

Fairway Height Bentgrass Cultivar Trial Established in 2003

Nick E. Christians and Chris Blume

This is the third year of data collection from the Fairway Height bentgrass trial that was established in the fall of 2003. The area was maintained at a 0.5 inch mowing height. This is a National Turfgrass Evaluation (NTEP) trial and is being conducted at several research stations in the U.S. It contains 28 of the newest seeded cultivars and a number of experimentals. The cultivars are maintained with 4 lbs of N/1000 ft²/growing season. Fungicides are used as needed in a preventative program. Herbicides and insecticides are also applied as needed.

The visual quality was evaluated monthly in 2006 from May through October (Table 1). The values listed under each month in Table 1 are the averages of visual quality ratings made on three replicated plots. Visual quality was based on a scale of 9 to 1: 9 = best quality, 6 = lowest acceptable quality, and 1 = worst quality. The yearly average of the monthly data for each cultivar was calculated and is listed in the last column (Mean). The first cultivar listed in Table 1 had the highest average visual quality rating for the entire 2004 season. The cultivars are listed in descending order by average quality. The last row states the LSD (least significant difference), which is a statistical measurement of how widely the datum in each column must vary before they are considered to be different from one another.

Greenup was observed in April 2006. Data for genetic color (Gen Color) and leaf texture (Leaf Tex) were also collected in June 2006. Genetic color was rated using a 9 to 1 scale with 9 = dark and 1 = light green. Leaf texture was assessed with a 9 to 1 scale with 9 = fine and 1 = coarse texture.

All cultivars are creeping bentgrass, with the exception of Bardot, Tiger II, IS-AT 7, SR 7150, PST-9NBC, and PST-9VN which are colonial bentgrasses.

The 'old stand by' Penncross was the top ranked cultivar for 2006. This was probably due to the winter damage from the 2005-2006 winter. This is reflected in the May data. Many of the cultivars that had the worst winter damage did not recover until mid-season, which gave them a lower seasonal mean quality rating.

Table 1. 2006 visual quality and other ratings for the 2003 Fairway Height Bentgrass Cultivar Trial. All cultivars are creeping bentgrass, with the exception of Bardot, Tiger II, IS-AT 7, SR 7150, PST-9NBC, and PST-9VN which are colonial bentgrasses

NAME	Visual Quality										
	GENCOLOR	GREENUP	LEAFTEX	PINKSNOW	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	MEAN
PENNCROSS	8.0	6.7	7.0	1.3	7.0	7.0	7.3	8.0	7.3	7.7	7.4
PRINCEVILLE	7.0	7.0	6.3	3.0	6.7	8.0	6.3	7.7	7.3	7.7	7.3
SR 7150	8.0	7.0	7.3	2.0	7.0	7.3	7.3	7.0	6.7	7.3	7.1
L-93	6.7	7.3	6.7	3.3	6.0	6.7	7.0	6.7	7.3	8.3	7.0
PENNLINKS II	7.0	7.3	5.7	1.7	7.3	7.0	6.7	7.7	6.7	6.7	7.0
BENGAL	7.3	6.7	7.3	2.7	6.3	6.3	7.3	6.7	7.3	7.0	6.8
LS-44	7.7	7.3	6.0	2.0	6.3	6.7	6.7	7.3	7.3	6.7	6.8
SR 1119	6.7	7.0	6.0	5.0	5.3	6.0	6.3	7.7	7.3	8.3	6.8
AUTHORITY (235050)	6.7	6.0	6.7	4.7	5.0	5.3	6.3	8.0	8.0	7.7	6.7
PENNEAGLE II	7.3	6.7	7.3	6.0	5.0	6.7	6.0	7.7	7.7	7.3	6.7
PST-OEB	7.3	6.7	7.0	6.3	5.0	5.3	6.3	7.3	7.7	8.7	6.7
SHARK (23R)	6.3	6.3	7.0	6.0	4.7	5.7	7.0	8.3	6.7	8.0	6.7
EWTR	7.0	6.0	7.0	6.0	5.0	5.0	6.7	7.7	7.0	7.7	6.5
13-M	7.3	7.0	7.3	3.0	5.7	6.0	6.3	6.7	6.7	7.0	6.4
INDEPENDENCE	6.7	6.0	6.3	6.7	4.7	4.7	7.0	7.3	7.3	7.7	6.4
IS-AT 7	6.7	6.3	7.3	3.7	5.7	6.3	6.3	7.0	6.7	6.3	6.4
ALPHA	7.3	6.0	6.0	7.7	4.3	5.0	6.0	7.0	7.7	7.7	6.3
MACKENZIE (SRX 1GPD)	6.7	6.3	7.3	5.3	4.7	5.7	7.0	6.7	6.7	7.0	6.3
PST-9NBC	7.3	6.3	7.0	5.7	5.3	5.7	6.0	7.0	6.3	7.7	6.3
BARDOT	7.0	6.0	8.0	5.3	5.0	5.7	6.3	7.0	6.3	7.0	6.2
SR 1150 (SRX 1PDH)	7.0	6.0	6.0	8.0	4.3	4.7	6.0	7.3	7.3	7.3	6.2
T-1	7.0	6.3	7.0	7.0	4.3	4.7	6.3	8.0	6.3	7.7	6.2
IS-AP 14	7.3	5.7	7.0	7.3	4.0	4.3	6.3	7.3	6.0	7.3	5.9
KINGPIN (9200)	7.0	6.3	6.7	8.0	3.3	4.3	6.7	7.3	7.0	6.7	5.9
PST-9VN	6.7	6.3	6.0	5.7	5.0	6.0	6.3	5.7	6.0	6.7	5.9
SEASIDE	6.7	7.0	5.7	1.7	5.7	5.3	6.0	6.7	5.7	6.3	5.9
DECLARATION	6.7	5.7	6.3	7.3	3.7	4.0	5.7	7.3	6.3	7.7	5.8
TIGER II	7.0	7.0	6.0	4.7	5.3	5.7	5.7	5.3	6.7	6.3	5.8
LSD	ns	1.3	ns	2.3	1.8	1.8	ns	ns	1.4	ns	1.1