

1998 NTEP Fine-leaved Fescue Cultivar Test (Lawn) – 2001 Results

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Objective

Our objective was to determine which of the 79 varieties of fineleaf fescue were best adapted to Indiana growing conditions.

Rationale

Fineleaf fescues as a group have many niche areas where they are a very good choice. They have a fine leaf texture with a good to very good tolerance of shade. Drought and cold tolerance is good to excellent, wear tolerance is poor to good, and heat tolerance is poor to fair with improvements being made.

How It Was Done

Seventy nine varieties of fine fescue were seeded on 17 Sep 1998 at the William H. Daniel Research and Diagnostic Center on a silt loam soil. The seed was spread using a hand shaker jar. After seeding, the experiment was lightly raked, and a starter fertilizer (8-22-16) was applied at the rate of 1.5 lbs P₂O₅ per 1000 ft². The area was covered with a germination blanket to prevent washing of seed and mixing of varieties.

The plots are maintained under a low maintenance regime. The mowing height is 2.5 inches and the experiment is mowed twice per week. Annual fertilization is 2 lbs N/1000 ft² with 1 lb applied mid-September and 1 lb in November. No irrigation is applied to the plots except to prevent death of the fescue.

Data collected in 2001 included spring green-up, genetic color, plot cover, and monthly visual quality ratings from Apr to Nov. All data taken were visual observations of turf characteristics and performance. Visual quality ratings were taken using a scale of 1 to 9 with 1 = no living turf, 5 = acceptable turf, and 9 = ideal turf.

Results to Date

- There are no statistical differences in average visual quality among the top 14 cultivars (Table 1).
- There are no statistical differences in the top 7 cultivars in the three year average visual quality (Table 2).
- Longfellow II (chewing), Intrigue (chewing), and Cindy Lou (ISI Frr 7) (strong creeping) are the only three cultivars that appear in both of the two above mentioned groups.
- In general, the hard and chewings fescues are the top performing species so far.
- In general, the strong creeping and slender creeping had the lowest percent plot cover in 2001.
- In general, the hard fescues had the earliest greenup in 2001.

Table 1. Visual quality ratings of 79 species and cultivars of fine fescue turfgrasses growing under low maintenance in 2001.

Cultivar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Avg
Oxford (h) ^b	6.7	5.7	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.7	7.0	7.3	6.4
Longfellow II (chg)	7.0	6.7	5.3	5.7	5.7	6.0	7.0	7.0	6.3
SRX 3961 (h)	7.0	6.7	6.3	5.3	5.3	6.0	7.3	6.7	6.3
Intrigue (chg)	7.3	6.0	6.0	5.3	5.3	6.0	6.7	7.0	6.2
ABT-CHW-2 (chg)	6.3	6.3	5.7	5.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.7	6.2
ABT-HF-2 (h)	6.7	6.3	6.0	6.0	5.0	5.7	7.0	7.0	6.2
Cindy Lou (ISI Frr 7) (stgc)	6.7	6.7	6.3	5.3	5.0	5.7	6.3	7.0	6.1
Eureka II (ISI FI 11) (h)	7.0	5.7	5.3	5.7	5.7	5.7	6.7	7.0	6.1
ABT-HF-3 (h)	7.3	6.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	6.0	6.7	6.7	6.1
Nordic (E) (h)	7.7	5.7	6.0	5.3	5.0	6.0	6.3	7.0	6.1
Ambassador (chg)	6.3	6.3	5.3	5.3	5.7	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.0
Hardtop (BAR HF 8 FUS) (h)	6.7	6.0	6.0	5.3	5.3	5.7	6.0	6.7	6.0
Chariot (ISI FI 12) (h)	6.3	6.0	5.3	5.3	5.3	6.0	6.7	7.0	6.0
ABT-CHW-1 (chg)	6.7	6.3	5.7	5.3	5.7	5.7	6.0	6.3	6.0
Wrigley (ACF 092) (chg)	6.7	5.3	5.7	5.0	5.7	5.7	6.3	7.0	5.9
Minotaur (hxb)	7.3	5.7	6.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	6.3	6.7	5.9
Jasper II (stgc)	6.3	6.0	6.0	5.3	5.0	5.0	6.3	7.0	5.9
Rescue 911 (h)	6.3	5.7	6.0	5.3	5.0	5.0	6.7	7.0	5.9
4001 (h)	7.0	5.3	6.0	5.7	5.0	5.3	6.3	6.7	5.9
PST-4MB (bh)	7.0	5.7	5.3	5.7	5.0	5.7	6.0	6.7	5.9
ABT-HF1 (h)	7.0	6.3	5.7	5.3	5.0	5.7	6.0	6.3	5.9
ABT-HF-4 (h)	7.0	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.0	5.0	6.3	6.7	5.9
ABT-CHW-3 (chg)	6.7	6.3	5.7	5.3	5.0	5.3	6.3	6.3	5.9
Stonehenge (AHF 009) (h)	6.3	5.7	5.3	5.3	5.0	5.3	6.3	7.0	5.8
Scaldis (h)	6.3	5.7	5.3	5.3	5.0	5.3	6.0	7.0	5.8
Pick FF A-97 (h)	6.7	5.3	6.0	5.3	5.0	5.0	6.0	7.0	5.8
Bridgeport (chg)	6.3	6.0	5.7	5.0	5.0	5.0	6.0	7.0	5.8
PST-4HM (chg)	6.3	5.3	5.0	5.3	5.0	5.7	6.7	7.0	5.8
Osprey (h)	6.3	5.7	5.3	5.3	5.0	5.3	6.0	7.0	5.8
Heron (h)	6.0	6.0	5.7	6.0	5.0	5.3	6.3	6.3	5.8
Brittany (chg)	6.0	6.0	5.3	5.0	5.0	5.3	6.0	6.7	5.7
Silhouette (Pick Frc 4-92) (chg)	7.0	5.3	5.3	4.7	5.0	5.3	6.0	7.0	5.7
Treazure (E) (chg)	6.0	5.7	4.7	5.7	5.0	5.7	6.3	6.7	5.7
Reliant II (h)	6.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.0	5.7	6.0	6.7	5.7
SR 5100 (chg)	6.0	6.0	5.3	5.7	5.0	5.3	6.0	6.3	5.7
Magic (chg)	6.0	6.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	6.0	7.0	5.6
Pick Frc A-93 (chg)	6.7	5.3	4.7	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.7	6.7	5.6
Discovery (h)	6.3	5.7	5.7	4.7	4.7	5.3	5.7	6.7	5.6
MB-63 (chg)	7.0	5.7	4.7	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.3	7.0	5.6
Navigator (ISI Frr 5) (stgc)	6.7	5.7	5.3	4.7	5.0	5.0	5.7	7.0	5.6
SRX 52961 (stgc)	6.7	5.3	5.3	4.7	5.0	5.3	6.3	6.3	5.6
ABT-CR-3 (stgc)	6.3	5.3	5.3	4.7	5.0	5.3	6.0	6.7	5.6
Scaldis II (AHF 008) (h)	6.3	5.7	4.7	5.3	4.7	5.0	5.7	6.7	5.5
BAR CHF 8 FUS2 (chg)	7.0	5.0	5.0	4.7	5.0	5.0	5.7	6.7	5.5
Shadow II (chg)	6.7	5.3	5.7	4.7	4.3	5.0	5.7	6.7	5.5
Quatro (s)	6.0	5.7	5.0	5.0	4.7	5.3	6.0	6.3	5.5

Jamestown II (chg)	6.7	6.0	4.7	4.7	5.0	4.7	5.7	7.0	5.5
Culombra (chg)	6.7	5.0	5.0	4.7	5.0	5.0	6.0	6.3	5.5
Banner III (chg)	6.7	5.0	5.3	5.0	4.7	5.0	5.7	6.7	5.5
MB- 82 (h)	7.0	5.0	4.7	5.0	4.7	5.0	5.7	6.7	5.5
PST-EFL (stgc)	6.3	5.3	5.0	4.3	5.0	5.0	5.3	7.0	5.4
Sandpiper (chg)	6.7	5.0	4.7	5.0	4.7	5.0	5.7	6.7	5.4
ACF 083 (chg)	6.7	5.0	4.7	4.7	4.3	5.0	5.7	6.7	5.3
Pathfinder (stgc)	6.3	5.7	5.0	4.0	4.3	5.0	5.7	6.7	5.3
Tiffany (chg)	6.7	5.0	5.0	4.3	5.0	5.0	5.3	6.3	5.3
Bighorn (h)	6.7	5.0	4.3	4.7	5.0	5.0	5.7	6.3	5.3
SR 5210 (SRX 52LAV) (stgc)	6.3	5.3	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	5.7	6.7	5.3
SR 3200 (b)	6.0	5.7	4.3	4.3	5.3	5.0	5.3	6.3	5.3
ABT-CR-2 (stgc)	6.0	5.3	5.0	4.0	5.0	5.0	5.7	6.7	5.3
Defiant (h)	6.3	5.0	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	5.0	6.7	5.2
ASR 049 (slrc)	6.3	5.7	5.3	4.3	3.7	3.7	5.0	6.7	5.1
Florentine (stgc)	6.3	5.3	5.0	4.0	4.0	4.7	5.7	6.0	5.1
DGSC 94 (stgc)	6.7	5.3	4.7	3.3	4.0	4.7	5.3	6.3	5.0
PST-4FR (stgc)	6.0	5.7	5.0	3.7	4.0	4.7	5.0	5.7	5.0
ASC172 (stgc)	6.0	4.7	4.0	3.7	4.7	4.7	5.3	6.0	4.9
Dawson E+ (slrc)	5.7	6.0	5.3	4.0	3.7	4.0	4.7	6.0	4.9
Attila E (h)	6.0	4.7	4.0	4.0	4.3	5.0	5.0	6.0	4.9
SR 6000 (th)	6.0	5.3	5.0	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.7	5.0	4.9
Salsa (stgc)	6.0	5.7	4.7	3.7	3.7	4.3	4.7	6.0	4.8
BAR CF 8 FUS1 (stgc)	6.3	5.0	5.0	3.3	4.0	4.0	5.0	6.0	4.8
ASC 082 (stgc)	6.3	4.3	4.0	3.3	4.0	4.3	5.3	6.0	4.7
Shademark (stgc)	5.3	4.7	4.3	3.3	4.0	4.3	5.0	6.7	4.7
BAR SCF 8 FUS3 (slrc)	6.3	6.3	5.0	4.3	3.3	3.3	4.0	5.0	4.7
PST-47TCR (stgc)	6.0	5.3	5.0	3.7	3.3	3.7	4.7	5.0	4.6
Shademaster II (stgc)	5.3	5.0	4.0	3.7	4.0	4.0	5.3	5.7	4.6
Seabreeze (slrc)	6.7	5.3	5.0	4.0	3.3	3.3	4.0	4.3	4.5
Common creeping red (stgc)	6.3	4.0	3.7	3.3	4.0	4.0	5.0	5.7	4.5
Rose (ASC 087) (stgc)	5.3	4.7	4.0	3.0	3.7	4.0	4.3	5.3	4.3
Boreal (stgc)	5.7	4.3	3.7	3.3	3.7	4.0	4.7	5.0	4.3
LSD (0.05)	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.8	1.0	0.9	0.5

^a Visual quality ratings were taken using a scale of 1 to 9 with 1 = no living turf, 5 = acceptable turf, and 9 = ideal turf.

^b Species abbreviations include chg = chewings, stgc = strong creeping, h = hard, slrc = slender creeping, hxb = hard x blue, b = blue, s = sheep, bh = blue hard, and th = tufted hairgrass

Table 2. Color, greenup, and cover ratings in 2001, and yearly average visual quality for 1999, 2000, 2001, and three year average of 79 species and cultivars of fine fescue turfgrasses growing under low maintenance.

Cultivar	Color ^b	Greenup ^c	Cover ^d	Visual quality ^a			
				1999	2000	2001	Avg
SRX 52961 (stgc) ^c	7.0	2.0	89.3	5.8	7.0	5.6	6.1
Longfellow II (chg)	7.0	1.7	97.0	5.9	5.9	6.3	6.0
Jasper II (stgc)	7.0	2.0	95.7	5.2	6.6	5.9	5.9
Intrigue (chg)	7.0	1.3	98.3	5.4	6.0	6.2	5.9
Cindy Lou (ISI Frr 7) (stgc)	7.0	2.0	98.7	4.9	6.6	6.1	5.9
ABT-CR-3 (stgc)	7.3	1.7	96.0	5.8	6.3	5.6	5.9
Navigator (ISI Frr 5) (stgc)	7.3	1.7	96.7	5.2	6.6	5.6	5.8
SRX 3961 (h)	7.0	2.3	97.3	4.9	5.7	6.3	5.7
ABT-HF1 (h)	7.0	4.0	97.0	4.8	6.3	5.9	5.7
PST-EFL (stgc)	7.0	1.7	90.0	5.6	5.9	5.4	5.6
Oxford (h)	7.3	3.3	98.3	5.0	5.4	6.4	5.6
Ambassador (chg)	7.0	1.7	98.3	5.4	5.4	6.0	5.6
ABT-CHW-3 (chg)	7.0	1.0	97.7	5.4	5.3	5.9	5.6
Wrigley (ACF 092) (chg)	6.7	2.3	98.3	5.3	5.2	5.9	5.5
Silhouette (Pick Frc 4-92) (chg)	7.3	1.0	97.0	5.8	5.1	5.7	5.5
Culombra (chg)	7.0	2.0	95.0	5.7	5.4	5.5	5.5
ABT-CHW-2 (chg)	7.0	1.0	98.7	4.8	5.4	6.2	5.5
4001 (h)	7.7	4.0	97.3	4.9	5.5	5.9	5.5
Rescue 911 (h)	8.3	2.3	97.7	4.8	5.4	5.9	5.4
Nordic (E) (h)	7.3	3.3	97.3	4.8	5.4	6.1	5.4
Chariot (ISI FI 12) (h)	7.7	2.7	98.0	5.2	5.0	6.0	5.4
Brittany (chg)	7.0	1.3	97.7	5.2	5.3	5.7	5.4
ABT-CR-2 (stgc)	7.3	1.7	85.0	5.4	5.5	5.3	5.4
Stonehenge (AHF 009) (h)	7.3	3.3	98.0	4.4	5.6	5.8	5.3
SR 5210 (SRX 52LAV) (stgc)	7.3	2.0	89.3	4.9	5.8	5.3	5.3
ABT-HF-2 (h)	7.0	3.0	98.3	4.4	5.4	6.2	5.3
SR 5100 (chg)	6.7	1.3	98.7	5.3	4.7	5.7	5.2
PST-4FR (stgc)	7.0	2.3	68.3	5.7	5.0	5.0	5.2
Pick Frc A-93 (chg)	7.3	1.0	96.7	5.2	4.9	5.6	5.2
Pick FF A-97 (h)	8.0	3.3	98.0	4.8	4.9	5.8	5.2
Magic (chg)	7.0	1.3	98.3	5.3	4.7	5.6	5.2
Hardtop (BAR HF 8 FUS) (h)	8.0	3.7	98.3	4.7	5.0	6.0	5.2
BAR CHF 8 FUS2 (chg)	7.7	2.3	96.7	5.3	4.8	5.5	5.2
BAR CF 8 FUS1 (stgc)	7.7	2.3	73.3	5.4	5.3	4.8	5.2
Banner III (chg)	7.0	2.0	93.3	5.1	5.1	5.5	5.2
ABT-HF-3 (h)	8.7	3.0	98.7	4.2	5.2	6.1	5.2
ABT-CHW-1 (chg)	7.0	1.7	98.7	4.9	4.6	6.0	5.2
Shadow II (chg)	6.7	1.7	94.0	5.1	4.8	5.5	5.1
PST-47TCR (stgc)	8.0	1.7	56.7	4.7	5.9	4.6	5.1
Osprey (h)	7.0	1.7	98.7	4.7	4.8	5.8	5.1
MB-63 (chg)	7.0	2.3	98.3	5.0	4.7	5.6	5.1
Heron (h)	7.0	2.3	98.0	4.6	5.0	5.8	5.1
Discovery (h)	8.0	3.0	96.7	4.7	5.1	5.6	5.1

Dawson E+ (slrc)	6.0	1.3	60.0	5.1	5.3	4.9	5.1
BAR SCF 8 FUS3 (slrc)	7.3	2.0	58.3	5.3	5.2	4.7	5.1
Treazure (E) (chg)	6.7	1.3	98.7	4.7	4.6	5.7	5.0
Scaldis (h)	8.0	2.7	97.7	4.3	4.9	5.8	5.0
Reliant II (h)	7.3	2.7	98.3	4.6	4.8	5.7	5.0
PST-4HM (chg)	7.7	2.0	97.3	4.3	5.0	5.8	5.0
Pathfinder (stgc)	7.0	2.3	92.3	4.8	4.9	5.3	5.0
Minotaur (hxb)	7.7	2.3	98.3	4.4	4.6	5.9	5.0
Florentine (stgc)	7.3	1.3	71.7	5.2	4.8	5.1	5.0
Eureka II (ISI FI 11) (h)	7.7	3.0	99.0	4.2	4.8	6.1	5.0
Bridgeport (chg)	7.0	2.3	97.7	4.6	4.7	5.8	5.0
ABT-HF-4 (h)	8.0	1.7	98.0	4.6	4.4	5.9	5.0
Scaldis II (AHF 008) (h)	7.7	2.7	97.3	4.4	4.7	5.5	4.9
Salsa (stgc)	6.0	2.0	65.0	5.3	4.4	4.8	4.9
MB- 82 (h)	7.7	2.7	98.0	4.5	4.7	5.5	4.9
Jamestown II (chg)	7.0	2.0	96.7	4.8	4.3	5.5	4.9
DGSC 94 (stgc)	7.3	1.7	80.0	4.8	4.8	5.0	4.9
Defiant (h)	7.0	3.7	97.3	4.4	5.1	5.2	4.9
ACF 083 (chg)	7.0	3.3	93.3	4.7	4.8	5.3	4.9
Tiffany (chg)	6.7	1.7	94.0	4.9	4.0	5.3	4.8
ASR 049 (slrc)	7.0	2.0	65.0	5.1	4.3	5.1	4.8
ASC 082 (stgc)	8.0	1.3	68.3	4.6	5.0	4.7	4.8
Shademark (stgc)	7.3	2.7	71.7	4.3	5.1	4.7	4.7
PST-4MB (bh)	8.7	1.7	97.3	4.2	4.1	5.9	4.7
Shademaster II (stgc)	7.3	1.7	61.7	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.6
Sandpiper (chg)	6.7	1.7	97.3	4.1	4.3	5.4	4.6
Seabreeze (slrc)	6.0	3.0	53.3	4.7	4.3	4.5	4.5
Boreal (stgc)	7.0	2.3	71.7	4.5	4.7	4.3	4.5
Bighorn (h)	8.7	2.0	97.3	4.2	3.9	5.3	4.5
Rose (ASC 087) (stgc)	6.7	2.7	73.3	4.3	4.5	4.3	4.4
Quatro (s)	8.3	3.3	98.3	4.2	3.5	5.5	4.4
SR 3200 (b)	8.7	2.0	97.3	3.9	3.8	5.3	4.3
Attila E (h)	7.3	2.0	98.0	4.0	4.0	4.9	4.3
Common creeping red (stgc)	7.3	2.0	83.3	3.9	4.2	4.5	4.2
ASC172 (stgc)	8.3	1.3	88.3	3.8	3.9	4.9	4.2
SR 6000 (th)	8.3	2.0	95.3	3.6	2.8	4.9	3.8
LSD (0.05)	0.8	1.0	10.6	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.4

^a Visual quality ratings were taken using a scale of 1 to 9 with 1 = no living turf, 5 = acceptable turf, and 9 = ideal turf. Monthly ratings were averaged to obtain yearly average.

^b Color was rated on a scale of 1 to 9 where 1 = light green and 9 = ideal dark green.

^c Greenup was rated on a scale of 1 to 9 where 1 = dormant and 9 = green.

^d Per cent of plot area covered by desired species.

^e Species abbreviations include chg = chewings, stgc = strong creeping, h = hard, slrc = slender creeping, hxb = hard x blue, b = blue, s = sheep, bh = blue hard, and th = tufted hairgrass