	Kenblue
Pennstar	Primo	Campus	Cougar	Atlas
Sydsport	Adorno	Geary	Delta	South Dakota Cert.
Fylking	Merion	Windsor	Captan	
Sodco	A-34		Monopoly	
	S-21			