

Turfseed producers release exciting new varieties

TURFSEED COUNTRY — Southern homeowners who long for a barefoot-soft Kentucky bluegrass lawn, and gave up long ago because of the heat, take heart.

Dr. James Read, a grass breeder at Texas A&M University, has developed Reveille, a cross of Kentucky bluegrass with a Texas native bluegrass that he's confident will find favor on southern home lawns and commercial properties.

The grass has shown heat tolerance, low water use and good insect and disease resistance, and it stays green winter and summer.

"Only extraordinary circumstances would make it temporarily lose color, prolonged drought or a sudden hard freeze at a time when the grass is actively growing," says Read.

Stan Gardner, **Gardner Turfgrass, Inc.**, says that limited quantities of certified sod is available in Texas, New Mexico and Arizona.

Better in the shade

Turf managers in cooler climates will be interested in a new tufted hairgrass (*Deschampsia caespitosa*) available this fall. The grass, Shade Champ, performs well in dense shade and tolerates traffic, according

to Turf-Seed, Inc., Hubbard, OR. Consider it for use in areas where shade is a problem, including recreation ball fields.

A second new variety from Turf-Seed, Inc., also shows promise for use in parks. Marketed as Shade Star, you can use this variety of combgrass (*Cynosurus cristatus*) with tall and/or fine fescues in shade blends. This is the first "turf-type" of combgrass and has exhibited excellent shade and wear tolerance, says Crystal Fricker, president Pure Seed Testing.

For year-round traffic

Pacific Earth Resources, Patterson, CA, is touting the performance of its improved PennBlue SportsTurf to turf managers whose cool-season turf, and particularly sports fields, that get used almost year-round. This select blend of 80% perennial ryegrass and 20% Kentucky bluegrass stays green all year and can take a lot of traffic.

"At certain times through the year, following up with a good overseeding program will continue to keep the grass healthy and durable," says Ray Freitas of Pacific Earth Resources.

Seashore paspalum is ready

For warmer climates, **West Coast Turf,**

Palm Desert, CA, says that Sealsle seashore paspalum is particularly well suited for fine-turf areas, like commercial properties, home lawns or sports fields that suffer drought or have restrictions on freshwater use. Seashore paspalum thrives on reclaimed water, recycled wastewater and even saltwater. The company claims the grass is attractive with a dark green, fine blades and requires less water and fertilizer than other warm-season grasses.

Turfseed movers & shakers

Hiromi Yanagisawa was promoted to vice president and general manager of **J.R. Simplot Co. Turf & Horticulture Group's** International division. He joined Jacklin Seed in 1983, and managed Jacklin Seed during the transition period following Doyle Jacklin's retirement in May 2000.

Also, Glenn Jacklin will now oversee the company's plants in Post Falls and Nezperce, ID, and Pasco, WA.

Pennington Seed, Inc., Madison, GA, announced that it has joined with Golf Ventures this spring to distribute turfgrass and ornamental grass seed in Florida. Golf Ventures is a family of turfgrass pros that offer a full line of turf products and contract services.

Patten Seed Company, Lakeland, GA, named Joe O'Donnell as vice president of Georgia Super Sod Outlets. He most recently served as general manager of Sunbelt Seeds. He will be based in Atlanta, GA.

Landmark Seed Company, Albany, OR, hired John Brader to strengthen its presence in the eastern states. Brader was most recently the general manager of Lofts in Maryland, a division of Pennington Seeds.

ProSource One named Jay McCord as its Turf Seed Development manager and Jeff Schmalz as its sales rep for eastern Pennsylvania, Philadelphia and New Jersey. — Ron Hall, Senior Editor

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