

Bermuda vs. Zoysia

I have several meyer zoysia lawns that I maintain which have hybrid Bermuda spots in them. Is there any herbicide that will suppress or eradicate the Bermuda without harming the zoysia?

—GEORGIA

Bermudagrass competes with zoysiagrass under high light intensity and good cultural management practices. This is a particularly serious problem when establishing zoysiagrass from sprigs and sod-plugs. Bermudagrass invasion can eventually lead to an undesirable lawn or other turfgrass areas. In these extreme cases, one option is to use a non-selective herbicide such as Roundup, Finale or Scythe herbicide to kill everything and start all over again. This is time consuming, expensive, and a last resort.

An alternative approach to suppress or eradicate Bermudagrass from zoysiagrass is also time consuming. Reports from the University of Georgia indicate that the use of selective herbicides such as Acclaim or Fusilade has provided excellent suppression of common Bermudagrass. When the mixed stand was treated for two consecutive years with Fusilade at 0.2 kg/hectare during mid-May and again at 0.1 kg/ha one month later, the common Bermudagrass cover was reduced from 35% to 7%, and the zoysiagrass cover increased from 65% to 85%. Similar results were obtained when Acclaim was applied at 0.2 kg/ha in mid-

May and repeated at monthly intervals for a total of four applications each year for two consecutive years. These herbicides may discolor both turfgrass types. Zoysiagrass should recover after 10-14 days.

If you have never treated this way before, test it in a small area before doing a large lawn. Refer to the label. Fusilade's label suggests using 3-4 oz/AC with a non-ionic surfactant during late spring, and then repeating 28-30 days later. During the summer months, you can reduce the rate to 2-3 oz/AC.

Fusilade is a systemic herbicide. It is foliar and root absorbed. Therefore, delay watering until the material has had a chance to dry. Repeat applications at one month intervals, 2-3 times or until the undesirable Bermudagrass disappears. Generally it takes about 14 days to see suppression develop.

For best results, avoid treating moisture stressed lawns. If possible, advise the customer to pre-water the lawns prior to treating. This will help improve the end result.

Read and follow label specification for additional details.

Spruce galls are galling

What is the best way to manage pineapple-like galls on spruce? We have had poor luck with this pest.

—PENNSYLVANIA

Spruce plants may get two types of galls caused by adelgids. These are commonly referred to as Cooley spruce gall aphids or Eastern spruce gall

aphids. They are not true aphids. The Cooley spruce gall adelgid infests the tips of branch terminals and causes the tips to swell, producing the pineapple-like gall you are referring to. The Eastern spruce gall adelgid typically produces galls at the base of shoot terminals.

The nymphs hatch in the spring and feed at the base of growing needles. This causes the swelling which envelops the feeding nymphs. The resulting galls can be cut open longitudinally to see the chambers and the nymphs. In the mid-summer, an opening at the base of the affected needles will allow the nearly-mature nymphs to exit and finish their life cycles.

On occasion, the very young galls may mimic phenoxy herbicide injury symptoms. If it is related to lawn-applied herbicides no insect will be associated with the distorted terminals. However, a plant may have both problems and in that case insects may be found.

Cooley spruce gall adelgids can be managed by cultural means. If the infestation is not severe, selective pruning and/or hand picking the galls and discarding may be sufficient. More severe problems may be treated with Sevin or Merit soil injections. Application of Sevin in March/April and again in November/December or soil injection of Merit insecticide in October should help manage the problem.

Read and follow label specifications for best results. **LM**



BALAKRISHNA RAO

Manager of Research and
Technical Development
for the Davey Tree Expert
Co., Kent, Ohio

SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO:

"Ask the Expert"
Landscape Management
7500 Old Oak Blvd.
Cleveland, OH 44130

Please allow two to three months for an answer to appear in the magazine.

Clients will almost always want to know why a tree or shrub is looking bad or appears to be dying. You look for signs or symptoms of a disease or a pest but don't see anything that resembles an obvious cause for problems.

You ask about water - too much or too little? Have any chemicals have be applied in the area lately? Any recent construction or landscaping? How long has the problem has existed and the rate of decline. You look at the stem or trunk for damage. You look at other plants in the yard to see if they show any problems. You discuss how long the plant has been in that location.

What are your options?

- ▶ Spray? There might have been something there, right?
- ▶ Fertilize to help increase vitality? Might help, can't hurt?
- ▶ Prune it? Cut it back?
- ▶ More water or less water -depending on what the owner has been doing?
- ▶ New plant? Could be transplant shock ...
- ▶ Old plant? Well, these things happen.
- ▶ Still have questions? Need a soil test!
- ▶ Give up and replace it?

Your client wants an answer and you're the expert.

One option, often overlooked, and the source of many landscape problems, is planting depth.

After looking at a declining plant, checking for signs of disease and pests, asking about water and looking at the stem - keep on going right to the ground. Pull out your knife and dig away some of the soil or mulch at the base of the plant. You might be surprised at how often a plant has been planted substantially deeper than it should be. Common enough that depth is one of the first things I look at.

The effects of planting too deep are more serious than most people realize. While there are some plants more tolerant of deep planting, this situation results in additional stress being placed

on almost every kind of plant. All plants need to grow properly to live and deep planting does not help. The plants become less able to withstand the stresses of the site and then begin to decline, usually slowly.

Very often, the customer begins to notice a problem well after the initial signs have occurred. The hint of chlorosis or a crown beginning to thin out, with the symptoms usually increasing gradually from year to year, are often over-looked when describing problems and their on-set.

One obvious indication of a tree being too deep is that the trunk appears to be cylindrical where it comes out of the ground. Every tree should have slight to obvious flare at the base. If you don't see the flare, planting too deep is the first possibility, girdling roots the second (a tree with a flare on only one side of the trunk and a flat, straight surface on the other side could be an indication of a girdling root). Both reasons are well worth digging for. (In some cases it may not be a root that is girdling the tree but twine or artificial or treated burlap.) For a shrub, it may be a little more difficult to tell if it has been planted too deep, but if it has multiple stems and you cannot see the point where the stems are attached, you may have a depth problem.

In some cases, if the plant is not too far gone, removing the excess soil and mulch may help, along with some extra care and perhaps fertilizer and a proper watering regimen. For a more severe case of decline, an explanation of the evils of planting too deep and how to plant properly may be in order.

It does happen that even after checking everything about a declining plant, you still can't find a reason for the problem, and you now wish it was planted too deep. Then you may decide to take a soil sample, especially if the owner wants to try and save the plant. No guarantees, though, and there are other possible problems that range from water softeners to dryer outlets, root rots to nematodes, black walnut trees to spraying suckers with Roundup.

Sometimes even careful examination won't give you any answers - but make checking planting depth a standard procedure when looking for a problem. **LM**

Sick tree or shrub? Time to get 'in-depth'



Nancy Stairs

NANCY STAIRS
Technical Editor

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Industry works through heat, drought

Dallas— Summers on the Southern Plains summer are typically hot and dry—but not so hot and dry so early in the season. This year, triple-digit heat greeted mid spring, and as August approached it hadn't relented. A bigger concern for green industry pros was drought. By mid July some areas of north Texas hadn't seen significant rain in over a month.

"The heat is pretty normal for this time of the year," said Cody Whelchel, Cody Lawn Care, Ft. Worth, TX. "It's just that it got hotter quicker and for longer this year. It's been hard on the people doing the work."

Temperatures in Dallas exceeded 100° F almost every day in July with no relief forecast as the month ended. The same was true in Oklahoma. Wes Hadsell at Hadco Lawn & Landscape in Bartlesville, OK, reported 21 work days over 100° F through mid July.

"Our May and June seemed like our normal July and August," said Hadsell. "We send our guys out with a lot of water. We start early, and the guys have chosen to work a little bit longer days and take Fridays off to recoup."

Ed Herndon at Phillip's Landscape Mgmt. Inc., Ft. Worth, TX, said maintenance crews throughout the city are working in spite of the heat.

"Our maintenance schedules are so full, we need a full day to get through it all. We come in at 6:30 a.m. and it's hard to get on any properties earlier than that."

Cody Whelchel says the grass, particularly St. Augustinegrass, thrived on the heat and had to be regularly mowed on his accounts which were irrigated.

Not surprisingly, irrigation services have been in great demand.

"All of the cities surrounding Dallas are instigating water rationing programs, and we have to go around each and every city and set our customers' controllers to match the cities' rationing programs. It's keeping us

hopping," said Herndon.

"We have water restrictions here in Plano," said Gary LaScalea, owner/operator of Gro-Green. "It's the first time for that since I've been here in 13 or 14 years. Everybody's trying to irrigate and irrigate to keep things alive."

"Any call regarding a sprinkler system is an emergency now," added Doy Geller, general manager TechScape, Inc., Richardson, TX. But, even with those accounts that have irrigation systems, Tech-



Scape's crews often have to hand water to save plants, he reported.

"Sometimes I have to have guys work on weekends just to water, just to make sure plants that we've recently installed don't die," he explained.

In spite of the industry's best efforts, many customers will be losing trees and ornamentals because of the drought. "There's been so much construction in Dallas that we have difficulty in getting trees now," added Geller.

Drought not the only problem

EAST TEXAS— Drought stresses trees, but the damage does not end there. When trees are stressed they are weakened and become less able to withstand additional stresses. In many cases, when a tree fails it is not simply due to a single cause but to a number of stressors which were simply too much for the tree. For trees which survive a drought situation, the additional stress factors include diseases and pests.

One concern is a group of insects, commonly referred to

as "shade tree borers". This group includes, among others, longhorned beetles, metallic wood-borers, cottonwood borers, poplar borers, locust borers and re-headed ash borers. However, once you see the signs of borer infestation, it is too late.

The best method for treating borers is preventive. Maintaining tree health is important and that includes watering. Fertilizing, pruning dead and dying branches are also important steps in preventive tree care. Should bor-

ers be a concern in your area, it is important to have correct identification of the pest.

According to Dr. James Robinson, entomologist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, trunks and tree limbs up to 0.5 inches in diameter can be sprayed with a solution of lindane or chlorpyrifos, with the first treatment being in April when the insects first emerge. Later applications in late May, mid-July and August are also recommended.

Florida fires devastate trees

PALM COAST, FL— Employees of White Acres Nursery & Garden moved their landscape equipment into an open field and turned on the irrigation to keep the equipment from burning. At their Palm Coast branch they even filled their 700-gallon lawn spray trucks with water to ward off flames. "The fire came right up to the edge of our business," said a company spokesman.

Wild fires devastated over 400,000 acres in Florida, mostly timberland, in June and early July. A lot of the damage occurred in northeastern Florida where, just before the busy July 4 holiday, the entire population of Flagler County (just north of Daytona Beach) was evacuated because of wind-blown fires.

When people were allowed to move back into their homes and tend their businesses more than 40 homes had been destroyed, and, perhaps 10 times that many had been damaged. Landscapes, both trees and turf, also suffered.

"A lot of trees were burned close to people's home and they have to be removed," Danny Barrett of Big Dan's Tree Service, Ormond Beach, tells Landscape Management. In one subdivision alone, Barrett reports taking down about 250 trees because the fire was so hot it burned into the dried muck beneath them. Statewide

Florida reported its driest June in 119 years which contributed to the wildfires.

"If it weren't for the firefighters my wood lot (at the intersection of U.S. 1 and I-95) would have burned," says Barrett.

"A lot of trees will probably recover if we keep getting rain. A lot of trees will come out of shock, but a lot of the pines are gone," says Barrett who's been putting in 12-hour days. Those not imme-

diately destroyed, but severely stressed, will eventually succumb to beetles and other pests.

"A lot of the large specimen trees may refoliate," speculates Bret Bartlett of Bartlett Landscape in Palm Coast, one of the hardest hit communities. "A lot of the palms should refoliate too, but it's going to take several years. But there's going to be a lot of foundation plantings and a lot resodding because

the fires went right up the foundations of houses in some areas."

Also, some landscapes were destroyed when firefighters used bulldozers in some areas to clear firebreaks.

"The real scare happened over a three-day period. We shut down and had to leave the county," says Bartlett who tells Landscape Management that the fires generated incredible amounts of smoke and falling ash for days on end.

Montana State starts turf program

Bozeman, MT— Students can enroll in a new Turfgrass Science option at Montana State University here this fall, thanks, in large part, to a recent addition to the MSU horticulture staff.

Ten students are enrolled in the turfgrass program, with about eight more expected this fall, says Rob Golembiewski, Ph. D., Assistant Professor of Horticulture. The MSU board of regents approved the program in July. It is being promoted to prospective students through groups like the Peaks & Prairies Golf Course Superintendents and the Association of Montana Turf & Ornamental Professionals, both of which have contributed financial support too. Other young people learn of the program through high school career fair days.

The program is significant to cool-season turfgrass research for several reasons, not the least of which is geography. The nearest other significant turfgrass programs are at Colorado State, Utah State or Washington State.

Dr. Golembiewski, Montana State U's only turfgrass expert, will offer courses in Introductory Turfgrass Management, Advanced Turfgrass Management, and Turfgrass Pest Management. Turf students will also take numerous horticulture courses along with small engine instruction.

A new three-acre turfgrass research farm is under construction too. It will be the location of NTEP bentgrass putting green and fairway trials along with NTEP fine fescue trials. Other work that's already underway at MSU includes: snow mold and fairy ring fungicide evaluation trials, and a creeping speedwell herbicide trial.

"Upon completing my Ph.D. last year, I never thought I would have the opportunity to go and build a turfgrass program," Golembiewski tells LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT. "It can be a very solid turfgrass program."

Golembiewski said many people and companies generously contributed both time and supplies to make the program and, particularly, the three-acre research farm a reality.

"The establishment of this farm is an excellent example of how university, industry and turf associations work together to achieve goals never thought possible," said Golembiewski. "This farm will always be an example of how truly unique the turfgrass industry is."

Golembiewski can be reached at (406) 994-7776.

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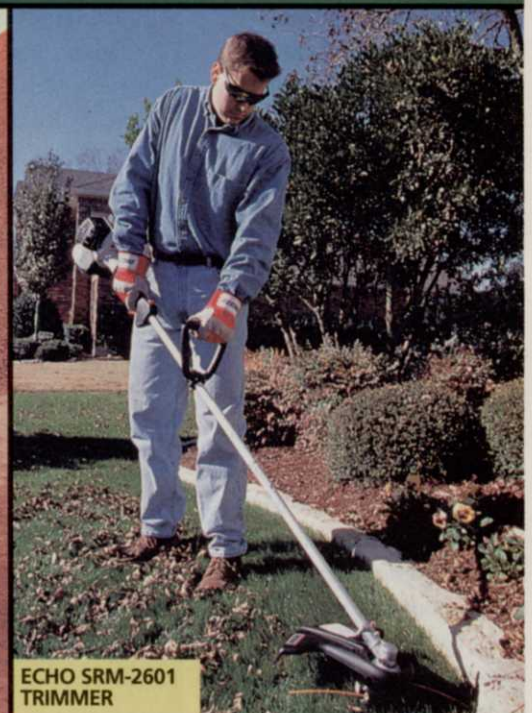
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THE LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT 1998 EMERALD AWARD WINNERS



FORD PICK UP F-SERIES



ECHO SRM-2601
TRIMMER

Dealer service counts with

Emerald Award winners

Quality, price and dealer assistance mean much to these LM readers who entered our annual drawing.

by JAMIE PETERS

The winners of Landscape Management's third annual Emerald Awards contest are hard-working professionals who insist on testing equipment before they buy and want good quality at a fair price.

George Woodhull, owner of Woodhull Landscaping, Riverhead, NY, claims the top prize of \$500 in LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT's Emerald Awards sweepstakes.

Woodhull "jumped right into it," when he entered the industry to Woodhull Landscaping nearly 20 years ago.

When purchasing his equipment, Woodhull says dealership proximity is a prime factor in the rural area where he works.

"I try to keep everything close and deal with my hometown dealers," says Woodhull.

Woodhull, tests everything on the job to insure that it meets his standards.

Lesco and Bobcat products are Woodhull's top choice because the name promises quality and reasonable prices, he says. He has six Bobcats and just bought a 52-inch Lesco mower. The Bobcat maneuverability and Kawasaki engines are reasons why he likes that brand.

"I'm tempted to go to a ZTR," says Woodhull. "They're good at catching clippings and other debris. I'm looking at a

Walker. From what I hear, that's pretty much the way to go. I have few properties that are big enough to warrant that."

The \$200 second prize winner, Bruce Williams, is well-known golf course superintendent who two years ago moved from Chicago's Bob O' Link to the Los Angeles Country Club. He too relies on trusting relationships with local dealerships when buying top products.

"While manufacturers are important in what they do, the local distributor can make a huge difference in the selection of your purchases," he says.

Williams, who has worked at LACC for nearly two years after 21 years as golf course superintendent at Bob O'Link Golf Club near Chicago, is meticulous in testing products.

"In almost all cases, we request a demonstrator," he says. "And we try to put the demonstrator through a number of different conditions. For example, a mower—mowing under wet conditions; mowing under dry conditions."

Toro riding mowers and a recently purchased GMC pick-up truck support Williams' belief that equipment effectiveness takes precedence over efficiency.

"We're not always trying to do things the quickest way—we're trying to do things the most effective way," he says.

Third-place winner of \$200 Chris DeWitt operates Signature Lawn & Landscaping, Inc., in Easley, SC.

DeWitt, who was in computer processing before he started his landscaping busi-



Woodhull: wants dealers close.

Manufacturers tell why products are winners

LM spoke with representatives from some of the companies....

"John Deere has long stood for quality and quality manufacturing," says

Mike Johanning, product manager for John Deere compact utility tractors, "and our customers know that if they buy a John Deere compact utility tractor, or any other John Deere product for that matter, they're going to have the best product on the market.

"Our new 4000 series CUTs are a prime example of how this works. Due to customer feedback, we revamped our 55 and 70 utility tractor, and the response has been phenomenal."

"For years **Echo** has delivered the top-selling, commercial gas-powered blowers for professional results," reports the Echo company. Echo blowers are easy to start and easy to use and deliver the power and dependability needed to meet today's landscaping challenges. The revolutionary PB-46LN Quiet 1 operates at a low noise level with outstanding performance and emits only 65 dBa.

"Echo trimmers feature a vibration-reduction system, ergonomic controls and a quick start engine to enhance worker productivity. The SB Series trimmers feature a split-boom, which allows the trimmer to be easily converted into other products."

Neal Cleveland, Bayer Corporation's turf and ornamental market manager, says Merit has done what it was meant to do, which makes it a favorite among Emerald Award contestants.

"Now that we're in the fifth year of having product available to market-place," Cleveland says, "Merit has shown itself to be a proven performer in turf-grass and ornamental insect control.

"Merit's positioning as a broad spectrum grub control product, with a wide

EMERALD AWARDS, 1998

The following standings represent percent of total contest entrants who told us the winning product was their favorite.

RIDING MOWERS

Toro: 23.2%
John Deere: 12.6%
Walker: 10%

WALK-BEHIND MOWERS

Toro: 25%
Scag: 9%
Deere: 7%

TURF FERTILIZER

Lesco: 19%
Scotts: 18%
Par-Ex: 6%

PREEMERGENT HERBICIDE

Surflan: 13.2%
Barricade: 12%
Dimension: 10%

POSTEMERGENT HERBICIDE

Roundup: 21%
Trimec: 17%
Lesco 3-Way: 7%

TURF INSECTICIDE

Merit: 20%
Dursban: 15%
Daconil: 13%

PLANT GROWTH REGULATOR

Primo: 19.4%
Embark: 6%
Scott's: 2%

COMPACT TRACTOR

Kubota: 20.3%
Ford New Holland: 12%
Briggs/Stratton: 1%

TURF AERATOR

Ryan: 37%
Deere: 4%
Lesco: 3%

PICK UP TRUCK

Ford: 35%
Chevy: 27%
Dodge: 11%

LEAF BLOWER

Echo: 30.5%
Stihl: 25%
Lesco: 6.5%

LINE TRIMMER

Echo: 44%
Stihl: 16%
Shindaiwa: 15%

CHAIN SAW

Stihl: 81%
Husqvarna: 10%
Echo: 9.5%

KY BLUEGRASS

Baron/Midnight: 4.5%
Scotts: 3.5%

PERENNIAL RYEGRASS

Palmer: 5.4%
Manhattan II: 4.5%
Ph.D. 2.3%

TALL FESCUE

Rebel II: 5.5%
Lesco: 2.8%
Bonanza II: 2.2%

TURFGRASS MIX OR BLEND

Lesco: 11.6%
Scotts: 4.5%

ness nearly four years ago, considers speed, reliability and reputation as important factors when purchasing equipment.

A John Deere 425 riding mower is Signature L&L's most efficient piece of equipment, DeWitt says.

"The productivity is not necessarily the width of the cut, it's the speed of the mower," he says.

window of application, one which will satisfy customers, minimize callbacks and eliminate [insect control] worries, makes it a product of choice," says Cleveland. "It's an easy decision to keep with it."

Merit is used to control all white grubs and surface feeders, including cutworms, mole crickets, billbugs, hyperiodes weevil, and a number of ornamental pests, including hemlock woolly adelgid, leaf miners, lace bugs, beetles and scale. Cleveland tells LM that birch borers may be added to the label.

The Toro Co. placed high in the cate-

After a bad experience with a faulty piece of equipment, DeWitt now carefully tests products before purchase.

"When we first started out... we got burned with a piece of equipment that turned out to be a real dog, so now we'll insist on a day or two of trial." **LM**

gory of riding mowers, garnering 42% of the votes. The company's line of Greensmaster riding mowers are "designed to exceed the high demands of today's greens care," reports the company. The mowers are designed to provide the highest in quality of cut, and enhance operator capabilities for the best performance. The Groundsmaster line handles extreme cutting conditions with unmatched productivity, reports Toro.

The Groundsmaster 580-D is a stalwart that cuts a 16-foot swath.

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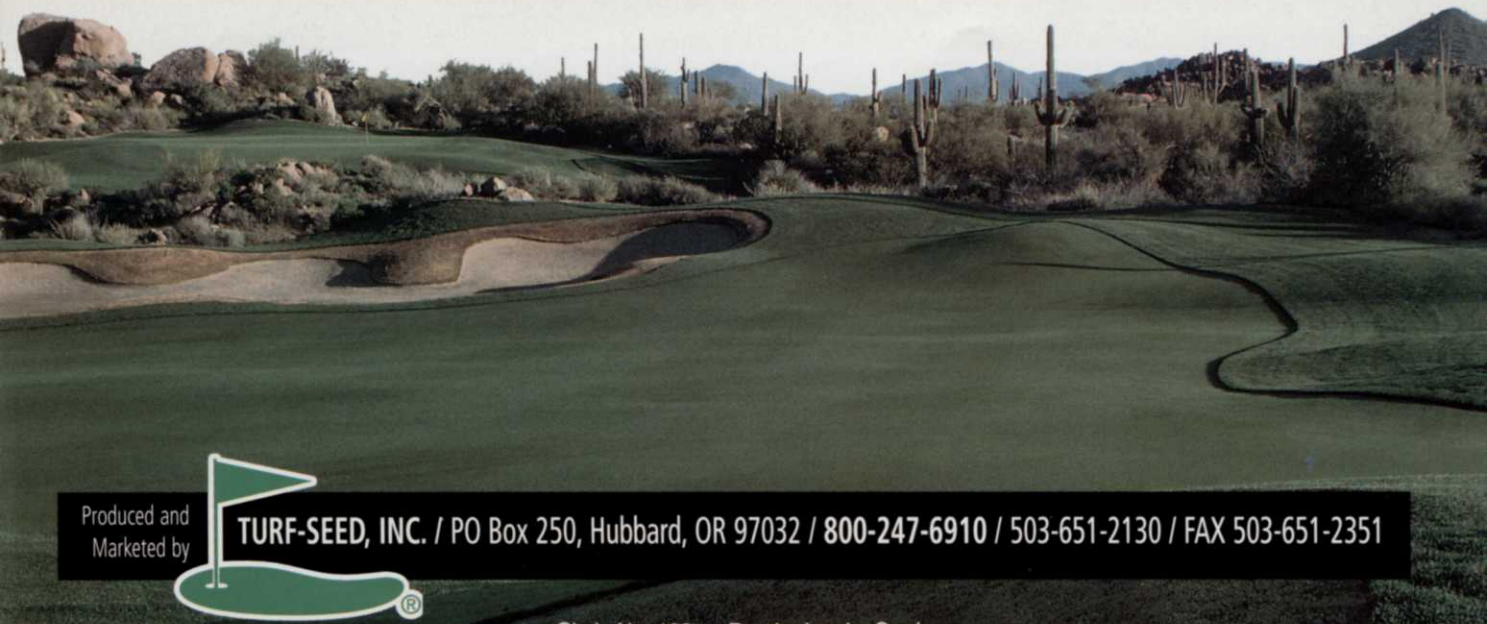
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| BrightStar | Tops 1994 NTEP ryegrass trials / Extremely dark color / Dwarf growth habit |
| Catalina | Low growth profile and reduced clippings / 78% endophyte / Tested as GH-94 |
| Chaparral | Very dense, low-growing, dark green turf. Lowest vertical growth in turf. Tested as 2DLM |
| Charger | Good low fertility and cool weather performance / Improved disease resistance |
| Charger II | Dark, dense, dwarf turf ranks high in winter overseeding trials. Experimental code 2QM. |
| Citation III | Excellent heat and wear tolerance / Improved disease resistance / Rich, dark green color |
| Manhattan 3 | Very dense growth habit / Rich color / Good mowing qualities / Contains endophyte |
| Navajo | Dark green, disease resistant turf / Excellent for overseeding / Good shade tolerance |
| Quickstart | Heat tolerant / Establishes quickly / Disease resistant / Excellent for overseeding |
| Roadrunner (2ET) | Dark blue-green color ideal for winter overseeding and permanent turf / Contains endophyte |
| Sunrye (246) | Dark green color / Dwarf growth habit / Contains endophyte / Disease resistant |

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Very good heat, cold and shade tolerance for home lawns and low maintenance turf areas.

Murietta

Very dwarf growth habit and dark green color for use in golf course roughs, athletic fields and playgrounds.

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Excellent spring green-up plus good summer and fall density. A good all-purpose tall fescue.

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A dark-green variety with improved Brown Patch resistance and summer performance due to inherent drought tolerance. Ideal for sod production, home lawns and inclusion in blends.

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Very dwarf growth habit and dark green color with reduced mowing and water requirements.

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Unprecedented Brown Patch resistance for southeast lawns and landscapes. Contains endophyte for insect resistance. An excellent addition to Confederate brand blend.

Tomahawk

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