

2006 NTEP Tall Fescue Test – 2007 Results

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Objective

To evaluate commercial and experimental varieties of Tall Fescue under low maintenance conditions in central Indiana.

Rationale

Turf-type tall fescue has many attributes such as very good drought tolerance, very good heat tolerance, moderate cold tolerance, and good wear tolerance that make it a good choice for many turf sites. These attributes have led to the widespread use of tall fescue across Indiana, especially from central parts of the state to the south. By determining the performance of these varieties, we will be able to offer sound information on which varieties of turf-type tall fescue to plant in Indiana.

How It Was Done

One hundred and thirteen cultivars of tall fescue were seeded on 7 Sep 2006 at the William H. Daniel Turfgrass Research and Diagnostic Center on a silt loam soil. Seeding rate was 6 lbs/1000 ft² and seed was spread using a hand shaker jar. After seeding, the area was lightly raked, and a starter fertilizer (6-24-24) was applied at the rate of 1.5 lbs P₂O₅/1000 ft². The area was covered with a germination blanket to prevent washing of seed and mixing of varieties. Plots were maintained under a low maintenance regime. The mowing height was 2.5 inches and the experiment was mowed twice per week or as needed when under drought stress. Annual fertilization was 2 lbs N/1000 ft² with 1 lb applied in mid-September and 1 lb in early November. No irrigation was applied to the plots.

Percent living ground cover was recorded the fall of 2006 during the grow-in period. Data collected in 2007 included genetic color and monthly visual quality ratings from April to October. All data taken were visual observations of turf characteristics and performance. Visual color 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 during 2007 among the top 43 cultivars (Table 1). Cultivars are listed in order of decreasing mean quality for 2007.
- There are no statistical differences in percent living ground cover six weeks after germination in 2006 (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

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Table 1. Visual quality and genetic color during of 113 tall fescue cultivars growing under high maintenance in 2007 and percent living ground cover during the fall of 2006.

Cultivar	Visual quality ^a								Genetic Color ^b	Fall 06 Ground Cover ^c
	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Mean		
RKCL	7.7	7.7	6.7	4.7	5.7	7.7	7.7	6.8	8.0	97.7
IS-TF-128	7.0	7.3	6.7	5.0	6.0	7.7	7.3	6.7	7.7	96.7
RK 6	7.7	7.7	6.7	4.7	5.7	7.0	7.3	6.7	7.7	97.7
MVS-TF-158	7.0	7.7	6.7	4.7	5.3	7.0	7.7	6.6	7.3	96.7
SH 3	7.3	7.3	6.3	4.3	6.0	7.7	7.0	6.6	7.3	98.3
IS-TF-159	7.3	7.3	6.3	4.7	5.7	7.3	7.0	6.5	7.7	95.3
AST-4	7.7	7.7	6.7	4.3	5.7	7.0	6.7	6.5	7.7	96.0
IS-TF-135	7.3	7.3	6.3	5.3	5.7	7.0	6.3	6.5	7.3	96.0
Escalade	7.3	7.3	6.3	5.0	5.7	6.7	7.0	6.5	8.0	96.7
AST-2	7.7	7.7	6.3	4.7	5.3	7.3	6.3	6.5	8.0	96.7
Z-2000	7.0	7.0	6.3	4.7	5.7	7.3	7.0	6.4	7.0	97.3
TG 50-9460	7.0	7.0	6.3	4.7	5.7	7.0	7.0	6.4	7.7	97.7
Monet	6.3	7.0	6.3	4.3	6.0	7.3	7.3	6.4	7.3	97.7
JT-42	7.3	7.3	6.0	4.7	5.7	6.7	7.0	6.4	7.7	96.7
DP 50-9440	6.7	6.7	5.7	4.7	5.7	7.7	7.3	6.3	7.3	96.7
IS-TF-138	7.3	7.3	5.7	3.7	5.7	7.3	7.3	6.3	7.7	96.0
IS-TF-151	7.0	6.7	6.0	4.7	5.7	7.0	7.3	6.3	7.3	94.0
IS-TF-154	7.0	7.3	6.0	3.3	5.3	7.3	8.0	6.3	7.0	97.3
Col-J	7.3	7.7	6.3	4.3	5.3	6.7	6.7	6.3	7.7	95.3
ATM	6.7	6.7	6.3	4.7	5.7	7.0	7.3	6.3	7.3	96.7
Millennium SRP	7.0	7.0	6.3	4.7	5.3	7.0	7.0	6.3	7.3	98.7
DP 50-9411	6.7	6.7	6.0	4.7	5.7	7.0	7.3	6.3	7.3	97.7
SC-1	6.0	6.3	5.3	4.7	6.0	8.0	7.7	6.3	7.0	98.0
IS-TF-161	7.7	7.7	6.3	3.7	4.3	7.0	7.3	6.3	7.7	95.3
NA-BT-1	7.0	7.0	6.3	4.3	5.7	6.7	7.0	6.3	7.3	96.7
AST-3	6.3	7.0	6.0	4.7	5.7	7.3	7.0	6.3	7.0	95.7
Hemi	6.3	6.7	5.7	4.7	6.0	7.0	7.3	6.2	7.3	96.0
Col-M	7.0	7.0	6.0	4.7	5.3	6.7	7.0	6.2	7.3	94.7
PST-5WMD	6.7	6.7	6.0	4.3	5.7	7.3	7.0	6.2	7.7	95.7
LS-06	7.3	7.7	6.3	4.0	5.0	6.3	7.0	6.2	7.0	95.0

LS-03	7.0	7.0	6.0	4.0	5.3	7.0	7.3	6.2	7.3	96.3
RNP	7.0	7.0	6.0	5.0	5.3	7.0	6.3	6.2	7.0	95.7
Firenza	7.0	7.3	6.3	4.0	5.3	7.0	6.7	6.2	7.3	97.7
RK 5	6.7	6.7	5.7	4.7	5.7	7.3	6.7	6.2	7.3	98.0
Bullseye	6.7	6.7	5.7	3.7	5.3	7.7	7.7	6.2	7.0	97.0
J-130	6.7	7.0	6.3	4.7	5.3	7.0	6.3	6.2	7.7	95.3
K06-WA	7.3	7.0	5.7	3.7	5.0	7.3	7.3	6.2	7.7	98.3
BGR-TF2	7.0	7.0	6.0	4.0	5.7	7.0	6.7	6.2	7.3	96.3
LS-11	6.7	7.0	5.0	4.7	5.7	7.7	6.7	6.2	7.0	95.3
DKS	7.0	7.0	6.0	4.0	5.0	7.0	7.3	6.2	7.3	94.7
GWTF	7.0	7.0	6.3	4.3	5.0	6.7	7.0	6.2	7.3	94.0
RK-1	6.7	6.3	6.0	4.3	5.7	7.0	7.3	6.2	6.7	94.3
Rhambler	6.7	6.7	6.0	4.7	5.3	7.0	7.0	6.2	7.0	98.0
Hunter	7.0	7.0	6.3	4.0	5.3	6.7	6.7	6.1	7.0	94.3
Tulsa III	6.7	6.7	6.0	4.7	5.3	7.0	6.7	6.1	7.3	94.3
CS-TF1	6.7	6.7	6.0	4.7	5.3	6.7	7.0	6.1	7.0	93.0
Einstein	6.7	6.7	6.3	4.3	5.7	6.3	6.7	6.1	7.0	98.3
RK 4	6.3	6.3	5.3	4.7	5.7	7.3	7.0	6.1	7.3	97.7
Burl-TF8	6.7	6.7	6.0	4.7	5.7	7.0	6.0	6.1	7.3	95.7
IS-TF-147	6.7	6.7	5.7	4.3	6.0	7.3	6.0	6.1	8.0	95.0
MVS-BB-1	6.7	6.7	5.7	4.7	5.7	6.7	6.7	6.1	7.7	97.0
Padre	7.0	7.3	6.3	4.0	5.0	6.0	7.0	6.1	7.7	97.0
AST 7003	7.0	7.0	6.0	4.0	5.3	6.7	6.7	6.1	7.3	95.3
J-140	6.3	6.0	5.7	4.7	5.7	7.3	7.0	6.1	7.0	97.7
IS-TF-152	7.0	7.0	5.7	3.7	5.0	7.0	7.0	6.0	7.3	96.0
MVS-MST	6.3	6.3	5.3	4.3	5.7	7.7	6.7	6.0	7.3	93.7
JT-41	6.7	7.0	5.7	3.7	4.7	7.0	7.3	6.0	7.7	97.0
KZ-2	6.0	6.0	5.7	5.0	5.7	7.0	6.7	6.0	7.3	94.0
IS-TF-153	6.3	6.7	5.7	3.7	5.3	7.0	7.0	6.0	7.0	94.7
SR 8650	6.7	6.3	6.0	5.0	5.0	6.3	6.3	6.0	7.3	96.7
Van Gogh	6.3	6.3	5.7	4.3	5.0	7.0	6.7	5.9	7.0	95.7
ATF 1247	6.3	7.0	6.0	4.0	5.3	6.0	6.7	5.9	7.3	95.0
Col-1	6.3	6.3	5.3	4.3	5.0	6.7	7.3	5.9	7.0	95.3
RP 2	6.3	6.3	5.3	4.3	5.3	6.7	7.0	5.9	7.0	96.3
RP 3	6.7	6.0	5.7	5.0	5.7	6.0	6.3	5.9	7.3	93.3
STR-8BB5	6.3	6.7	6.0	4.7	5.3	6.3	6.0	5.9	7.3	95.7
JT-36	6.7	6.7	5.7	4.0	5.3	6.7	6.3	5.9	7.7	94.7

JT-33	6.7	6.7	5.7	4.0	5.0	6.7	6.7	5.9	7.3	96.7
BGR-TF1	6.7	6.7	5.7	4.3	5.3	6.3	6.3	5.9	7.3	95.0
AST-1	6.7	6.7	5.7	4.3	5.0	7.0	6.0	5.9	7.3	94.7
Justice	7.0	7.0	6.0	4.0	5.0	6.3	6.0	5.9	7.7	98.0
AST 7001	6.7	7.0	5.7	4.0	5.3	6.7	6.3	5.9	7.0	96.7
NA-SS	6.3	6.3	5.3	4.3	5.7	6.7	6.3	5.9	7.0	92.3
CE 1	6.7	6.3	5.3	4.0	5.3	6.7	6.7	5.9	7.0	95.3
PST-5HP	5.7	6.3	5.7	4.0	5.0	7.0	7.3	5.9	7.0	96.7
DP 50-9407	6.0	6.0	5.7	4.3	5.3	6.3	7.0	5.8	7.3	97.0
ATF 1328	6.0	6.0	6.0	5.0	5.3	6.3	6.0	5.8	7.0	95.0
Turbo	6.0	6.0	5.3	3.7	5.7	7.3	6.7	5.8	7.0	95.7
BAR Fa 6253	6.0	6.0	5.7	5.3	5.3	6.0	6.3	5.8	7.0	95.3
JT-45	6.3	6.3	5.3	4.3	5.3	6.3	6.7	5.8	7.3	95.3
AST 7002	6.3	6.7	5.7	3.7	4.7	7.0	6.7	5.8	7.3	97.0
KZ-1	6.3	6.0	5.7	4.3	5.0	7.0	6.3	5.8	7.0	93.3
Lindbergh	6.3	6.0	5.7	4.3	5.3	6.3	6.3	5.8	7.0	98.7
PSG-82BR	6.7	6.7	6.0	4.3	4.3	6.0	6.3	5.8	7.3	95.0
PSG-TTRH	6.0	6.3	5.7	4.3	4.7	6.3	6.7	5.7	7.0	96.7
Speedway	6.0	6.0	5.0	4.0	5.3	7.0	6.7	5.7	7.0	95.0
Rebel IV	6.3	6.3	5.7	4.0	4.7	6.7	6.3	5.7	7.0	98.3
ATF-1199	6.3	6.3	5.7	4.3	4.7	6.0	6.3	5.7	7.0	95.7
GE-1	6.0	6.0	5.3	4.3	5.0	6.3	6.3	5.6	6.7	97.0
RAD-TF17	6.3	6.3	5.7	3.7	4.7	6.3	6.3	5.6	7.0	94.7
PSG-85QR	6.3	6.3	5.3	4.0	4.7	6.0	6.7	5.6	7.0	96.7
MVS-1107	6.0	6.0	5.7	4.0	5.0	6.3	6.0	5.6	7.0	94.3
BAR Fa 6363	6.3	6.0	5.7	4.7	5.0	5.7	5.7	5.6	7.3	95.3
M4	5.3	5.3	5.3	4.0	5.3	7.0	6.3	5.5	6.3	94.0
Cezanne Rz	6.0	6.0	5.7	4.3	5.0	5.7	5.7	5.5	7.0	95.7
Biltmore	5.7	6.0	5.7	4.0	5.0	6.0	6.0	5.5	7.0	96.7
06-DUST	6.0	6.0	5.0	4.0	4.7	6.3	6.3	5.5	7.3	96.3
MVS-341	6.0	5.7	5.3	4.0	4.7	6.3	6.0	5.4	7.0	95.7
0312	5.7	5.7	5.0	3.7	5.3	6.3	6.3	5.4	7.0	93.7
STR-8GRQR	5.3	5.7	5.3	4.3	4.7	6.3	6.3	5.4	7.3	95.3
Skyline	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.0	5.3	6.0	5.3	5.4	7.0	94.0
Tahoe II	6.3	6.7	5.3	3.3	4.0	5.7	6.3	5.4	7.0	94.0
Falcon IV	5.7	5.7	5.0	4.0	5.0	6.3	6.0	5.4	8.0	97.0
GO-1BFD	6.0	5.7	5.3	4.3	5.0	5.7	5.3	5.3	7.0	93.7

PSG-RNDR	5.7	6.0	5.3	4.7	4.7	5.3	5.7	5.3	6.7	91.7
Rembrandt	5.7	6.0	5.0	3.7	4.3	6.0	6.7	5.3	7.0	96.0
Aristotle	5.3	5.7	5.0	3.7	5.3	6.0	6.0	5.3	6.7	96.0
Magellan	5.7	5.7	5.0	3.3	5.0	6.0	6.0	5.2	7.0	98.3
Plato	5.7	5.7	5.0	3.7	4.7	5.7	5.7	5.1	6.7	98.0
PSG-TTST	5.7	5.7	5.3	3.7	4.3	4.7	5.7	5.0	6.7	97.0
06-WALK	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.0	4.3	6.0	5.3	5.0	7.0	92.3
Silverado	5.3	5.3	5.0	3.0	4.3	4.3	4.7	4.6	7.0	96.0
Ky-31	4.3	3.3	4.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.3	3.4	6.0	97.7
LSD (0.05)	1.1	1.1	0.9	1.2	1.0	0.9	1.1	0.6	0.7	3.2

^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.

^d Fall percent living ground cover was rated on a linear scale of 0 to 99 where 0 = no living turf and 99 = complete coverage.