

# New Kentucky bluegrass resists summer patch

**B**arenbrug USA has developed a new Kentucky bluegrass called HGT (Healthy Grass Technology). According to Barenbrug's Christiaan Arends, its trials have revealed that it is wear-tolerant, very summer patch-resistant, performs well in heat, and is aggressive in the transition zone.

"For example, Dr. Dennis Martin at the University of Oklahoma is excited about this grass because they don't have any

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bluegrasses than can really survive that climate," he said.

Arends said with its fast germination (7 days) and establishment HGT should be a good choice for sports turf applications. "In a private trial at Michigan State it proved to be very good in traffic tolerance," he said, "as well as in NTEP where it has been #1 ranked at Michigan State and #2 at Rutgers University on traffic tolerance."

HGT has been developed through extensive testing under harsh climatic conditions. The origin of the product traces back to selection of Kentucky bluegrass clones that were chosen as they survived intense artificial traffic applications in 2001. The clones were selected for not only tolerating the traffic

but rapid recovery after traffic application. These clones were further subjected to heavy disease pressure in Mid-Atlantic states. After 3 years one clone was selected for seed multiplication. The seed was entered in NTEP as BAR VV 0709 in 2005. It showed extreme disease tolerance to summer patch in trials in Oklahoma, North Carolina and Tennessee. It also showed superior tolerance to damage from bill bugs and white grubs in data from Utah and Tennessee.

"The variety name will be 'BarVette', Arends said. "We call it HGT as we have more similar varieties coming and those will be sold under the brand name HGT. We are in the process of patenting the product."

According to Barenbrug, the product will only be sold to sod growers through a licensing program and will only be sold in blends & mixtures and at not more than 25% due to its aggressive nature. ■

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