

## TURFGRASS BREEDING PROGRESS

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Breeder seed of Beaumont meadow fescue was planted on two acres for increase in Oregon. The stand was very uniform and weed free, and provided an excellent yield of foundation seed in 1978. Approximately 100 acres are being contracted for increase from this seed by Loft's Pedigreed Seeds and E. F. Burlingham and Sons.

Seed was harvested from four experimental synthetic combinations involving 12 clones of Festuca rubra which have proven to be highly resistant to Helminthosporium leaf spot. These combinations were selected just prior to anthesis in the nursery at Hubbard, Oregon by Dr. W. A. Meyer and K. T. Payne on the basis of plant type, tillering potential and compatible dehiscing dates.

Greenhouse inoculation evaluations of seedlings from these combinations indicate high levels of heritability for resistance to Helminthosporium. Seed is being increased in Oregon of these synthetics for evaluation as turf.

An experimental synthetic of seven selected clones of sheep fescue, Festuca ovina, is being increased in Oregon for testing. The component clones exhibit a moderate creeping habit, and the ability to survive a low height of cut (approximately 1 1/2 cm.).

The Kentucky bluegrass cultivars Cheri, Baron and Victa have exhibited great similarity to date, and have been thought generally to be identical. Plots of these cultivars have been under test in a densely shaded nursery at Michigan State University. In these tests, Victa and Baron became heavily infected with powdery mildew, while Cheri exhibited a much lower level of infection.