

# Cool season turfgrass variety roundup

Here are some of the latest cool season turfgrasses currently available from suppliers nationwide:

## Overseeding ryegrass

Breeder: Kenneth Hignight from Advanta Seeds Pacific has bred T3 (experimental designation: APR1802), a ryegrass that transitions easily and permanently, says Pennington Seed. T3 does not return the following year as most ryegrasses do and transitions naturally without the added expense of chemical applications. The dark green color and fine textured leaf offers turf managers just what is needed to plant early in the fall and transition gradually in the spring.

T3 does not tolerate the spring heat providing a chemical free transition; transitions completely not to return the following year; and has a natural dark green color to look

good when fertilizer levels run low.

Recommended for use in Climatic Zones 7, 8, 9, 10 (may not be adaptable to all areas within each climatic zone). Under ideal conditions, germination begins in 3-6 days. When overseeding, care must be taken to ensure adequate seed to soil contact. Subject to germination rate, first mowing may begin within 14 days after sowing. Recommended mowing heights range from 1/8 to 1 1/2 inch. T3 responds to 1/2 lb. Nitrogen per application. Repeat applications only as grass shows need due to fading color.

Suggested overseeding rate for athletic fields is 10-20 lbs./1000 sq. ft.

## New gray leaf spot-resistant perennial ryegrasses

Gray Leaf Spot is a devastating disease caused by *Pyricularia grisea* that quickly attacks highly maintained turf areas containing older susceptible ryegrass varieties. The

disease was originally identified on perennial ryegrass in New England and the Mid-Atlantic States in the early 90's and its incidence has been spreading quickly across the country.

Available now, these three varieties – Secretariat, Exacta, and Charismatic – were developed in conjunction with Rutgers University. They all scored very high in the new NTEP data that was published by Rutgers this summer, with Exacta II GLSR the #1 ranked variety for Gray Leaf Spot Resistance.

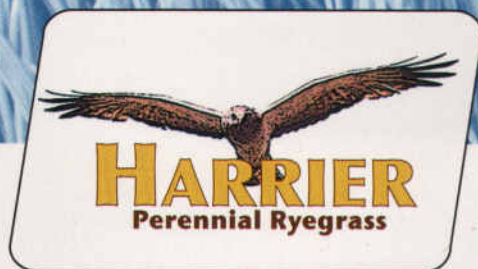
They are available in the ultimate disease resistant 3-way ryegrass blend called Trifecta.

## New perennial ryegrass and more

Buena Vista is a new release from Burlingham Seeds that it says has excellent gray leaf spot resistance. It was developed for enhanced salt tolerance from dry soil types. A beautiful dark green color and fine leaf texture enhance its turf performance, says Burlingham.







High endophyte levels add to drought and stress tolerance for sports turf.

A tall fescue called Turbo recently finished its 5-year NTEP study as a high performer. Turbo has high endophyte that enhances disease and drought tolerance; it is an all around excellent performer, top in California trials and on the Maryland/Virginia recommended list for tall fescue varieties.

Dynamo Kentucky bluegrass is a cross of Blacksbury and Unique Kentucky bluegrass varieties originally bred by Pure Seed Testing. Dynamo mixes well with other elite varieties. It has a strong sod knit and is a great fit in shorter cut sport fields, says Burlingham. Dynamo has a rich green color and has excellent powdery mildew resistance. Because of the mildew resistance, it has top-rated shade tolerance for a Kentucky bluegrass variety in most recent NTEP trials.

Firebird Tall Fescue is ranked as one of the darkest tall fescues in recent NTEP trials. Firebird is a top performer in many locations across the country in NTEP trials. It has medium high endophyte levels that help in drought tolerance, insect and other stresses in the transition zone.

## SRO's latest cool season selections

Seed Research of Oregon's Leah Brilman supplied this information:

Spitfire Texas X Kentucky hybrid bluegrass is a progeny of a cross between the hybrid designated BDF X Midnight. It was selected for a very dark green color and superior germination and establishment compared to many other hybrid bluegrasses.

- Heat and drought tolerant
- Very dark green color
- Extensive rhizomes
- High wear tolerance

SR 8650 tall fescue was developed for dark color, fine leaf texture and the ability to form

rhizomes under mown turf conditions.

- Very high density
- Very dark green color
- Rhizome expression under mown turf conditions
- High brown patch resistance

Harrier perennial ryegrass has extremely high gray leaf spot resistance with very dark green color and high turf quality.

- Fine leaf texture
- High tillering
- Winter-active growth
- High stress resistance

SR 4600 perennial ryegrass was one of the highest rated for gray leaf spot resistance in the 2004 Perennial ryegrass NTEP in addition to having very high turf quality even where this disease is not a problem.

- Spreading type growth habit for better wear resistance
- Very dark green, high turf quality
- Winter-active growth
- High stress resistance

Penguin 2 perennial ryegrass was developed for superior rapid germination with salts in the soil or irrigation water combined with dark green color and superior turf quality.

- High seedling salt tolerance
- Dark green color
- High red thread resistance
- Superior performance for overseeding
- Winter-active growth

Zoom (LCK) perennial ryegrass has the highest overall turf quality in the 2004 NTEP trials combined with high gray leaf spot resistance.

- Excellent turf quality under all maintenance regimes
- Very high brown patch, red thread and Pythium resistance

- Very high gray leaf spot resistance
- Winter-active growth
- Dark green color

Calypso 3 perennial ryegrass was developed to have a very dark green color combined with early spring green-up and winter-active growth.

- Very dark green color
- Excellent pink snow mold resistance
- High red thread resistance
- Tolerant of a wide range of soil pH

## New varieties from Barenbrug USA

The Kentucky bluegrass research program of Barenbrug USA has a unique characteristic: Every variety sold by Barenbrug must pass our wear simulation program. This program is not used by any other breeder in the U.S. and it assures that every variety produced by Barenbrug has excellent wear tolerance.

Baroness is a new variety performing very well in different locations across the U.S. It has outstanding drought tolerance; in fact, it tops the NTEP list for drought tolerance. Baroness also has very high turf quality and is very dark green. It is a small seeded variety, which means it has twice the seed as other bluegrasses. Barenbrug offers a new coating for this variety called Zeba, a non-toxic, biodegradable, starch-based, super-absorbent coating that forms a hydro-gel to provide moisture on demand to increase efficiency of germination and establishment.

The new variety from Barnique performs very well in NTEP trials. Barnique has excellent wear tolerance and is lighter green than Baroness. Barnique also has very small seeds and is available with Zeba coating.

Barimpala is one of the fastest establishing bluegrasses you can find on the market. Barimpala was originally bred in Europe and performs very well as a straight and in mix-



tures. It was one of the varieties used for the world championship soccer in Germany. Barimpala is high in wear tolerance, and is lighter colored than Baroness, which allows for better concealment of any poa annua you may have in your field. Barimpala is also a small seeded variety and available with Zeba.

TurfStar is the premium perennial ryegrass blend from Barenbrug. It contains high quality varieties, is guaranteed Poa annua free and has a high germination rate. This fall Barenbrug introduces TurfStarXPC, XPC stands for Xtra Poa Cover. This perennial ryegrass mix has lighter colored perennial ryegrass varieties in it, which are perfect for concealing any poa you may have on your field. It also contains Bargold, a revolutionary perennial ryegrass variety that was used for the World Cup soccer fields (2006) in Germany. Bargold is a fine leaved variety and has outstanding wear tolerance. It also withstands close mowings, as short as 1/5 of an inch, which is very uncommon for perennial rye.

This spring Barenbrug introduced SOS plus Panterra for overseeding bermudagrass. The SOS program allows the end user to create their own regional specific overseeding mixture based on their climate and desired transition speed. SOS was developed in conjunction with David Chalmers of Texas A&M University. It is based on Panterra, an annual ryegrass with great turf characteristics. SOS is a 2-step program, first you select your climate zone, and

then you select the transition speed you would like for spring. Based on these two criteria you are shown what your ideal mixture should be. In order to make the selection process simple Barenbrug developed an overseeding wheel to make this choice easier, go to [www.barusa.com](http://www.barusa.com) and click on the SOS link. With SOS you can have high quality grass with the transition speed you desire.

Zeba is a unique coating that absorbs and releases water as needed by the plants. It is a natural starch-based coating, biodegradable to USDA standards. Zeba is not based on petroleum, so there is no residue in the soil or high sodium contents.

When added to our bluegrass varieties it can hold 400 times its own weight in water. It will also take up vital nutrients that aid in establishment. Zeba ensures that during the germination and establishment process there is an environment around the seed that holds enough water and nutrients to let the plant germinate and establish. Zeba gives our bluegrasses the ability for improved germination and establishment with less water. While Zeba takes up water and nutrients, it will not absorb salt so your valuable plants are protected and look beautiful with less water. Barenbrug and the University of Illinois conducted a trial to see how our bluegrasses performed at half the seeding rate. We did that because some bluegrasses have very small

seeds, almost 2 million seeds per pound compared to the normal 1 million seeds per pound. The results of the trial were impressive; the turf quality of the small seeded varieties was excellent at half the rate.

## Scotts' sports turf blend

Over the past 30 years, Scotts researchers have strived to develop a bluegrass, or blend of bluegrasses that can not only withstand the wear and tear of a sports field, but also tackle the issue of providing almost four seasons of color and growth in the transition zone, and other warmer regions of the US.

Bermudagrass fields provide an excellent playing surface in warmer regions, but in the early spring, when baseball is being played, Sports fields without overseeded ryegrass are being played on dormant turf. In the fall, when cooler temperatures arrive, football is being played on slower growing, or even dormant bermuda.

Now a blend of Heat Tolerant Bluegrasses provide the best turf option for both spring and fall, and yet perform even during the hottest months of the year. A blend containing the HT bluegrasses, Thermal Blue, Solar Green, Thermal Blue Blaze, Dura Blue or even SPF-30 will provide almost four seasons of outstanding turf. With aggressive rhizomes, they repair and establish extremely well, and reduce the need for overseeding with Perennial Ryegrass. ■

