



SUBJECT: 2026 National Fineleaf Fescue Test

TO: Seed Companies and Breeders

FROM: Kevin N. Morris, Executive Director

DATE: June 30, 2026

Plans have been finalized for the upcoming national fineleaf fescue test sponsored by the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP).

The following gives the details concerning this test. Please complete the enclosed Test Entry Application Form and Sponsorship Agreement for each entry you wish to submit. The first payment for testing is due when the seed is shipped to us. Please make checks payable to the "National Turfgrass Evaluation Program" in \$US only.

Following is important information for this trial:

1. **Within the past few years, the NTEP Policy Committee passed an entry fee increase. This increase, the first in over 20 years, will help to pay for improvements to the database and user interface. Version 1.0 of the database is publicly available, and its development is continuing.**
2. **The entry fee schedule for this trial is as follows: *Experimental* entries will be charged a reduced entry fee (\$1,200/year or \$6,000 total), which will remain at that level until the entry is named or commercialized (please see details below). *Previously tested* entries can be entered at a reduced entry fee of \$1,700/year, or \$8,500 total. *Commercially available* entries will be \$2,200 per year, or \$11,000 total.**
3. **This trial will run for five years; therefore, five entry fee payments are required.**
4. **Eight (8) ancillary trial locations will be established including: traffic tolerance, shade tolerance, summer patch tolerance and fairway mowing.**
5. **Ten (10) standard trial locations will also be established.**
6. **Our deadline for receipt of seed is August 17th.**

For a list of the chosen trial locations and details on the ancillary trial parameters, please see the attached document. This information is also available on our website, www.ntep.org/newsroom.htm.

Standard test locations will be maintained within one maintenance regime. Plot size will be 25 sq. ft. (5' x 5', 4' x 6' or similar size) replicated three times, and the seeding rate will be 50 grams per plot (4.4 lbs./1000 sq. ft.). Therefore, we will need 7 lbs. (3.18 kg) of seed of each entry.

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There are three categories of entries. The following is an explanation of the entry fee structure:

Commercial entries (named, commercially produced and/or marketed *in the U.S. or anywhere in the world*):

\$2,200.00 each entry - when seed is sent to us
\$2,200.00 each entry - on or before June 1, 2027
\$2,200.00 each entry - on or before June 1, 2028
\$2,200.00 each entry - on or before June 1, 2029
\$2,200.00 each entry - on or before June 1, 2030

\$11,000.00 total

Previously tested entries (have been included in previous NTEP tests):

\$1,700.00 each entry - when seed is sent to us
\$1,700.00 each entry - on or before June 1, 2027
\$1,700.00 each entry - on or before June 1, 2028
\$1,700.00 each entry - on or before June 1, 2029
\$1,700.00 each entry - on or before June 1, 2030

\$8,500.00 total

Experimental entries* (have never been named, commercially produced and/or marketed *in the U.S. or anywhere in the world*):

\$1,200.00 each entry - when seed is sent to us
\$1,200.00 each entry - on or before June 1, 2027
\$1,200.00 each entry - on or before June 1, 2028
\$1,200.00 each entry - on or before June 1, 2029
\$1,200.00 each entry - on or before June 1, 2030

\$6,000.00 total

*** If an *Experimental* entry is named, commercially produced or marketed *in the U.S. or anywhere in the world*, NTEP will be notified within 30 days by the entry sponsor. At that time, the entry will be reclassified as a *Commercial* entry, and the fee will become \$11,000 total for the trial. NTEP will immediately invoice the sponsor or licensee for any past entry fees. Current and future NTEP entry fees will be invoiced at \$2,200 per year. Since NTEP is moving forward with our new database, and names can now be easily updated, this policy applies at any time an NTEP tested entry, past or present is named, marketed and/or produced.**

The following are guidelines for sending seed for this test:

- a. **7 lbs. (3.18 kg)** of seed of each entry received at Beltsville, MD by August 17, 2026.
- b. Seed received after August 17, 2026 but by August 21, 2026 can be included in this test, but a **double (2x)** entry fee will be charged.
- c. Seed received after August 21, 2026 will **not** be included in this test.
- d. The entire requested amount of seed is needed for an entry to be included in this test. Entries that are received with less than the requested amount of seed will **not** be included in this test.

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We encourage good planning in preparing and shipping entries on or before the August 17th deadline. In addition, it would be helpful to send seed earlier than the August 17th deadline if possible. Please do not send seed treated with a pesticide. Treated seed will **not** be accepted by the NTEP. Also, please make sure seed is prepaid for shipping charges to Beltsville, MD. The NTEP will **not** pay any additional shipping fees to forward seed to Beltsville.

Please forward all seed, completed application forms and payments to:

Kevin Morris, Executive Director
National Turfgrass Evaluation Program
National Agricultural Library
10301 Baltimore Ave. Room G-07
Beltsville, Maryland 20705 USA

If any of the above information is unclear, or if you have a question about any aspect of this test, feel free to contact me by phone (301-908-3370), mobile (301-873-6545) or via email (kmorris@ntep.org).

Thanks for your continued cooperation with NTEP.

Enclosures

2026 NATIONAL FINELEAF FESCUE TEST

TEST ENTRY APPLICATION FORM

(Please complete one for each entry)

Required Information:

1. Variety name or experimental designation _____

2. Genus and species name _____

3. Entry category

_____ Commercial (named, commercially produced and/or marketed *in the U.S. or anywhere in the world*)

_____ Previously tested (has been included in a previous NTEP test)

_____ Experimental (has never been named, commercially produced and/or marketed *in the U.S. or anywhere in the world*)

PLEASE NOTE:

If an *Experimental* entry is named, commercially produced or marketed *in the U.S. or anywhere in the world* during the testing period, NTEP will be notified within 30 days by the entry sponsor. At that time, the entry will be reclassified as a *Commercial* entry and the fee will become \$11,000 total for the trial. NTEP will immediately invoice the sponsor or licensee for any past entry fees. Current and future NTEP entry fees will be invoiced at \$2,200 per year. This policy applies at any time an NTEP tested entry, past or present is named, marketed and/or produced.

4. All previous name(s) or experimental designation(s) this entry has been tested under (for *Previously Tested* entries, please indicate name(s) or experimental designations in past NTEP trials)

5. Genetic structure, i.e. single plant selection, number of parental clones, composite cross, open pollinated, etc.

6. Is this variety in commercial production? _____ If not, what are the prospects of it being made available in the United States in two or three years?

7. Has seed been treated with a pesticide? _____ Treated seed will not be accepted.

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8. Name and address of organization sponsoring this entry and contact person

Suggested Information:

1. What is the origin of the entry?

2. Seed Quality:

a. Seed lot number _____

b. Year of production _____

c. Location of production _____

d. Purity _____

e. Germination percent _____ Test date _____

f. Noxious and objectionable weed or other crop present _____

3. Description of entry (merits or limitations)

NTEP reserves the right to reject any entry submitted for testing based on:

- a. Completeness of information supplied
- b. Seed quality, quantity, or presence of pesticide treatment
- c. Failure to pay entry fee(s)

2026 NATIONAL FINELEAF FESCUE TEST

SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENT

(Please complete one for each entry)

We _____ agree to pay the entry fee as indicated
Sponsor

below for _____ to be included in the 2026
entry name or code

National Fineleaf Fescue Test. By signing this agreement, we also agree to the terms set forth below, stating that if an *Experimental* entry is named, commercialized or marketed *in the U.S. or anywhere in the world* as noted, NTEP will change the category of this entry to *Commercial*, hence increasing the entry fee to \$11,000.00 total. Payment will be made to the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program in \$US.

Please check one box indicating the entry category at time of submission:

☐☐☐

Commercial

Previously
Tested

Experimental

When the seed is sent to NTEP	\$2,200.00	\$1,700.00	\$1,200.00
On or before June 1, 2027	\$2,200.00	\$1,700.00	\$1,200.00
On or before June 1, 2028	\$2,200.00	\$1,700.00	\$1,200.00
On or before June 1, 2029	\$2,200.00	\$1,700.00	\$1,200.00
On or before June 1, 2030	<u>\$2,200.00</u>	<u>\$1,700.00</u>	<u>\$1,200.00</u>
Total	\$11,000.00	\$8,500.00	\$6,000.00

PLEASE NOTE:

If an *Experimental* entry is named, commercially produced or marketed *in the U.S. or anywhere in the world* during the testing period, NTEP will be notified within 30 days by the entry sponsor. At that time, the entry will be reclassified as a *Commercial* entry and the fee will become \$11,000 total for the trial. NTEP will immediately invoice the sponsor or licensee for any past entry fees. Current and future NTEP entry fees will be invoiced at \$2,200 per year. This policy applies at any time an NTEP tested entry, past or present is named, marketed and/or produced.

Name and address of sponsor:

Authorized Signature

Date
