

Breeding and Evaluation of Kentucky Bluegrass, Tall Fescue, and Perennial Ryegrass for
Golf Turf Use

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Turfgrass germplasm was collected from old turfs in New Jersey and Maryland and added to nearly 50,000 turfgrass entries now under evaluation in turf trials at North Brunswick and Adelphia. This is part of the program to improve turfgrass performance by increasing stress tolerance, improving pest resistance, and reducing maintenance requirements.

The initial certified production of seed was harvested from Tara perennial ryegrass, Repell perennial ryegrass, Citation II perennial ryegrass, and Cowboy perennial ryegrass. These varieties used germplasm obtained from the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station in their development.

Currently the research station is in the process of planting over 5,000 new turf evaluation plots of Kentucky bluegrass, tall fescue, perennial ryegrass and fine fescue in addition to five additional acres of spaced-plant nurseries.

Research is continuing on the effects of endophytic fungi on turf performance and pest resistance in perennial ryegrass, tall fescue, hard fescue, Chewings fescue, and creeping red fescue.