

2003 NTEP Fineleaf Fescue Test – 2004 Results

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Objective

To evaluate commercial and experimental varieties of fineleaf fescues under low maintenance conditions in central Indiana.

Rationale

Fineleaf fescues are commonly used in a variety of situations ranging from shade tolerant lawn mixtures to rarely mown golf course deep roughs. Attributes such as good drought, good cold tolerance and good to excellent shade tolerance lend their use to many turf sites. With the development of new varieties, local evaluation is beneficial when choosing varieties for Indiana.

How It Was Done

Fifty-three varieties of fineleaf fescues were seeded on 11 Sep 2003 at the William H. Daniel Research and Diagnostic Center on a silt loam soil. Seeding rate was 4.4 lbs per 1000 ft² and 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 following seeding to prevent washing of seed and mixing of varieties.

Plots are maintained under a low maintenance regime. The mowing height is 2.0 inches, mowed 2x per week. The annual fertilization is 2.0 lbs. N per 1000 ft² with 1 lb in mid-September, and 1.0 lb. in early November. Irrigation is applied to prevent dormancy.

Data collected in 2004 included genetic color, spring green-up, and visual quality ratings from May 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 13 cultivars (Table 1).
- When making cultivar selections, it is best to consult the NTEP web page at www.ntep.org for complete performance data from around the country on cultivars, placing special emphasis on how cultivars perform in IN, IL, KY, MI and/or OH (depending if you are located in northern, central, or southern IN) under the specific maintenance regime you intend for that grass.

Table 1. Visual quality of 53 fineleaf fescues cultivars growing under low maintenance in 2004. Color, spring greenup of 53 fineleaf fescues cultivars growing under low maintenance in 2004 and cover in fall 2003.

Cultivar	Type	Visual quality ^a								Genetic Color ^b	Spring greenup ^c	Cover Fall 2003 ^d
		May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Avg			
BUR 4601	chewings	7.0	8.0	7.3	7.0	7.0	7.3	5.3	7.3	7.7	7.3	92.0
SRX 51G	chewings	7.0	7.7	6.7	6.7	7.0	7.3	5.0	7.1	8.0	8.0	88.3
PST-4TZ	chewings	7.0	7.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	7.7	6.0	7.1	7.3	7.7	87.0
IS-FRC 17	chewings	7.0	7.3	6.3	6.7	6.0	7.0	4.0	6.8	7.3	7.7	90.0
PST-8000	strong creeping	6.3	7.0	6.3	6.3	6.7	7.0	4.7	6.7	7.0	7.3	89.3
Pick CRF 1-03	strong creeping	6.7	7.3	5.7	5.7	6.7	6.7	6.0	6.6	7.7	7.7	88.7
TL 53	strong creeping	7.3	7.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.7	5.3	6.6	6.7	7.7	87.7
Longfellow II	chewings	6.7	7.3	5.7	5.7	6.0	7.0	5.3	6.6	7.3	8.0	90.7
ACF 174	chewings	6.7	7.0	6.0	6.0	6.3	6.7	3.3	6.5	8.0	8.0	88.0
Jamestown 5	chewings	7.3	7.0	6.0	6.0	6.3	6.3	6.0	6.5	7.0	7.3	90.0
7 Seas	chewings	7.0	7.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.7	6.0	6.5	7.0	7.7	88.7
DP 77-9885	strong creeping	6.3	6.7	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.7	4.7	6.4	7.7	7.7	87.0
Ambassador	chewings	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.0	6.3	6.3	5.7	6.3	7.3	8.0	89.3
5001	strong creeping	6.3	6.7	5.7	5.7	6.0	6.7	5.0	6.2	6.0	7.0	88.3
DP 77-9579	strong creeping	6.3	7.3	5.3	5.3	5.7	6.3	6.0	6.2	7.3	6.7	89.3
BMXC-S02	strong creeping	6.3	7.0	5.3	5.7	6.0	6.3	5.0	6.2	7.0	7.3	85.0
IS-FRR 29	strong creeping	6.7	6.3	5.3	5.3	6.0	6.3	5.3	6.1	7.0	7.0	89.0
Musica	strong creeping	7.0	7.3	6.0	6.0	5.3	5.7	5.7	6.1	5.7	6.3	90.7
Razor	strong creeping	6.0	7.0	5.0	5.3	5.7	6.7	5.3	6.1	7.0	7.3	90.0
Celestial	strong creeping	6.7	7.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	6.0	4.7	6.0	7.3	8.0	90.0
Jasper II	strong creeping	6.3	6.3	5.3	5.3	5.7	6.3	5.3	6.0	6.7	7.0	89.3
C03-4676	strong creeping	6.0	7.3	5.0	5.3	5.3	6.3	5.7	6.0	7.3	7.7	90.0
DP 77-9360	strong creeping	6.3	7.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	6.0	4.0	6.0	7.3	6.7	89.3
ACF 188	chewings	6.3	6.7	5.3	5.3	5.7	6.0	5.3	6.0	8.0	8.0	87.3
ASC 245	strong creeping	6.7	7.0	4.7	4.7	5.7	6.0	5.0	6.0	7.7	7.7	80.0
DP 77-9886	chewings	6.0	6.7	5.7	5.3	5.7	6.0	5.7	6.0	6.0	6.3	89.3
C-SMX	strong creeping	6.7	6.7	5.0	5.0	5.3	6.0	6.7	5.9	7.0	7.3	91.7

DP 77-9578	strong creeping	5.7	7.0	5.0	5.0	5.7	6.0	4.3	5.9	6.7	6.7	87.7
Pick HF #2	hard	7.0	6.7	6.3	5.7	5.0	5.0	4.7	5.8	7.3	7.3	88.7
Cascade	chewings	5.7	6.7	5.3	5.3	5.3	6.0	5.0	5.8	6.0	6.7	92.3
A01630Rel	hard	6.0	6.0	6.7	6.0	5.3	5.3	4.7	5.7	5.7	7.0	88.7
C03-RCE	strong creeping	6.3	6.7	4.7	4.7	5.0	6.0	5.7	5.7	6.0	6.7	89.3
DLF-RCM	strong creeping	6.7	7.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.3	5.7	5.7	6.3	6.7	89.3
Berkshire	hard	6.3	6.7	6.7	5.7	4.7	5.0	3.0	5.7	7.0	7.0	89.3
IS-FRR 30	strong creeping	6.0	7.0	4.7	4.7	5.0	5.7	5.3	5.7	6.7	7.0	90.0
Audubon	strong creeping	6.0	6.3	4.7	5.0	5.0	5.7	4.3	5.6	7.0	7.3	91.7
SRX 55R	slender creeping	7.0	6.7	4.7	4.7	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.6	5.0	5.3	89.3
IS-FRR 23	strong creeping	6.0	7.0	4.0	4.0	5.0	5.3	7.0	5.4	6.7	6.7	90.0
IS-FL 28	hard	6.0	5.3	5.0	5.0	4.7	5.3	6.7	5.2	6.7	6.3	88.7
TL1	strong creeping	4.7	6.7	4.7	4.7	5.0	5.3	4.7	5.2	6.3	7.0	87.7
Scaldis	hard	5.3	4.7	5.7	5.3	5.0	5.3	4.7	5.2	6.7	6.7	89.3
Predator	hard	6.0	5.7	5.3	5.0	4.3	4.7	6.0	5.0	7.0	7.3	90.0
Pathfinder	strong creeping	5.3	6.0	4.7	4.7	4.7	5.0	4.7	5.0	6.0	6.3	89.3
Seabreeze	slender creeping	6.0	5.7	4.0	4.0	4.7	5.3	4.7	5.0	4.3	5.7	91.7
Shademaster	strong creeping	4.3	5.3	4.7	4.7	5.0	5.3	6.0	5.0	4.0	5.7	92.3
SPM	hard	5.7	4.7	5.3	5.3	4.7	4.7	5.3	5.0	6.3	6.3	80.0
SR 3000	hard	5.0	4.7	5.3	5.3	4.3	4.7	5.0	4.8	5.3	6.3	87.7
SRX 3K	hard	6.3	6.0	5.3	4.7	3.7	3.7	5.3	4.7	6.7	7.0	87.7
Dawson E	slender creeping	5.3	6.3	4.3	4.3	4.0	4.0	5.3	4.6	3.7	5.7	95.3
Oxford	hard	4.3	5.0	5.0	4.7	4.0	4.3	6.7	4.5	6.3	6.3	86.0
Quatro	sheep	4.7	4.0	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	6.3	4.3	5.0	6.0	88.3
Oracle	strong creeping	4.3	3.7	3.0	3.3	4.0	5.0	6.0	4.1	5.3	6.0	93.7
Boreal	strong creeping	4.3	3.7	2.7	3.0	3.7	4.3	5.3	3.9	5.0	5.7	92.3
LSD (0.05)		1.3	1.3	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.0	1.3	0.8	3.6

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

^c Spring greenup was rated on a scale of 1 to 9 where 1 = light green and 9 = ideal dark green.

^d Ground cover rated as percent of plot area.