

# NTEP NEWSLINE

*A publication of the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program*

**October - December 2000**  
**Volume 3, Issue 2**

## **ON-SITE OVERSEEDING DATA ON WEBSITE**

First-year data (collected from fall 1999 - spring 2000) from the On-site Overseeding of Bermudagrass Fairways Test is now available on the NTEP web site ([www.ntep.org/onsite/ost.htm](http://www.ntep.org/onsite/ost.htm)). This test, containing forty-two entries established at ten golf courses across the southern U.S., is a cooperative effort between the United States Golf Association (UGSA) Green Section Research, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) and NTEP. This is the first coordinated effort to evaluate varieties, blends and mixtures on golf courses in the U.S.

Researchers collected data on establishment, turfgrass quality, genetic color, percent cover of bermuda and overseeding grass and as well as other characteristics. Since overseeding of bermudagrass provides a playing surface for late fall, winter and early spring only, parameters for evaluation had to be carefully selected and described. Turfgrass quality and genetic color, as in other evaluations, is very important. However, also important is the transition from the bermuda  
*(continued on page four)*

## **TURFGRASS FUNDING SUCCESS!**

With the recent signature by President Clinton on the FY2001 Agriculture Appropriations Bill, federal support of the turfgrass industry was significantly increased. Along with continuing funding for NTEP for another year, the bill included funding for a new turfgrass scientist position within USDA. This victory represents the first full-time turfgrass research position within USDA since Jack Murray's position was abolished after his retirement in 1988.

The new position will be located at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center in Beltsville, MD and will be funded at the \$250,000 per year level. The new scientist will work on improving genetic stocks of new and promising turfgrass species as well as currently utilized species. The new person will collect grasses in native stands and growing under harsh conditions to find unique plants with improved drought, heat, cold, insect, disease and wear tolerance. The person in this position will also provide scientific support to NTEP. It is expected that this position will be advertised and filled in the first quarter of 2001.  
*(continued on page two)*

## **2000 KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS TEST UPDATE**

The newest national Kentucky Bluegrass test was recently initiated with a record 173 entries (see list on page three). This is the most entries in any NTEP trial, past or present, almost forty entries more than the previous record. Of those 173 entries, 46 were entered in a past NTEP trial, four were included as  
*(continued on page four)*

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## NTEP SITE PROFILE: MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIV.

A visit to Starkville, MS, home of Mississippi State University, may lead you to the town's historic cotton district, with its New Orleans style housing. Cotton processing is no longer king in Starkville, being replaced by modern research, development and teaching facilities at Mississippi State.

Turfgrass research, breeding and teaching are strong programs at Mississippi State. Team members include Dr. Jeff Krans, Dr. Mike Goatley, Mr. Wayne Philley and Mr. Barry Stewart. The program trains and graduates many students each year, with most landing golf course assistant superintendent positions. The teaching and research programs complement each other with the research program providing valuable information and new turfgrass varieties for turfgrass practitioners in Mississippi as well as the entire southern U.S.

NTEP trials are an important component of the research at Mississippi State with several species currently



Damage from zoysia patch disease (*Rhizoctonia* sp.) on "Emerald" zoysiagrass



Wayne Philley stands in his space-plant nursery of St. Augustine grasses selected for improved cold-tolerance

under evaluation. Since Starkville sits in the middle of the southeast U.S. (USDA cold hardiness Zone 7b), its hot, humid summers and relatively mild winters mean warm-season grasses are king. Consequently, zoysiagrass, bermudagrass and st. augustinegrass are the most widely-utilized species and the grasses tested there by NTEP. However, other species such as bentgrass and tall fescue are used in specific situations (i.e. bentgrass on putting greens and tall fescue on shady lawns). Therefore, NTEP occasionally tests these species in Starkville as well. In addition, since bermudagrass is dormant for about four months per year, one of the ten test locations of the on-site overseeding trial has been established at the MSU golf course.

Winter injury and summer diseases are the main problems in Starkville but the researchers at MSU are working to minimize these problems for their clientele. Their work in providing accurate information on NTEP trials contributes significantly to this effort!

## TURFGRASS FUNDING

(continued from page one)

This type of success requires help from many individuals and groups. We wish to thank the following people and organizations for calling and/or writing their senators and representatives:

*Doug Fender* - Turfgrass

Producers International

*Ben Copeland* - Patten Seed Co.

*Dr. Arden Baltensperger* - Seeds West

*Ike Thomas* - Turfgrass America

*Tom Delaney* - Professional Lawn Care Assoc. of America

*Various PLCAA Members*

*American Seed Trade Association*

*Turfgrass Breeders Association*

*Dr. Doug Brede* - Simplot Turf

*Dr. Don Floyd* - Pickseed West

*Dr. Bryan Unruh* - University of Florida

*Dr. Jeff Krans* - Miss. State Univ.

*Dr. Leah Brilman* - Seed

Research of Oregon

*Dr. Bill Meyer* - Rutgers Univ.

*Stan Gardner* - Gardner Turfgrass

*Tim Moore* - MD National Park & Planning Commission

*Dr. Mike Kenna* - United States Golf Assoc. (USGA)

*Dr. Jeff Nus* - USGA (formerly of Golf Course Superintendents Assoc. of America)

*Dr. Tom Voigt* - Univ. of Illinois

We sincerely appreciate the efforts of these people and groups (if anyone was omitted, we apologize). This shows that much can be accomplished if we, as an industry, work together toward common goals!

## 2000 NATIONAL KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS TEST - ENTRIES AND SPONSORS

| Entry # | Name              | Sponsor                       | Entry # | Name          | Sponsor                    | Entry # | Name          | Sponsor                     |
|---------|-------------------|-------------------------------|---------|---------------|----------------------------|---------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| 1       | Midnight          | Standard Entry                | 59      | Goldrush      | Landmark Seed Company      | 117     | A98-296       | Mountain View Seeds, Ltd.   |
| 2       | Baron             | Standard Entry                | 60      | Misty         | The Scotts Company         | 118     | A98-304       | Mountain View Seeds, Ltd.   |
| 3       | Lily              | Deutsche Saatveredelung       | 61      | Ascot         | The Scotts Company         | 119     | A98-139       | Jenks Seed Connection       |
| 4       | Limerick          | Deutsche Saatveredelung       | 62      | BH 00-6002    | The Scotts Company         | 120     | A98-365       | Jenks Seed Connection       |
| 5       | Bodacious         | Turf Merchants, Inc.          | 63      | Fairfax       | The Scotts Company         | 121     | Kenblue       | Standard Entry              |
| 6       | Bedazzled         | Turf Merchants, Inc.          | 64      | Abbey         | The Scotts Company         | 122     | Princeton 105 | Pro Seeds Marketing, Inc.   |
| 7       | Boomerang         | Turf Merchants, Inc.          | 65      | BH 00-6003    | The Scotts Company         | 123     | Impact        | Simplot Turf & Horticulture |
| 8       | Eagleton          | Standard Entry                | 66      | Ba 81-058     | Barenbrug USA, Inc.        | 124     | Total Eclipse | Simplot Turf & Horticulture |
| 9       | HV 140            | Advanta Seeds Pacific, Inc.   | 67      | Raven         | The Scotts Company         | 125     | Odyssey       | Simplot Turf & Horticulture |
| 10      | Pp H 6370         | Advanta Seeds Pacific, Inc.   | 68      | Ba 83-113     | The Scotts Company         | 126     | Chicago II    | Simplot Turf & Horticulture |
| 11      | Pp H 6366         | Advanta Seeds Pacific, Inc.   | 69      | Marquis       | Roberts Seed Company       | 127     | NuGlade       | Simplot Turf & Horticulture |
| 12      | Pp H 7929         | Advanta Seeds Pacific, Inc.   | 70      | Ba 84-140     | The Scotts Company         | 128     | J-1515        | Simplot Turf & Horticulture |
| 13      | Pp H 7832         | Advanta Seeds Pacific, Inc.   | 71      | Ba 82-288     | The Scotts Company         | 129     | J-2487        | Simplot Turf & Horticulture |
| 14      | Pp H 7907         | Advanta Seeds Pacific, Inc.   | 72      | Chateau       | The Scotts Company         | 130     | J-1368        | Simplot Turf & Horticulture |
| 15      | A96-402           | Pennington Seed Company       | 73      | Ba 00-6001    | The Scotts Company         | 131     | J-1838        | Simplot Turf & Horticulture |
| 16      | A97-1336          | Pennington Seed Company       | 74      | CVB-20631     | Cebeco International Seeds | 132     | J-2561        | Simplot Turf & Horticulture |
| 17      | Shamrock          | LESCO, Inc.                   | 75      | Chelsea       | Cebeco International Seeds | 133     | J-2885        | Simplot Turf & Horticulture |
| 18      | Wellington        | LESCO, Inc.                   | 76      | A97-1409      | Cebeco International Seeds | 134     | J-1513        | Simplot Turf & Horticulture |
| 19      | Wildwood          | LESCO, Inc.                   | 77      | A96-451       | Cebeco International Seeds | 135     | Everest       | Simplot Turf & Horticulture |
| 20      | Hallmark          | LESCO, Inc.                   | 78      | Julius        | Cebeco International Seeds | 136     | J-1420        | Simplot Turf & Horticulture |
| 21      | A93-200           | LESCO, Inc.                   | 79      | Allure        | Cebeco International Seeds | 137     | J-1648        | Simplot Turf & Horticulture |
| 22      | H94-293           | LESCO, Inc.                   | 80      | A97-1330      | Cebeco International Seeds | 138     | J-2890        | Simplot Turf & Horticulture |
| 23      | Coventry          | The Scotts Company            | 81      | H92-558       | Cebeco International Seeds | 139     | Everglade     | Simplot Turf & Horticulture |
| 24      | PST-1701          | Pure Seed Testing, Inc.       | 82      | Julia         | Cebeco International Seeds | 140     | J-2695        | Simplot Turf & Horticulture |
| 25      | PST-B5-125        | Pure Seed Testing, Inc.       | 83      | Brooklawn     | Turf Merchants, Inc.       | 141     | J-1665        | Simplot Turf & Horticulture |
| 26      | PST-604           | Pure Seed Testing, Inc.       | 84      | Boutique      | Turf Merchants, Inc.       | 142     | J-1880        | Simplot Turf & Horticulture |
| 27      | PST-108-79        | Pure Seed Testing, Inc.       | 85      | NA-K991       | Novel AG, Inc.             | 143     | Rugby II      | Simplot Turf & Horticulture |
| 28      | PST-1QG-27        | Pure Seed Testing, Inc.       | 86      | NA-K992       | Novel AG, Inc.             | 144     | Award         | Simplot Turf & Horticulture |
| 29      | PST-161           | Pure Seed Testing, Inc.       | 87      | Showcase      | Seed Research of OR, Inc.  | 145     | Rambo         | Simplot Turf & Horticulture |
| 30      | PST-B5-89         | Pure Seed Testing, Inc.       | 88      | Arcadia       | Seed Research of OR, Inc.  | 146     | Freedom II    | Simplot Turf & Horticulture |
| 31      | Brilliant         | Turf-Seed, Inc.               | 89      | SRX 2394      | Seed Research of OR, Inc.  | 147     | Liberator     | Simplot Turf & Horticulture |
| 32      | PST-222           | Pure Seed Testing, Inc.       | 90      | SRX 26351     | Seed Research of OR, Inc.  | 148     | GO-9LM9       | Grassland Oregon            |
| 33      | A98-739           | Rutgers University            | 91      | SRX 27921     | Seed Research of OR, Inc.  | 149     | Pick 113-3    | Pickseed West, Inc.         |
| 34      | PST-York Harbor 4 | Pure Seed Testing, Inc.       | 92      | Sonoma        | Lebanon Seaboard Corp.     | 150     | Langara       | Pickseed West, Inc.         |
| 35      | PST-1BMY          | Pure Seed Testing, Inc.       | 93      | Bordeaux      | Lebanon Seaboard Corp.     | 151     | A96-739       | Seeds, Inc.                 |
| 36      | A97-1439          | Pennington Seed Company       | 94      | Cabernet      | Lebanon Seaboard Corp.     | 152     | PST-H5-35     | Pure Seed Testing, Inc.     |
| 37      | A97-1449          | Pennington Seed Company       | 95      | Champagne     | Lebanon Seaboard Corp.     | 153     | PST-B3-170    | Pure Seed Testing, Inc.     |
| 38      | Apollo            | Pro Seeds Marketing, Inc.     | 96      | A96-427       | Grassland Oregon           | 154     | B4-128A       | Cebeco International Seeds  |
| 39      | A97-1432          | Jenks Seed Connection/Rutgers | 97      | A97-1715      | Grassland Oregon           | 155     | PST-731       | Mountain View Seeds, Ltd.   |
| 40      | HV 238            | Jenks Seed Connection         | 98      | Jewel         | Seeds, Inc.                | 156     | Washington    | Seeds, Inc.                 |
| 41      | Pick-232          | Pickseed West, Inc.           | 99      | Unknown       | -                          | 157     | A96-742       | Seeds, Inc.                 |
| 42      | A97-1567          | Rutgers University            | 100     | Blue Knight   | DLF-Trifolium              | 158     | A97-857       | Seeds, Inc.                 |
| 43      | PST-1804          | Pure Seed Testing, Inc.       | 101     | DLF 76-9032   | DLF-Trifolium              | 159     | BAR Pp 0468   | Barenbrug USA, Inc.         |
| 44      | B3-185            | Burlingham Seeds              | 102     | DLF 76-9034   | DLF-Trifolium              | 160     | BAR Pp 0471   | Barenbrug USA, Inc.         |
| 45      | B5-43             | Burlingham Seeds              | 103     | DLF 76-9036   | DLF-Trifolium              | 161     | BAR Pp 0566   | Barenbrug USA, Inc.         |
| 46      | B5-45             | Grassland Oregon              | 104     | DLF 76-9037   | DLF-Trifolium              | 162     | BAR Pp 0573   | Barenbrug USA, Inc.         |
| 47      | 1B7-308           | Rutgers University            | 105     | SI A96-386    | Seeds, Inc.                | 163     | Bartitia      | Barenbrug USA, Inc.         |
| 48      | H92-203           | Turf Merchants, Inc.          | 106     | SRX 2114      | Seed Research of OR, Inc.  | 164     | Baritone      | Barenbrug USA, Inc.         |
| 49      | B3-171            | Grassland Oregon              | 107     | SRX 2284      | Seed Research of OR, Inc.  | 165     | Bariris       | Barenbrug USA, Inc.         |
| 50      | B5-144            | Turf Merchants, Inc.          | 108     | Pro Seeds-453 | Pro Seeds Marketing, Inc.  | 166     | Barzan        | Barenbrug USA, Inc.         |
| 51      | PST-B4-246        | Pure Seed Testing, Inc.       | 109     | SRX OG245     | Seed Research of OR, Inc.  | 167     | Baronie       | Barenbrug USA, Inc.         |
| 52      | PST-H6-150        | Pure Seed Testing, Inc.       | 110     | 99AN-53       | Seeds, Inc.                | 168     | Unique        | Turf-Seed, Inc.             |
| 53      | Alpine            | Pickseed West, Inc.           | 111     | A98-881       | Grassland Oregon           | 169     | Serene        | Turf-Seed, Inc.             |
| 54      | Pick 453          | Pickseed West, Inc.           | 112     | Jefferson     | Landmark Seed Company      | 170     | Moonlight     | Turf-Seed, Inc.             |
| 55      | Pick 417          | Pickseed West, Inc.           | 113     | A98-407       | Cascade Int'l Seed Co.     | 171     | Blackstone    | Turf-Seed, Inc.             |
| 56      | Limousine         | Roberts Seed Company          | 114     | A98-1028      | Cascade Int'l Seed Co.     | 172     | Rita          | Turf-Seed, Inc.             |
| 57      | Quantum Leap      | Roberts Seed Company          | 115     | A98-183       | Cascade Int'l Seed Co.     | 173     | North Star    | Turf-Seed, Inc.             |
| 58      | Envicta           | The Scotts Company            | 116     | A98-1275      | Mountain View Seeds, Ltd.  |         |               |                             |

## 2000 KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS TEST

(continued from page one)

standard entries and one entry was included as an "unknown". That leaves 122 entries as new cultivars or experimental selections that NTEP has never tested. Also, twenty-five companies submitted entries.

These entries were weighed, divided, packaged and mailed in late August to the test locations listed below. Most locations will seed the entries this fall (some northern locations will have to wait until Spring 2001). Data collection on the official trials will commence with establishment ratings (4-6 weeks after seeding) and then monthly turfgrass quality ratings during the growing season. Other data collected includes genetic color, spring greenup, leaf texture, percent living ground cover the first spring after fall seeding and each fall thereafter.

The ancillary trials listed below will hopefully answer more specific questions on cultivar response to various stresses. The ancillary trials were identified as important data collection needs by the Kentucky Bluegrass advisory committee.

Three management regimes (Schedule A, B, and C) were developed by the advisory committee and approved by the NTEP Policy Committee. The specifics of these management schedules were published in the last *Newsline* (Vol. 3, Issue 1). However, briefly, Schedule A mimics golf course fairway turf, Schedule B simulates athletic fields or high maintenance home lawns, while Schedule C covers low maintenance turf. Data will be analyzed by geographic region as well as by maintenance regime. It will be interesting to watch how these grasses perform under the various management regimes and in different states or regions.

## OVERSEEDING DATA

(continued from page one)

providing the playing surface to the overseeding grass becoming the dominant turf (in fall) and vice versa (in spring). Having a smooth transition from the bermudagrass entering dormancy and the overseeding grass "taking over" in fall and then having the bermudagrass become dominant again in late spring/summer is the challenge of superintendents that overseed. Proper management practices are very important and varying weather patterns from year-to-year affect the quality of transition, but also choosing the proper overseeding variety, blend or mixture, is essential for success. First-year data is helpful but all studies should be repeated for accuracy. Therefore, all entries have been reseeded this fall in the same locations (using the same seed lot as last year) to ensure uniformity. It will be interesting to examine data collected from 1999-2000 and compare with data from fall 2000 - spring 2001.

### 2000 NATIONAL KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS TEST LOCATIONS

#### Schedule A

Fort Collins, CO  
Urbana, IL  
College Park, MD  
East Lansing, MI  
Lincoln, NE  
Ithaca, NY  
Brookings, SD  
Franklin, TN  
Madison, WI

#### Schedule B

Carbondale, IL  
Ames, IA  
St. Paul, MN  
Columbia, MO  
Adelphia, NJ  
Raleigh, NC  
Stillwater, OK  
Guelph, Ontario  
State College, PA  
Kingston, RI  
Blacksburg, VA  
Puyallup, WA  
Pullman, WA  
Sheridan, WY

#### Schedule C

West Lafayette, IN  
Wichita, KS  
Lexington, KY  
Orono, ME  
Amherst, MA  
Columbus, OH  
Logan, UT

#### Ancillary Tests

Fort Collins, CO  
(saline irrigation test)  
Carbondale, IL  
(natural shade)  
Bowling Green, KY  
(artificial shade)  
East Lansing, MI  
(necrotic ring spot test)  
Lincoln, NE  
(sod strength)  
New Brunswick, NJ  
(fairway traffic test)

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT NTEP: PART FIVE “APPLICATION PROCEDURES AND COSTS”

Submitting entries into NTEP tests is open equally to U.S. and foreign companies. There are no special requirements or conditions for entries except that they must be single varieties or experimental selections. No blends or mixtures are accepted into official NTEP trials.

Information is provided, in advance, on the amount of seed required for each entry. The seed, a Test Entry Application Form and the first of three entry fee payments need to be received at NTEP headquarters by mid-August of the year the test is initiated. The deadline is necessary for NTEP staff to assemble, divide and ship seed sets of the test to cooperators by late-August. Information on the Test Entry Application Form includes the following:

### Required Information

1. Variety name or experimental designation
2. Genus and species name
3. Previous names or experimental designations
4. Genetic structure or breeding method used
5. Current commercial availability or potential
6. Whether seed has been treated with pesticides
7. Name and address of entry sponsor
8. Should entry be included in commercial or consumer tests

### Suggested Information

1. Origin of the entry
2. Seed Quality (seed lot number, year of production, location of production, purity, germination rate, germination test date, weed or other crop percentage)
3. Merits or limitations of the entry

Also, the entry sponsor is required to sign a Sponsorship Agreement that obligates the sponsor to pay NTEP an entry fee of US\$8,000.00 payable in four annual installments.

NTEP does not have minimum requirements for seed quality nor does NTEP verify the validity of the breeding history. The U.S. Plant Variety Protection (PVP) system performs this service by requiring information on breeding history and variety uniqueness for legal protection. NTEP also does not require advanced filing of entry applications nor does NTEP approve or disapprove entries in advance. Therefore, sponsors can decide to submit entries or withdraw entries up until the deadline for entries to be received at NTEP headquarters.

*(This is part five of a series of articles that was originally published as a chapter in Turfgrass Cultivars: Breeding and Utilization, by SoftScience, Inc. (Japanese only). The next issue of Newsline will focus on NTEP evaluation methods and criteria).*

## WEB SITE UPDATE

We are continuing in our efforts to make the NTEP web site more useful for our users, sponsors and members. Our recently added *Search* function has been enhanced to better locate information important to you. We have also added “Tips for Searching” which may be helpful in finding specific data or other information about NTEP. Please let us know if you have problems searching or need to locate additional info (email [kmorris@ntep.org](mailto:kmorris@ntep.org)).

### **NTEP** Web Site Address

<http://www.ntep.org>

Our *Custom Data Analysis* form on the web site has been changed to better respond to your needs. When a request for a custom analysis comes to us, before we can conduct the analysis, we must contact the individual to ask specific questions about their needs. Please fill-in the form completely so we can contact you about this service!

We are working on converting the table of contents from past years' reports to our new menu formats. Also, we are working on updating the variety listings. Thanks for all the positive comments about the site as well as constructive criticism and suggestions for improvements!



## NTEP POLICY COMMITTEE MEETS IN LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

The most recent NTEP Policy Committee meeting was held on June 1-2, 2000 in Lincoln, NE. Dr. Bob Shearman, Professor of Turfgrass Science at the University of Nebraska hosted the group and made all the local arrangements. In addition to meeting for a one-half day session in Lincoln, the committee met for one-half day at the University of Nebraska's Agricultural Research Center near Mead, NE (about 35 miles from Lincoln). Dr. Shearman and his colleagues also provided a one-half day tour of the John Seaton Anderson turfgrass research farm in Mead. The committee visited the NTEP trials, buffalograss breeding projects, their rhizotron facility and ornamental display gardens. The center is very impressive with many interesting and significant research projects in progress.



Dr. Terry Riordan explains his buffalograss breeding program to NTEP Policy Committee members. Mr. Steve Westerholt, buffalograss project coordinator and assistant to Dr. Riordan, is in the background.

During the meeting, many items such as USDA funding for NTEP and a new turfgrass scientist, evaluation workshops and the latest Kentucky bluegrass test were discussed. The following items of interest were also discussed by the Policy Committee:

*Strategic Planning* - the first NTEP five-year strategic plan was initiated in March 1995.

Most of the action items in the plan were accomplished during the last five years and it is now time to restructure and/or update the plan. The Committee decided that the objectives of the current plan are still pertinent and should not be changed. However, new strategies and actions to accomplish those objectives need to be developed. The Committee is currently working on updating the plan and should have it finished by spring 2001.

### *Statistical Analysis* -

The Committee reviewed the results of the five statistical projects recently completed. These studies, funded by the USGA, used different statistical techniques on NTEP data. The Committee is



Apparatus built by Nebraska turfgrass science team members to simulate golf cart traffic. The unit delivers consistent and uniform traffic patterns and is used on many NTEP trials as well as other research projects.

considering further actions and recommendations for using this data.

*Administrative* - The following were elected as officers for the upcoming year:

- Chair** Mr. Ike Thomas, Turfgrass America
- Vice-Chair** Dr. Peter Landschoot, Penn State Univ.
- Secretary** Dr. Dennis Martin, Oklahoma State Univ.

Thanks to Dr. Shearman and all the staff at the University of Nebraska for making our meeting a success!

*NTEP NEWSLINE* is issued on a quarterly basis. If you have concerns or suggestions, please contact:

**Kevin Morris**  
**Exec. Director**  
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