

common varieties used."

Jacklin's early pollinators—among them Nassau and Ram I—did fairly well while later pollinators—including Eclipse, Adelphi, and Glade—did poorly.

Common Kentucky bluegrass seed did poorly, Jacklin says. He predicts a yield less than 50 percent of average in both areas.

Michael J. McCarthy, agronomist at E.F. Burlingham & Sons, reports limited availability for the company's two proprietaries—Sydsport and Haga. He cites hot spring weather as the reason.

Pickseed's Wiley notes limited supplies of his company's five Kentucky bluegrass varieties (America, Bronco, Banff, Nugget, and Touch-

down) but says production will be stepped up in 1987.

Northrup-King's Churchill reports a limited supply of Aspen (a new variety), Parade, and Rugby. "Extremely cold temperatures last fall caused some winterkill, plus extremely hot and dry weather in June inhibited pollination and seedhead development," says Churchill. "Both weather extremes have had an adverse affect on this year's bluegrass crop."

Churchill says Aspen, a sister variety to Adelphi showing improved heat and drought tolerance and better disease resistance, will be available in the fall.

John Zajac, vice-president of Garfield-Williamson, says another newcomer, Liberty Kentucky bluegrass,

will be available in limited quantities this fall.

The bentgrasses

Unlike its Kentucky bluegrass cousin, the creeping bentgrass crop appears to be adequate.

Reigning bentgrass marketing champion Tee-2-Green Corp. of Hubbard, Ore., reports a good crop. Says president Bill Rose: "Production is up 50 percent but we don't know how demand will be."

Rose says the bentgrass outlook recently fell from "excellent to good" but is still positive.

Rose says Tee-2-Green plans to find out the size of the growing bentgrass market by creating a surplus.

Pirates on the high seeds

Anyone purchasing turfseed should be on the look-out for "pirated" products, according to some seed producers. Too much illegal seed is reaching the green industry, say legitimate companies, who are doing everything they can to discourage the crooks.

It's not a small amount of seed that's involved. Industry experts say perhaps more than a million pounds are being sold fraudulently.

"Pirated turfgrass seed has shown up in plain seed bags, with the claimed variety stenciled on," notes Dr. Richard Hurley of Lofts Seed, Inc., Bound Brook, N.J. "Legitimate seed producers and marketers package their product in a 'designer' bag, complete with variety logo, company name and Plant Variety Protection number. And legitimate bags will carry an analysis tag and a blue certified tag as proof of content."

In the case of "pirated" seed, not only is the turfgrass professional not receiving what he's paying for, but royalties to the nation's land-grant colleges (which develop improved varieties) are being denied.

"Many of our friends in the industry—the end users who are also very discouraged with the substitutions—are helping us by providing information about the illegal seed," says Tom Stanley, marketing manager for Turf Seed Inc., Hubbard, Ore., a company that will prosecute anyone selling bogus varieties of their seed.

Stanley says more education is needed to stop the thievery.

"I don't think a lot of people know what's going on here. Some people have no idea they're buying bogus seed."

Anyone who thinks they've been sold bogus seed should contact their state seed control official, says Stanley.

New technology will help snuff out the bootleggers. A new gene mapping technique developed by Native Plants, Salt Lake City, will allow researchers to positively identify seed varieties through DNA sequencing. This process, far more reliable and consistent than electrophoresis, may be the industry's foremost means for keeping seed pirating to a minimum.

"These tests will stand up in the court of law, and we intend to prosecute those found guilty of the illegal sale or



Legitimate seed carries a blue certified tag as proof of content.



Richard Hurley of Lofts Seed, Inc. says new technology will help stop the bogus seed sellers.



Turf Seed marketing manager Tom Stanley notes buyers must be aware of the bogus seed problem.

misrepresentation of patented varieties," says Hurley.

"But, until the problem is solved, seed buyers can protect themselves and the industry," Hurley continues. Although bootleggers are becoming more professional in their packaging techniques, buyers should "be sure the seed is packaged in a logo bag, has the blue certified tag and an analysis tag. Anything else may be illegal and a misrepresentation."

In other words, *accept no substitutes.* □