

2003 NTEP Fineleaf Fescue Test – 2005 Results

Glenn Hardebeck and Cale Bigelow

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 2005 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 color and green-up ratings were taken using a scale of 1 to 9 with 1 = light green or dormant and 9 = dark green turf. 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 19 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.

Acknowledgments

This research was supported by the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program and The Midwest Regional Turf Foundation.

Table 1. Visual quality, color and spring green-up of 53 fineleaf fescues cultivars growing under low maintenance in 2005.

Cultivar	Type	Visual quality ^a									Genetic Color ^b	Spring greenup ^c
		Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Avg		
TL 53	strong creeping	6.7	6.7	5.3	6.3	6.7	6.3	7.3	7.7	6.6	7.3	5.0
PST-8000	strong creeping	6.3	6.7	4.3	6.3	6.3	6.7	7.3	8.0	6.5	7.7	3.7
C03-RCE	strong creeping	6.0	5.0	4.0	6.0	7.0	7.0	7.7	8.0	6.3	7.0	4.3
DLF-RCM	strong creeping	6.0	5.3	5.3	6.0	6.0	6.3	7.3	8.0	6.3	7.0	3.7
DP 77-9360	strong creeping	5.7	5.7	5.0	6.3	5.7	6.3	7.7	8.0	6.3	7.3	4.0
IS-FRR 29	strong creeping	6.0	5.7	5.3	5.7	6.7	6.3	7.0	7.7	6.3	6.7	4.0
5001	strong creeping	6.7	5.3	5.3	6.7	5.7	5.7	7.0	7.7	6.3	6.7	5.0
DP 77-9885	strong creeping	6.3	4.7	3.7	6.0	6.3	6.7	7.7	8.7	6.3	8.7	3.3
Compass	chewings	6.0	3.7	3.3	6.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	8.3	6.2	8.3	4.3
Pick CRF 1-03	strong creeping	6.7	5.3	3.3	6.0	5.3	6.3	7.7	9.0	6.2	8.0	5.7
DP 77-9579	strong creeping	6.7	5.7	5.0	5.0	5.7	6.3	7.0	8.0	6.2	7.3	4.7
IS-FRR 30	strong creeping	6.0	6.0	5.7	6.0	4.7	5.3	7.0	8.3	6.1	7.3	4.0
Zodiac	chewings	6.3	4.3	3.7	5.0	6.7	6.7	7.7	8.3	6.1	8.0	5.3
C-SMX	strong creeping	6.3	4.7	4.3	5.3	5.7	6.3	7.7	8.3	6.1	7.7	5.3
DP 77-9578	strong creeping	6.3	5.7	4.7	6.0	5.0	6.0	7.0	8.0	6.1	7.0	3.7
SRX 51G	chewings	7.0	4.0	3.3	6.7	5.7	6.3	7.3	8.0	6.0	8.0	5.0
Berkshire	hard	4.7	5.7	5.0	5.7	6.3	6.7	6.7	6.7	5.9	7.3	3.7
Celestial	strong creeping	6.3	5.7	4.3	5.3	4.3	5.7	7.3	8.0	5.9	8.3	4.7
IS-FRC 17	chewings	6.3	3.0	3.3	6.0	6.0	6.3	7.7	8.3	5.9	8.3	5.7
DP 77-9886	chewings	5.3	4.0	3.0	5.3	6.7	7.3	7.3	7.7	5.8	7.7	6.7
BMXC-S02	strong creeping	5.7	5.7	4.0	5.7	4.7	5.7	7.0	8.0	5.8	7.0	4.3
Culumbra II	chewings	7.0	4.3	3.7	4.7	4.3	5.3	7.3	9.0	5.7	8.7	4.3
PST-4TZ	chewings	6.0	4.3	3.3	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.7	7.3	5.7	7.7	4.0
7 Seas	chewings	6.0	3.3	3.0	5.7	6.0	6.3	7.0	8.0	5.7	7.3	5.7
Pathfinder	strong creeping	5.0	5.7	4.0	5.0	4.7	5.3	7.3	8.0	5.6	7.3	5.3
J-5	chewings	6.0	3.7	3.0	5.3	5.7	6.0	7.0	7.7	5.5	8.0	5.7
ASC 245	strong creeping	5.3	4.7	4.3	6.0	4.3	5.0	6.7	7.7	5.5	7.3	4.7
Longfellow II	chewings	6.7	3.0	3.3	5.3	5.3	6.0	6.7	7.7	5.5	8.3	6.0

TL1	strong creeping	6.0	4.7	3.7	5.3	4.0	4.7	7.0	7.7	5.4	7.3	6.0
IS-FL 28	hard	5.0	5.7	5.3	6.0	4.0	5.0	5.7	6.0	5.3	7.3	4.3
Pick HF #2	hard	5.0	5.0	4.7	5.3	5.0	5.3	5.7	6.3	5.3	8.0	4.7
Ambassador	chewings	6.7	4.0	3.7	4.3	4.7	5.3	6.3	7.0	5.3	8.3	4.7
Musica	strong creeping	6.0	4.0	3.7	4.3	5.0	5.7	6.7	6.7	5.3	7.0	6.0
Reliant IV	hard	4.0	5.0	4.7	5.3	4.3	4.7	6.0	7.3	5.2	7.3	3.7
Audubon	strong creeping	6.7	4.0	3.3	4.3	4.7	5.0	6.3	7.0	5.2	7.3	6.3
Jasper II	strong creeping	6.7	4.0	4.3	3.3	4.0	5.3	6.3	7.3	5.2	7.0	5.7
SRX 55R	slender creeping	5.3	5.0	4.0	5.0	4.3	4.7	6.0	6.7	5.1	6.0	3.3
IS-FRR 23	strong creeping	5.7	3.7	3.3	4.0	4.3	5.0	6.3	7.3	5.0	7.3	4.7
Razor	strong creeping	6.7	4.0	3.7	3.7	3.7	4.3	6.0	7.3	4.9	7.3	5.0
Predator	hard	4.7	4.7	4.7	5.0	4.3	4.7	5.0	5.7	4.8	7.7	5.3
C03-4676	strong creeping	6.0	3.3	3.0	3.3	3.7	4.7	6.7	7.7	4.8	8.0	5.3
Oracle	strong creeping	5.0	4.0	3.0	3.7	3.7	4.7	6.7	7.7	4.8	6.7	5.0
Seabreeze	slender creeping	4.7	4.7	4.3	4.7	4.0	4.7	5.3	5.7	4.8	5.3	4.0
Oxford	hard	3.3	4.7	4.0	5.3	3.7	4.7	5.7	6.3	4.7	6.7	3.7
Cascade	chewings	5.3	3.3	3.0	5.3	4.0	4.3	5.7	6.0	4.6	6.3	6.0
Shademaster	strong creeping	4.3	4.7	3.0	3.7	3.3	4.3	5.3	6.7	4.4	6.3	4.0
SPM	hard	3.0	3.7	4.0	4.7	3.7	4.3	6.0	6.0	4.4	7.7	3.7
Boreal	strong creeping	4.0	3.3	3.3	3.7	3.3	4.3	5.7	6.0	4.2	6.7	3.7
Dawson E	slender creeping	5.0	4.3	4.3	3.7	3.0	3.7	4.3	4.3	4.1	5.3	4.0
Scaldis	hard	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.3	3.7	4.0	4.0	4.3	4.0	7.0	4.0
SR 3000	hard	3.7	3.7	3.3	4.7	3.3	4.0	4.7	5.0	4.0	6.7	3.7
SRX 3K	hard	3.0	3.0	3.3	4.0	3.3	4.0	5.0	5.0	3.8	6.3	3.3
Quatro	sheep	3.0	3.0	3.0	4.0	2.7	3.3	3.7	3.7	3.3	6.7	5.3
LSD (0.05)		1.1	1.4	1.2	1.8	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.5	0.7	1.1	1.3

^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 = dark green.

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