

# 1990 NTEP Bentgrass Results

**T**here has been a real flurry of bentgrass releases over the past couple of years. Golf course superintendents are frequently asking us for information on the new releases; information that did not exist. In 1990, the USDA National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) sponsored, to my knowledge, the first three bentgrass tests: greens native soil, greens modified soil, and fairway.

In July of last year, we planted the greens native soil test at the research facility in Ithaca. The test included 19 bentgrasses, and with the help of some good weather, we had a very successful establishment. We began collecting data in August. The results of the seedling vigor and quality data collected in 1990 are found in the table below.

The cultivars that were the most rapid to establish included Emerald, Putter, and WVPB 89-D-15, followed by Pro/Cup, Penncross, and Pennlinks. Carmen creeping bentgrass was very slow to establish, as were Allure and Bardot colonial bentgrasses.

While much of this data is very preliminary, there were very notable differences in the quality of the cultivars we tested. Top prize for 1990 goes to Pro/Cup (Forbes 89-12) which had the highest ratings for both dates. High marks were also given to 88.CBL, Providence, Penncross, WVPB 89-D-15, and Putter.

We didn't take color ratings, but it's worth mentioning that Providence and Pro/Cup had exceptionally dark color. Providence also appeared

to have a more upright, non-graining growth habit. It's appearance is distinctively different than most other seeded creeping bentgrasses. While Providence is an extremely attractive grass, I question if it would be a good choice for overseeding into existing greens or fairways. It certainly would be a viable option, however, for new seedings.

The poorest performing cultivars included Allure and Tracenta colonial bentgrasses, BR 1518 dryland bentgrass, and Carmen creeping bentgrass. None of these grasses provided turf of acceptable quality (rating 6 or greater) for either date. These results are preliminary, however, since we plan on looking at them over the next 3 or 4 years.

## What's Next

The NTEP cultivars will also be evaluated for disease resistance and putting speed. In late 1990, we inoculated all the cultivars with *Pythium* root rot. We obtained some valuable data on this last year. We will inoculate the plots this year with dollar spot, brown patch, and pink snow mold. Hopefully, within this diverse genetic pool of bentgrass cultivars, we will identify some with improved disease resistance.

NORMAN W. HUMMEL JR.

DEPT. OF FLORICULTURE AND ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURE



There are many new bentgrasses for golf greens.

Summary of 1990 NTEP Bentgrass Trial Results

Name	Seedling Vigor <sup>a</sup>	Quality		Mean
		Sept.	Nov.	
Pro/Cup (Forbes)	7.3 ab <sup>b</sup>	7.7 a	8.0 a	7.8 a
88.CBL	5.7 a-e	7.3 a	7.3 a-c	7.3 ab
Providence	6.3 a-c	7.0 a	7.6 ab	7.3 ab
Penncross	7.0 ab	6.7 ab	7.3 a-c	7.0 a-c
WVPB 89-D-15	8.0 a	6.7 ab	7.3 a-c	7.0 a-c
Putter	8.0 a	7.0 a	7.0 a-d	7.0 a-c
88.CBE	5.7 a-e	6.7 ab	6.7 a-e	6.7 a-d
Regent	5.3 b-e	6.7 ab	6.7 a-e	6.7 a-d
SR1020	6.3 a-c	6.0 a-c	6.7 a-e	6.3 b-e
Cobra	6.0 a-d	5.7 a-d	7.0 a-d	6.3 b-e
Bardot	3.7 de	6.7 ab	5.7 d-g	6.2 b-f
Pennlinks	7.0 ab	5.7 a-d	6.3 b-f	6.0 c-g
Emerald	8.0 a	5.7 a-d	6.0 c-g	5.8 c-g
National	6.0 a-d	5.7 a-d	5.3 e-h	5.5 d-h
Egmont	4.0 c-e	4.7 b-d	6.0 c-g	5.3 e-h
Carmen	3.3 e	4.7 b-d	5.3 e-h	5.0 f-i
Tracenta	4.0 c-e	4.7 b-d	5.0 f-h	4.8 g-i
BR1518	4.3 c-e	4.3 cd	4.7 gh	4.5 hi
Allure	3.7 de	3.7 d	4.0 h	3.8 i

<sup>a</sup>Rated on a scale of 0 - 9, 9 = most vigorous.

<sup>b</sup> Means followed by same letter within each column are not significantly different.

9