

2005-2006 Virginia Turfgrass Variety Recommendations

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The Maryland-Virginia Turfgrass Variety Recommendation Work Group meets each Spring to consider the previous year's data from Virginia and Maryland National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) trials and to formulate these recommendations. Maryland and Virginia variety recommendations are identical for Kentucky bluegrass, tall fescue, fine leaf fescue and perennial ryegrass. Bermudagrass and zoysiagrass variety recommendations may differ somewhat due to adaptation and state regulation. To qualify for this recommended list turfgrass varieties; 1) must be available as certified seed or, in the case of vegetative varieties, as certified sprigs or sod; 2) must be tested at sites in both Virginia and Maryland; 3) must perform well, relative to other varieties, for a minimum of two years to make the list as a "promising" variety and for three years to make the recommended category. All test locations in Virginia and Maryland are considered in making these recommendations. The Virginia Crop Improvement Association (VCIA) will accept the 2004-2005 turfgrass mixtures listed below in the VCIA Sod Certification Program. All seed or vegetative material must be certified and meet minimum quality standards prescribed by the VCIA. Many seeding specifications (for municipalities, counties, state and governmental agencies, landscape architects, and professional organizations) state that varieties used for turfgrass establishment must come from this list and that blends or mixtures follow the guidelines for certified sod production. Specifications for state highway seeding are developed separately and may require some species and/or varieties not normally recommended for uses other than roadside seeding. Seed availability may vary between turf seed suppliers. Some species and varieties may have limited adaptation.

Kentucky Bluegrass – Individual varieties selected must make up not less than 10%, nor more than 35% of the total mixture on a weight basis. All varieties must be certified. Selections can be made from Category I alone or various combinations of Categories I, II, and III as noted.

Category I – Recommended Kentucky Bluegrass Varieties (65–100% on a weight basis)

Absolute⁽⁴⁾, Apollo, Arcadia, Award, Awesome, Baronie⁽¹⁾, Beyond, Blacksburg⁽⁴⁾, Blackstone⁽¹⁾, Bluechip⁽⁴⁾, Bordeaux, Brilliant, Caliber⁽⁴⁾, Challenger⁽⁴⁾, Champagne⁽¹⁾, Champlain, Chateau⁽¹⁾, Chicago II, Courtyard, Coventry⁽¹⁾, Envicta⁽¹⁾, Everest, Everglade, Excursion, Fairfax⁽¹⁾, Goldrush⁽¹⁾, Impact, Jefferson⁽¹⁾, Liberator, Limousine, Livingston⁽⁴⁾, Marquis⁽¹⁾, Midnight⁽¹⁾, Moonlight, North Star⁽¹⁾, NuGlade, Perfection, Princeton 105, Quantum Leap, Rambo, Raven, Rugby II, Serene⁽¹⁾, Shamrock⁽¹⁾, Total Eclipse, and Washington⁽¹⁾.

Category II – Special use varieties (10–35% on a weight basis) – If used, must contain at least 65% Category I varieties.

Shade Tolerant: Ascot, Brilliant, Champagne, Chateau, Coventry, Liberator, Moonlight, NuGlade, Princeton 105, Quantum Leap, Showcase.

Low Maintenance Tolerant: Bariris, Baron, Caliber, Livingston⁽⁴⁾, Midnight, and Washington.

To Enhance Tall Fescue Sod Strength: Baron, Nottingham^(1,4), Wildwood.

Category III – Promising Kentucky Bluegrasses (10–35% on a weight basis) – Limited performance data or seed availability. (H) refers to promising performance for medium to high maintenance; (L) refers to promising performance for low maintenance; and (S) refers to promising performance in shade.

Alexa, Arrow, Barrister, Bedazzled, Bluemax, Bluestone, Bluetastic, Blue Velvet, Cabernet, Casablanca, Chelsea, Diva, Dynamo, Freedom III, Ginney, Goldstar, Julius, Mallard, Midnight II, NuDestiny, Royce, Showcase (H,S), Skye, SR 2284, Tsunami, and Voyager II.

Tall Fescue – Recommended or promising varieties can be used in the VCIA Sod Certification Program.

Category I – Recommended Tall Fescue Varieties (90–100% on a weight basis)

Arid 3⁽⁴⁾, Barerra⁽¹⁾, Barlexus⁽¹⁾, Biltmore, Bingo, Bonsai 2000⁽⁴⁾, Bravo⁽¹⁾, Chapel Hill⁽⁴⁾, Cochise III, Constitution, Coyote⁽¹⁾, Coyote II, Crewcut II⁽¹⁾, Crossfire II, Dominion⁽¹⁾, Durana⁽⁴⁾, Duster⁽¹⁾, Dynasty⁽¹⁾, Empress⁽⁴⁾, Endeavor, Falcon II⁽¹⁾, Fidelity, Finelawn Petite⁽⁴⁾, Genesis⁽⁴⁾, Good-en, Grande, Greenkeeper WAF, Houndog 5, Inferno, Jaguar 3⁽¹⁾, Kalahari, Laramie⁽¹⁾, Lion⁽⁴⁾, Magellan, Masterpiece, Millennium⁽¹⁾, Mustang 3^(1,3), Olympic Gold⁽³⁾, Onyx, Padre, Picasso, Penn 1901, Quest, Raptor, Rebel Exeda, Rebel 2000⁽⁴⁾, Rebel Sentry⁽¹⁾, Red Coat⁽⁴⁾, Rembrandt, Rendition, Renegade⁽⁴⁾, Reserve⁽⁴⁾, Shenandoah⁽⁴⁾,

Shenandoah II⁽⁴⁾, Southern Choice^(3,4), SR 8250, SR 8300, Stetson⁽¹⁾, Tarheel, Titan 2⁽⁴⁾, Titanium, Tulsa⁽⁴⁾, TF 66^(1,3), Virtue⁽¹⁾, Watchdog, Wolfpack, WPEZE, and Wyatt⁽¹⁾.

Category II – Promising tall fescue varieties (may be 90–100% of the mixture on a weight basis)

2nd Millennium, Apache III, Avenger, Blackwatch, Blade Runner, Cayenne, Covenant, Davinci, Daytona, Dynamic, Escalade, Expedition, Falcon IV, Finelawn Elite, Firebird Five-Point, Forte, Grande II, Gremlin, Guardian 21, Hunter, Innovator, Justice, Lexington, Matador, Matador GT, Ninja 2, Proceeds 5301, Regiment II, Riverside, Scorpion, Serengeti, Silverado II, Silverstar, Southern Choice II, SR 8550, SR 8600, Tahoe, Tarheel II, Tempest, Titan LTD, Turbo, Ultimate.

Category III – Kentucky bluegrass varieties that may be mixed with tall fescue (May be 0–10% of the seed mixture): Abbey, Baron, Merit⁽⁴⁾, Nassau^(3,4), Nottingham⁽⁴⁾, Wildwood and all cultivars from Kentucky bluegrass Categories I, II and III

Bermudagrass – Varietal differences in texture and winter hardiness are important considerations. If no notation follows the variety name this indicates it has performed in the top statistical category at both Virginia Tech and Hampton Roads research stations. Varieties with the notation # are only recommended in Southeastern Virginia. Varieties with the * notation performed in the top statistical category at research trials at Virginia Tech but not at Hampton Roads. Use certified seed of seeded varieties.

Category I – Recommended vegetatively propagated bermudagrass varieties: Midfield, Midiron, Midlawn, Patriot, Quickstand, Shanghai[#], Tifgreen[#], TifSport[#], Tifway[#], Tifway II[#], Tufcote and Vamont.

Promising vegetatively propagated bermudagrass varieties: Aussie Green, Premier, Celebration[#], GN-1[#], MS-Choice[#].

Category II - Recommended seeded bermudagrass varieties: Blackjack[#], Continental[#], Mohawk^{#1}, Princess-77[#], Riviera, Savannah[#], Southern Star^{#1}, Sundevil II^{#1}, Transcontinental^{#1}, and Yukon.

Zoysiagrass – (Varietal differences in texture and winter hardiness are important considerations)

Category I – Recommended vegetatively propagated zoysiagrass varieties: Meyer.

Category I – Recommended seeded zoysiagrass varieties: Zenith.

Category II – Promising vegetatively propagated (V) and seeded (S) zoysiagrass varieties: Cavalier (V), J-14 (S), J-36 (S), J-37 (S), Marquis (V), Sunburst (V), ZEN-400 (S), and ZEN-500 (S). **Promising for Eastern VA only:** DeAnza (V), El Toro (V), Emerald (V), Jamur (V), Miyako (V), Victoria (V), and Zeon (V).

Perennial Ryegrass – (not for use in sod production) Use certified seed.

Category I – Recommended perennial ryegrass varieties:

Affirmed, Applaud, Blazer IV, Brightstar II, Calypso II⁽³⁾, Catalina II, Charismatic, Churchill, Divine, Exacta, Extreme⁽³⁾, Fiesta 3, Gallery, Gator 3, Grand Slam, Inspire, Jet, Mach I⁽³⁾, Majesty, Manhattan 4, Monterey II⁽³⁾, Nexus⁽³⁾, Pizzazz, Prowler⁽³⁾, Racer II, Stellar,

Category II – Promising perennial ryegrass varieties (limited data/availability):

Barlennium, Brightstar SLT, Citation Fore, Pentium, Pinnacle II, Pleasure XL,

Fine Fescues – For use in low maintenance areas or in partial to full shade. Promising varieties have limited performance data or availability as certified seed. Neither blending varieties nor mixing species have been studied extensively in MD or VA. Limited research does not indicate any advantage to blending or mixing varieties from the different fine fescues (e.g.; creeping red fescue, chewings fescue, hard fescue or sheep fescue). Use only certified seed.

Creeping red fescue – Recommended or promising varieties: Promising: Jasper II

Chewings fescue – Recommended: Longfellow II, Treasure⁽³⁾. **Promising:** Ambassador.

Hard fescue – Recommended: Berkshire, Chariot, Defiant⁽³⁾, Discovery, Nordic, Osprey, and Reliant II⁽³⁾.

Promising: Heron and Oxford.

Sheep fescue – Recommended: No varieties recommended at this time.

Varieties marked with superscript notations denote the following:

⁽¹⁾ to be considered for removal in 2006 due to declining performance relative to other varieties.

⁽²⁾ to be considered for removal in 2006 due to declining seed quality.

⁽³⁾ to be considered for removal in 2006 due to the absence of recent testing of certified seed lots in MD and VA.

⁽⁴⁾ to be considered for removal in 2006 due to lack of recent testing in MD and VA.