

BLENDING TO PLEASE

With so many blends and mixes available, finding the right seed for a particular growing situation is easier than ever before.

by Will Perry, managing editor

The 1988 seed supply will have no less than 80 blends and mixes in its ranks. It is an impressive number that bears witness to the industry's marketing and research prowess and the increasing sophistication of seed users.

Seed blends—a combination of two or more varieties of the same cultivar—and mixes—where different cultivars are united—offer the landscaper several advantages over using a single seed. Different varieties have certain strengths and weaknesses, but by mixing two (or three),

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SEED BLENDS

Variety	Marketer	Ingredients	Adaptability
Bent Blend	Lesco	25% Penncross, 25% Penneagle and 50% common creeping bentgrasses	Greens
CBS II	Turf-Seed	Blend of Citation II, Birdie II and Omega II Perennial ryegrasses	Home lawns Parks Golf courses
Derby Regal	International Seeds	50% Derby and 50% Regal perennial ryegrasses	Overseeding Golf courses
Dixie Green tall fescue	International Seeds	An equal blend of Pacer, Hounddog and Mojave tall fescues	Roughs Parks Wherever permanent turf desired
Double Eagle Blend (CBS II)	Lesco	Contains Citation II, Birdie II and Omega II perennial ryegrasses	High traffic areas Southern overseeding
Eagle Blend	Lesco	Contains Commander, Manhattan II and Regency perennial ryegrasses	High traffic areas
Eagle Blend I	Lesco	Contains Commander, Vintage or Regency perennial ryegrasses	Greens Tees Fairways
Fourstar Sod Blend	Lofts	A blend of Baron, Ram I, Glade and Nassau Kentucky bluegrasses	Sod
Fun Lawn	Jonathan Green	40% Bonanza, 30% Fine Lawn I and 30% Mustang turf-type tall fescues	Roughs
Futura Plus	Pickseed West	50% Fiesta 25% Blazer 25% Dasher perennial ryegrasses	
Futura 2000	Pickseed West	Blend of Fiesta II, Dasher II and Blazer perennial ryegrasses	Wherever a Perennial ryegrass is recommended
Marvelgreen Supreme	Lofts	50% Palmer perennial, 30% Prelude perennial and 20% Yorktown II perennial ryegrass	Southern overseeding blend
Par Blend	Lesco	40% Vintage 2df, 30% Regency and 30% Transar intermediate ryegrass	Tees and collars Fairways
PhD	International Seeds	40% Derby, 40% Regal and 20% Gator perennial ryegrasses	Overseeding Golf courses
Premium Sod Blend	Northrup King	25% Aspen 25% Glade 25% Trenton and 25% Rugby Kentucky bluegrasses	Sod
Proform Sod Blue Blend	Garfield Williamson	20% Eclipse 25% Classic 20% Liberty 20% Challenger and 20% Touchdown Kentucky bluegrasses	Sod or turf repair
Proform Triple Classic	Garfield Williamson	50% Omega II, 25% Saturn and 25% Manhattan II perennial ryegrasses	Overseeding Golf courses Athletic fields
Quality Blue Blend	Lesco	A 25% blend of any of the following Kentucky bluegrasses: Julai, Dawn, Challenger, Merit, Columbia or Midnight	Sod Premium turf areas
Quartet	Van Der Have Oregon, Inc.	A blend of Pennfine, Brenda, Patriot and Mondial perennial ryegrasses	Greens

Variety	Marketer	Ingredients	Adaptability
Sodmaker	Jonathan Green	40% Merit, 20% Classic, 20% Density and 20% Gnome Kentucky bluegrasses	Sod Tees and Fairways
Spectrum	Turf Merchants	An equal blend of Patriot, Manhattan II and Pennfine perennial ryegrasses	Southern overseeding and permanent grass in the northeast
Sports Turf	O.M. Scott	60% Loretta and Pennant perennial ryegrasses and 40% Victa and Abbey Kentucky bluegrasses	Athletic fields High traffic areas Parks/Schools
Team	Pickseed West	Blend of Mustang, Maverick and Thoroughbred turf-type tall fescues	Home lawns Parks Athletic fields
Touch-up	Jonathan Green	40% Allaire, 30% Manhattan II and 30% Fiesta perennial ryegrasses	Home lawn overseeding Tees/Fairways/Roughs
Transition Blend	Lesco	Contains the following turf-type Tall fescues: Cimarron, Bonanza, Trailblazer or Apache	Designed for transition zone
Triathalawn	Turf-Seed	Blend of Apache, Bonanza, Falcon and Olympic tall fescues	Home lawns Sod Golf courses Athletic fields
Triple Play	Fine Lawn	An equal blend of Pennant, Manhattan II and Pennfine perennial ryegrasses	Overseeding of golf courses in the south Wherever ryegrass desired
Triple Pro Blend	Northrup King	34% Galway 33% Falcon 33% Arid turf-type tall fescues	Sod in the south and west coast
Tri-plex Bluegrass	Lofts	Mixture of Nassau, Ram I, Georgetown and Baron	For full sun areas
Tri-plex General	Lofts	60% Nassau bluegrass, 20% Jamestown chewings fescue and 20% Palmer perennial ryegrass	For full sun areas
Tri-plex Ryegrass	Lofts	A mixture of Prelude, Palmer and Cowboy	
Tri-plex Shade	Lofts	40% Ram I Kentucky bluegrass, 40% Jamestown chewings fescue and 20% Palmer perennial ryegrass	
True Blue	Turf Merchants	An equal blend of Gnome, Merit and Baron Kentucky bluegrasses	Landscaping
Tuf Gem II	Turf Merchants	An equal blend of Bonanza, Apache and Brookston tall fescues	Permanent use
Turf Mate Elite Dwarf	Turf Merchants	An equal blend of Trailblazer and Wrangler tall Fescues	Permanent use
Victa Bristol Merit	O.M. Scott	A blend of Victa, Bristol and Merit Kentucky bluegrasses	Home lawns
VIP	Turf Merchants	An equal blend of Manhattan II, Pennant and Pennfine perennial ryegrasses	Southern overseeding, permanent turf in the northeast
VIP Bentgrass Blend	Turf Merchants	A blend of Seaside, Penncross and Penneagle bentgrasses	Southern overseeding, permanent turf in the northeast

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SEED MIXES

Variety	Marketer	Ingredients	Adaptability
Athletic Field Mix	Lofts	80% Rebel or Clemline tall fescue 15% Palmer perennial ryegrass 10% Nassau or Baron Kentucky bluegrass	Athletic fields
Athletic Pro Mix	Northrup King	25% Aspen and 25% Adelphi Kentucky bluegrass with 50% Delray perennial ryegrass	Athletic field renovation Poa Annua control
Athletic Pro II Mix	Northrup King	25% Rugby and 25% Trenton Kentucky bluegrasses with 25% Delray and 25% Caddie perennial ryegrasses	Overseeding of high wear areas Athletic fields Fairways
Blue-Rye	Jonathan Green	30% Allaire perennial ryegrass 25% Classic, 25% Gnome and 20% Merit Kentucky bluegrass	Home lawns Tees/Fairways/ Roughs
Boulevard Mixture	Northrup King	30% 'Fults' 30% Dawson red fescue 30% Park Kentucky bluegrass and 10% Delray perennial ryegrass	Areas of chronic salt accumulation
Companion	International Seeds	80% Eika perennial ryegrass 20% Ensyva creeping red fescue	Vineyards Shaded areas
Contractor's	Jonathan Green	50% annual ryegrass 35% perennial ryegrass 10% creeping red fescue and 5% Kentucky bluegrass	Initial seeding
Dense Shade	Jonathan Green	35% Victory chewings fescue 30% Pennlawn creeping red fescue 20% Glade and 15% Gnome Kentucky bluegrasses	Home lawns with little sun
Dixie Green	International Seeds	70% Derby perennial ryegrass with 30% Highlight chewings fescue	Golf courses (in southeast) Shaded areas
Drought Tough	Jonathan Green	30% Arid, 30% Bonanza and 30% Mustang tall fescue with 10% Gnome Kentucky bluegrass	Home lawns
Ecology	Lofts	80% Reliant hard fescue 20% Jamestown chewings fescue	For ecologically fragile sites where fertilizers are banned. Low maintenance areas
Fast Grow	Jonathan Green	50% Linn perennial ryegrass 20% Kentucky bluegrass 15% Annual ryegrass and 15% creeping red fescue	Roughs
Full Sun	Jonathan Green	30% Gnome Kentucky bluegrass 20% Allaire and 20% Manhattan II perennial ryegrass 15% Victory chewings fescue and 15% Pennlawn creeping Red fescue	Home lawn Fairways and roughs
Futura Blue	Pickseed West	20% Touchdown Kentucky bluegrass 20% America Kentucky Bluegrass 15% Agram chewings fescue 45% Fiesta perennial ryegrass	
General Turf Mixture	Northrup King	15% Park 35% Kentucky bluegrass 85/80 with 40% creeping red fescue and 10% perennial ryegrass	Schools Parks Cemeteries Rights-of-way
Heavy Traffic Mixture	Jonathan Green	45% Bonanza, 40% Mustang turf-type tall fescues and 15% Allaire perennial ryegrass	Roughs
Landscape Pro Mix	Northrup King	30% Park and 20% Parade Kentucky bluegrasses with 20% Delray perennial ryegrass and 30% Ruby creeping red fescue	Initial turf establishment
Marvelgreen and Laser	Lofts	85% Marvelgreen Supreme 15% Laser poa trivialis	Wherever a fine texture desired Southern overseeding blend
Marvelgreen Classic	Lofts	60% Palmer perennial ryegrass 20% Jamestown chewings fescue 20% Laser poa trivialis	Greens/Tees Shaded areas Southern overseeding blend
Marvelgreen Sports Mix	Lofts	A mixture of fine leaf turf type ryegrasses with annual ryegrass	Fairways/tees Athletic Fields Overseeding blend
Marvelgreen 3+1	Lofts	75% Marvelgreen Supreme 25% Jamestown chewings fescue	Southern overseeding blend
Maxi-Gain Green Chop	Turf-Seed, Inc.	(approximately) 43% Lata orchardgrass 22% Barpastra tetraploid perennial ryegrass 14% Tandem festulolium 11% TT-80 tetraploid Annula ryegrass 5% New Zealand white clover and the rest other crop seed and inert matter	Pastures

Variety	Marketer	Ingredients	Adaptability
Medalist North	Northrup King	35% Delray and 35% Caddie perennial ryegrasses with 15% Trenton and 15% Rugby Kentucky bluegrasses	Renovation of worn areas Athletic fields
Overseeder II	Northrup King	25% Trenton, 25% Aspen and 20% Rugby Kentucky bluegrasses with 15% Delray and 15% Caddie perennial ryegrasses	Fairway renovation Home lawns
Pasture	Jonathan Green	40% perennial ryegrass 25% Kentucky bluegrass 15% orchard grass 15% timothy and 5% Ladino clover	Paddock mixture
Premier Turf Mix	Northrup King	25% Rugby, 20% Adelphi and 20% Trenton Kentucky bluegrasses with 25% Scaldis hard fescue and 10% Delray perennial ryegrass	Home lawns Fairways
Proform Deep Shade Mix	Garfield Williamson	35% Ensyva and 15% Shadow chewings fescues with 30% Omega II perennial ryegrass 10% Aurora hard fescue 5% Eclipse Kentucky bluegrass and 5% Sabre poa trivialis	Dry and damp shaded areas or areas with up to 70% shade
Proform Sports Turf	Garfield Williamson	60% Jaguar and 18% Bonanza turf-type tall fescues 15% Omega II perennial ryegrass and 7% Liberty Kentucky bluegrass	Parks Cemeteries Athletic fields
Shady Turf	Northrup King	15% Nugget and 25% Glade Kentucky bluegrasses with 10% Delray perennial ryegrass and 25% Scaldis hard fescue	New seedings Overseeding of shaded areas
Show Lawn	Jonathan Green	40% Allaire and 30% Premier perennial ryegrasses, 10% Density, 10% Gnome and 10% Merit Kentucky bluegrasses	Home Lawns Athletic Fields Tees/Fairways/ Roughs
Special Park Mix	Northrup King	30% Aquila and 20% Park Kentucky bluegrass with 20% Ruby creeping red fescue, 20% Scaldis hard fescue and 10% Delray perennial ryegrass	Parks Low maintenance, shaded areas
Summer Stress	Lofts	90% Rebel or Rebel II turf-type tall fescue 10% Nassau or Baron Kentucky bluegrass	For transition zone fields subject to heat stress
Sun and Shade	Jonathan Green	20% Victory Chewings fescue 20% Allaire and 15% Manhattan II perennial ryegrass 20% Pennlawn red fescue 15% Glade and 10% Gnome Kentucky bluegrasses	Lawn areas with varying light Fairways and roughs
Super Pro III	Northrup King	15% Adelphi 15% Rugby Kentucky bluegrasses and 35% Pennfne 35% Delray perennial ryegrasses	Overseeding of heavy traffic areas in far north
Survivor	Seed Research of Oregon	90% Trident and Falcon tall fescues, 10% SR 3000 hard fescue	Home lawns Athletic fields Parks Sod production Golf course roughs Industrial turf
Swift & Sure	Northrup King	15% Parade and 15% Park Kentucky bluegrasses with 30% Pennlawn creeping red fescue 20% Pennfne and 20% Delray perennial ryegrasses	Overseeding established areas
Trophy	Seed Research of Oregon	80% Trident and Falcon tall fescue 10% SR 3000 hard fescue 10% Merit Kentucky bluegrass	Home lawns Athletic fields Parks Sod Golf course roughs Industrial turf
Turf Supreme	Lofts	80% Nassau Kentucky bluegrass 20% Palmer perennial ryegrass	
Utility Mixture	O.M. Scott	30% Red fescue 55% Ovation and Derby perennial ryegrasses 15% Victa Kentucky bluegrass	Low maintenance turf areas
Veri-Green	Jonathan Green	60% Annual ryegrass 20% Linn perennial ryegrass 10% Kentucky bluegrass 10% creeping red fescue	Bare spots Roughs
Winter Turf I	O.M. Scott	90% blend of Loretta, Derby, Ovation and Victa perennial ryegrasses 10% Kentucky bluegrass	Overseeding of Bermudagrass
Winter Turf V	O.M. Scott	85% Loretta and Ovation perennial ryegrasses and 15% Sabre poa trivialis	Overseeding

you can build a better turf.

Such is the case with perennial ryegrass and Kentucky bluegrass. Ryegrass, burdened by a slow recovery rate, is enhanced by the strong recovery rate of the Kentucky bluegrass, which benefits from the other's wear tolerance.

Blends and mixes are created to maximize disease resistance, improve turf color, density, hardiness and several

other reasons.

The benefits

"We feel the more genetic diversity in a mix or blend, the better off you are," says Virgil Meyer, Ph.D. at O.M. Scott. "Blends and mixtures tend to show off the best qualities of each variety. Likewise, the weaknesses of each are passed

SEED BLENDS

Variety	Marketer	Ingredients	Adaptability
Renovator Pro Blend	Northrup King	40% Delray 30% Caddie and 30% Pennfine Perennial ryegrass	Heavy traffic areas Athletic fields Playgrounds
Ryegrass 100	O.M. Scott	50% Pennant 30% Derby 20% Ovation perennial ryegrasses	Athletic fields Southern overseeding

Variety	Marketer	Ingredients	Adaptability
Winter Turf III	O.M. Scott	70% Caravelle 20% Pennant 10% Derby perennial ryegrasses	Overseeding
Winter Turf IX	O.M. Scott	40% Caravelle 40% Manhattan II and 20% Pennant perennial ryegrasses	Overseeding

over. From the professional standpoint, blending and mixing take a lot of the guesswork and trouble out of turf management."

There are certain advantages and disadvantages to blending different types of grass. Tall fescue is the "new darling" of the turf industry, says Tom Voigt, assistant horticulturist at the University of Illinois, Urbana. Turf-type tall fescue is a variety that lends itself well to blending. Because of its average cultural intensity level, deep roots and germination rate, a mix of 90% tall fescue and 10% Kentucky bluegrass will offer a more wear tolerant, thicker turf that will do well in the late months of the cold season, Voigt notes.

On the other hand, perennial ryegrasses are less likely to offer an advantage when blended, says John P. DeMatteo, a turfgrass agronomist with Lofts Seed, Inc. All varieties of perennial ryegrass share similar characteristics and come from limited parentage, says DeMatteo. Therefore, blending is not likely to do more than make you pay a few extra cents per pound for your seed.

A perennial ryegrass mix however, does work well because it establishes quickly and therefore chokes off *Poa annua*, is often endophyte enhanced and has a nice color.

Blue blends

Kentucky bluegrass is a cultivar you should consider blending, adds Dematteo. When planted alone, the grass is likely to develop disease problems. However, since each variety offers unique characteristics, they can be combined to provide a healthy turf. An excellent blend is Merion, Ram I and Georgetown which gives landscapers the turf needed to endure high traffic, reduce maintenance and establish quickly.

Other reasons for blending and mixing might be that "people simply don't want to put all their eggs in one basket," adds Pickseed West researcher Jerry Pepin, Ph.D. "It's as much a psychological boost as anything else."

Whatever your reason, before shopping for a blend or mix it's best to know as much as possible about the area to be seeded. How much maintenance will you be putting into the turf? How low will you be mowing? Will the field be irrigated? How often? Is there a disease or insect control problem in the area?

With the wealth of blends and mixes available, you're likely to find a seed that matches your situation well, so take the time to figure out exactly what you need before you make your deal. LM

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