

New Seeded Buffalograss for Turf Available

LINCOLN, Neb. -- Homeowners weary of constantly tending their lawns may find relief with Cody, a seeded turf-type buffalograss cultivar developed by the University of Nebraska and the Native Turf Group.

NU has released several other improved turf - type buffalograss cultivars in recent years, but Cody is the first available form seed, said Terry Riordan, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (IANR) turf breeder. NU released Cody earlier this year and it is available this season for the first time.

Because Cody can be seeded, it costs less to plant than NU's two earlier Nebraska-adapted releases, "315" and "378," which are available only as sod or plugs, Riordan said.

"Compared to the standard buffalograss variety Texoka, Cody is denser, lower-growing, and with a darker green color," Riordan said. "Cody looks a little bit more like Kentucky bluegrass than other common buffalograss cultivars, but gets by with less water, mowing and pesticides."

Cody establishes more quickly and economically than other seeded buffalograss cultivars, said Dave Stock of Stock Seed Farms in Murdock, one of four companies in the Native Turf Group. The Native Turf Group's plan breeders used buffalograsses developed by IANR horticulturists as parent materials for Cody.

"Our first priority was turf quality," Stock said. "Cody forms a thick, dense turf."

Cody is adapted in southern and northern climates and will grow well in many different soils, Stock said.

Buffalograsses are warm-season grasses, beginning growth when the soil warms and going dormant with autumn frost. Cody should not be planted until mid- to late May.

Cody withstands hot, dry weather with little or no watering. It needs minimal fertilizer and is practically pest-free, Riordan said, "but if you give it a little bit of water and fertilizer, it really looks great."

Cody grows to 5 inches tall and is especially recommended for golf course roughs and institutional and acreage lawns, where it might not be mowed.

Cody is the latest result of IANR's ongoing effort to develop water- and chemical-efficient turfgrasses, Riordan said.

In Nebraska, Cody now is available from Arrow Seed Co. of Broken Bow and Stock Seed Farms. Farmer's Marketing of Arizona and Johnston Seed in Oklahoma, which make up the rest of the Native Turf Group, also carry the seed.

The United States Golf Association helps fund NU's turfgrass research, which is conducted in cooperation with IANR's Agricultural Research Division.

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