

# National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) Testing of Cultivars and Experimental Selections

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National Turfgrass Evaluation Program

## Objectives:

1. To evaluate commercially available cultivars and experimental selections of various species for their usefulness on golf courses.

## Start Date:

## Project Duration:

## Total Funding:

Many new grasses have been commercialized or are being considered for commercialization. Therefore, data is needed on their performance under golf course maintenance conditions.

Information from this project is valuable to the golfing industry because it will determine the adaptation of grasses for golf course use. The information obtained from these trials will be of particular value to plant breeders, researchers, extension educators, USGA agronomists, golf course architects, and superintendents who need to select the best adapted cultivars for a particular regional climate or management level.

Trials completed in 2003 include the 1998 Bentgrass (putting green and fairway/tee) and Fineleaf Fescue Tests. Four years of data collected for each trial has been summarized and is now available on the NTEP web site, [www.ntep.org](http://www.ntep.org). In addition, 2002 data from Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, and tall fescue



NTEP tests are evaluated at many locations across the nation. It is important to assess which cultivars perform best for particular locations because of regional differences in climate and pest pressure.

trials is available on the NTEP web site.

New trials initiated in 2003 include bentgrass for putting greens (26 entries, 25 locations), bentgrass for fairways and tees (28 entries, 28 locations) and fineleaf fescue (53 entries, 26 locations). These trials include many new cultivars and experimental selections along with past top performers and industry standard cultivars. The entries and locations for these new trials can be found on the

NTEP web site at [www.ntep.org/newsroom.htm](http://www.ntep.org/newsroom.htm).

Trials planned for 2004 include a new national perennial ryegrass trial (at university locations) and our second on-site overseeding trial (on golf courses).



Dr. Ali Harivandi, USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research Committee member, points out performance differences of new creeping bentgrass cultivars to California golf course superintendents.



New cultivars possess increased resistance to diseases and insects and can tolerate less irrigation than older cultivars.

## Summary Points

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