

## **2003 NTEP Fineleaf Fescue Test**

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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 ft<sup>2</sup> 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 P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> per 1000 ft<sup>2</sup>. The area was covered with a germination blanket following seeding to prevent washing of seed and mixing of varieties.

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

Data collected in 2008 included genetic color, spring greenup, and visual quality ratings from April through October. 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**

- There are no statistical differences in average visual quality among the top 17 cultivars (Table 1). Cultivars are listed by decreasing mean quality for 2004-2008.
- When making cultivar selections, it is best to consult the NTEP web page at [www.ntep.org](http://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, color and spring greenup of 53 fineleaf fescues cultivars growing under low maintenance in 2008 and overall study mean quality from 2004 through 2008.

Cultivar	Type	Visual quality <sup>a</sup>								Genetic Color <sup>b</sup>	Spring greenup <sup>c</sup>	Overall Study Mean Quality <sup>d</sup>
		Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Mean			
Fortitude	strong creeping	7.3	8.0	7.0	6.3	5.7	5.7	6.0	6.6	7.0	4.7	6.7
PST-8000	strong creeping	7.7	7.7	7.0	7.0	5.7	5.7	6.7	6.8	7.3	4.7	6.6
Epic	strong creeping	7.7	7.7	7.3	6.7	5.0	6.0	6.0	6.6	6.7	5.0	6.6
DLF-RCM	strong creeping	7.7	8.0	7.3	6.7	6.0	6.0	7.0	7.0	7.3	4.7	6.6
Garnet	strong creeping	7.7	8.3	7.7	6.3	5.7	5.7	6.7	6.9	7.3	5.3	6.5
SR 5130	chewings	7.0	7.0	6.7	6.7	5.3	5.0	6.0	6.2	6.3	4.3	6.5
Zodiac	chewings	7.3	6.3	6.7	6.3	5.3	5.0	6.0	6.1	6.3	4.3	6.5
DP 77-9360	strong creeping	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.3	5.7	6.3	6.7	6.6	7.0	5.0	6.4
Class One	strong creeping	7.0	7.3	7.0	6.3	5.3	5.3	6.0	6.3	7.3	4.7	6.4
Cardinal	strong creeping	7.7	7.7	7.0	6.3	5.0	5.3	6.3	6.5	7.0	5.0	6.4
Treasure II	chewings	7.3	7.0	7.0	6.0	5.3	5.7	6.3	6.4	6.7	4.7	6.3
C-SMX	strong creeping	7.3	7.3	7.0	6.7	5.3	6.7	7.0	6.8	7.7	5.3	6.2
DP 77-9885	strong creeping	7.3	7.0	7.0	6.3	5.3	4.7	6.3	6.3	6.7	3.7	6.2
DP 77-9578	strong creeping	7.3	7.7	7.0	6.7	5.3	5.0	6.0	6.4	7.3	4.7	6.2
Wendy Jean	strong creeping	7.0	7.3	7.0	6.7	5.3	5.3	6.3	6.4	7.7	5.7	6.2
Celestial	strong creeping	7.7	8.0	7.0	6.7	5.3	5.3	6.7	6.7	7.7	4.7	6.1
DP 77-9579	strong creeping	7.3	7.3	6.7	6.3	5.7	5.0	6.3	6.4	7.3	5.0	6.1
BMXC-S02	strong creeping	7.0	7.3	7.0	6.3	5.0	5.3	6.0	6.3	6.7	4.7	6.0
Lacrosse	chewings	6.0	5.7	6.0	5.7	4.7	4.7	6.0	5.5	6.3	5.3	6.0
Ambassador	chewings	6.3	5.7	6.3	6.0	5.7	6.0	7.0	6.1	6.7	4.3	6.0
Berkshire	hard	6.0	6.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	6.0	7.3	6.1	7.0	6.0	5.9
Compass	chewings	6.3	6.3	6.7	6.0	4.7	4.0	5.7	5.7	7.3	4.3	5.9
Longfellow II	chewings	6.7	6.0	6.3	5.7	5.0	5.3	5.7	5.8	6.7	5.7	5.9
Splendor	strong creeping	6.7	7.3	6.3	5.7	4.0	4.3	5.7	5.7	7.7	5.0	5.9
Gotham	hard	6.7	6.3	6.7	6.7	6.0	6.0	7.0	6.5	6.3	5.0	5.8
7 Seas	chewings	7.0	6.7	6.7	6.3	4.7	5.0	5.3	6.0	6.3	5.7	5.8
J-5	chewings	6.7	6.0	6.0	6.0	5.0	5.0	6.7	5.9	5.7	4.3	5.8

Reliant IV	hard	6.0	5.7	6.3	6.0	5.3	5.7	6.7	6.0	7.3	5.0	5.8
Pathfinder	strong creeping	7.0	6.7	7.0	6.3	5.3	5.3	6.3	6.3	7.3	5.0	5.8
Spartan II	hard	7.0	6.7	7.0	6.3	5.0	5.3	6.7	6.3	7.3	5.3	5.7
DP 77-9886	chewings	6.0	6.0	6.3	5.7	4.7	4.3	6.0	5.6	6.3	5.3	5.7
Culumbra II	chewings	6.3	6.7	6.3	5.3	3.7	3.3	4.3	5.1	7.3	5.3	5.7
TL1	strong creeping	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.0	4.7	4.7	6.3	5.8	7.3	5.3	5.6
Musica	strong creeping	6.7	6.3	6.7	6.3	4.7	4.3	5.3	5.8	6.3	4.7	5.5
Jasper II	strong creeping	7.0	6.7	6.3	5.7	4.3	4.7	5.7	5.8	8.0	4.7	5.5
Razor	strong creeping	6.7	7.0	6.3	6.3	4.7	5.0	6.0	6.0	7.3	5.0	5.5
Audubon	strong creeping	7.0	6.7	6.7	6.3	5.0	5.3	6.3	6.2	7.3	5.3	5.4
C03-4676	strong creeping	7.0	7.3	7.0	6.3	4.3	4.3	5.3	6.0	7.3	6.0	5.3
Shoreline	slender creeping	5.7	6.3	5.7	5.0	4.7	4.0	5.3	5.2	6.7	3.7	5.3
Cascade	chewings	6.3	6.0	6.3	6.0	4.7	4.3	5.7	5.6	6.0	4.7	5.3
IS-FRR 23	strong creeping	6.3	6.3	6.0	5.3	3.7	4.3	5.3	5.3	7.3	5.3	5.3
Firefly	hard	6.7	6.7	7.0	6.3	5.0	5.7	6.3	6.2	6.0	5.3	5.3
Predator	hard	5.3	5.3	5.7	5.7	4.7	4.7	5.7	5.3	6.7	5.0	5.0
Oxford	hard	6.3	6.3	6.7	5.7	5.7	5.3	6.3	6.0	6.7	5.3	5.0
Oracle	strong creeping	6.0	6.0	5.7	4.3	4.0	4.0	5.3	5.0	6.7	5.3	4.8
SR 3000	hard	7.0	6.7	6.7	6.0	5.3	4.3	4.7	5.8	6.7	5.0	4.8
Shademaster	strong creeping	5.7	5.3	5.0	4.0	3.7	4.3	5.0	4.7	5.3	5.0	4.7
Scaldis	hard	5.3	5.0	5.7	5.7	4.7	5.0	5.7	5.3	6.3	4.7	4.7
Seabreeze	slender creeping	5.3	5.3	5.0	4.3	3.7	3.3	4.3	4.5	6.0	4.3	4.6
Dawson E	slender creeping	6.0	6.3	5.7	5.0	3.3	3.3	4.0	4.8	5.3	3.3	4.5
SRX 3K	hard	5.7	5.0	5.7	5.7	4.0	4.7	6.0	5.2	7.3	4.3	4.4
Boreal	strong creeping	6.3	6.0	5.7	5.3	3.7	4.0	5.0	5.1	6.3	4.0	4.4
Quatro	sheep	5.0	4.0	4.0	4.3	3.3	3.3	4.0	4.0	6.3	4.7	3.7
	LSD (0.05)	1.0	1.4	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.8	1.0	1.1	0.6

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

<sup>b</sup> Color was rated on a scale of 1 to 9 were 1 = light green and 9 = dark green.

<sup>c</sup> Spring greenup was rated on a scale of 1 to 9 were 1 = dormant and 9 = dark green.

<sup>d</sup> Overall mean quality data consists of all monthly quality ratings from 2004 through 2008.