



2016-2017 Virginia Turfgrass Variety Recommendations

Mike Goatley, Turfgrass Specialist, Virginia Tech

Whitnee Askew, Research Associate, Virginia Tech

Thomas Hardiman, Virginia Crop Improvement Association and Virginia Tech

The Maryland-Virginia Turfgrass Variety Recommendation Work Group meets annually to consider the previous year's data from Virginia and Maryland National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) and ancillary trials and to formulate these recommendations. Virginia and Maryland variety recommendations are essentially identical except for specialized grasses and research situations that differ due to adaptation and state regulation. To qualify for this recommended list turfgrass varieties: 1) must be available as certified seed or, in the case of vegetative varieties, as certified sprigs or sod; 2) must be tested at sites in both Virginia and Maryland; 3) must perform well, relative to other varieties, for a minimum of two years to make the list as a "promising" variety and for three years to make the "recommended" category. All test locations in Virginia and Maryland are considered in making these recommendations. The Virginia Crop Improvement Association (VCIA) will accept the turfgrass blends or mixtures listed below in the VCIA Sod Certification Program. All seed or vegetative material must be certified and meet minimum quality standards prescribed by the VCIA. Many seeding specifications (for municipalities, counties, state and governmental agencies, landscape architects, and professional organizations) state that varieties used for turfgrass establishment must come from this list and that blends or mixtures follow the guidelines for certified sod production. Specifications for state highway seeding are developed separately and may require some species and/or varieties not normally recommended for uses other than roadside seeding. Seed availability may vary between turf seed suppliers. Some species and varieties may have limited adaptation.

Kentucky Bluegrass – Individual varieties selected must make up not less than 10%, nor more than 35% of the total mixture on a weight basis. All varieties must be certified. Selections can be made from Category I alone or various combinations of Categories I and II. Kentucky bluegrasses listed as "Promising" (Category II below) can account for no more than 35% of the blend by weight).

Category I – Recommended Kentucky Bluegrass Varieties (65–100% of blend by weight). Aries, Blue Coat, Blue Note, Full Back, Hampton, Impact⁴, Midnight, Noble, Sudden Impact³.

Category II – Promising Kentucky Bluegrasses (10–35% on a weight basis). Aramintha, Barvette HGT, Blue Bank, Bolt, Cabernet, Endurance, Keeneland, Legend, Mazama, Merlot, NuChicago, Oasis, Skye, and Wildhorse¹ (Wildhorse is only for mixing with tall fescue)

Tall Fescue – Both recommended and promising varieties can be used in the VCIA Sod Certification Program.

Category I – Recommended Tall Fescue Varieties (90–100% on a weight basis). Bladerunner 2, Bullseye¹, Catalyst, Dakota, Falcon V¹, Gazelle II, Gold Medallion, Hemi, Inferno, Integrity, Justice, Mustang 4³, Penn RK4, Rebel IV, Rendition RX, Speedway, Spyder LS, SR 8650, Sunset Gold, Titan Rx, Turbo, Turbo RZ⁴, and Xtremegreen.

Category II – Promising tall fescue varieties (may be 90–100% of the mixture on a weight basis): 4th Millennium, Amity, Avenger II, Black Tail, Blackwater HE, Bloodhound, Cayenne, Commander, Corona, Dorado, Doubletake, Embrace, Fantasia, Fayette, Fesnova, Firebird 2, Firecracker SLS, Firewall, Gaurdian 41, Golconda, GTO, Hounddog 8, Hot Rod, Hover, Leonardo, Maestro, Persuasion, Raptor III, Rebounder, Reflection, Regenerate, Rhambler 2 SRP, Rockwell, Rowdy, Saltillo, Screamer LS, Shortstop 3, Technique, Temple, Terrano, Thor, Titanium 2LS, Tonto, Traverse II SRP, Trinity, Wichita and Xtender.

Kentucky bluegrass varieties recommended for mixing with tall fescue sod to enhance sod strength (10% standard, up to 15% of the seed mixture by weight is possible for certification): All cultivars in Categories I and II above. Note recommendation of hybrid bluegrasses as promising varieties for mixtures with turf-type tall fescues in the traditionally warmer climates of Virginia.

Bermudagrass – Varietal differences in texture and winter hardiness are important considerations. If no notation follows the variety name this indicates it has performed in the top statistical category at both Blacksburg and Hampton Roads Research Stations. Varieties with the notation # are only recommended in the warmer regions of Virginia due to concerns regarding their cold tolerance. Note that there are no guarantees regarding winter survival for any recommended or promising variety, and one not noted for cold tolerance might perform well indefinitely in traditionally colder regions of the state depending on climate patterns.

Category I – Recommended vegetatively propagated bermudagrass varieties: Celebration[#], Latitude 36, Northbridge, Patriot, Premier Pro, and Tifway[#].

Category II - Recommended seeded bermudagrass varieties: Princess-77[#], Riviera, Veracruz[#], and Yukon.

Zoysiagrass – (Varietal differences in texture and winter hardiness are important considerations.)

Category I – Recommended vegetatively propagated zoysiagrass varieties: Meyer and Zeon

Category II – Recommended seeded zoysiagrass varieties: Zenith

Category III – Promising vegetatively propagated (V) zoysiagrass varieties: none.

Perennial Ryegrass – (not for use in sod production) Use certified seed.

Category I – Recommended perennial ryegrass varieties: Apple GL, Apple SGL⁴, Banfield, Fiesta 4¹, Grand Slam GLD⁴, Homerun, Line Drive GLS, Octane, Palmer V^{3,4}, Rio Vista⁴, Soprano, Stellar 3 GL⁴.

Category II – Promising perennial ryegrass varieties (limited data/availability of seed): Dilligent, Infusion, Karma, Monsieur, Stamina, and Thrive

Fine Fescues – For general use in low maintenance areas or in partial to full shade. Promising varieties have limited performance data or availability as certified seed. Neither blending varieties nor mixing species have been studied extensively in MD or VA and limited research does not indicate any advantage to blending or mixing varieties from the different fine fescues (e.g.; creeping red, chewings, hard, or sheep fescue). Use only certified seed.

Creeping red fescue – Recommended varieties: Navigator II. **Promising:** None at this time.

Chewings fescue – Recommended: Radar. **Promising:** None at this time.

Hard fescue – Recommended: Beacon, Gotham⁴, Spartan II⁴, and Sword. **Promising:** None at this time.

Sheep fescue – Recommended or promising: None at this time.

Kentucky bluegrass varieties recommended for mixing with fine fescue sod to enhance sod strength (up to 10% of the seed mixture by weight): All cultivars from Kentucky bluegrass Categories I and II.

Varieties marked with superscript notations denote the following:

⁽¹⁾ to be considered for removal in 2017 due to declining performance relative to other varieties.

⁽²⁾ to be considered for removal in 2017 due to declining seed quality.

⁽³⁾ to be considered for removal in 2017 due to the absence of recent testing of certified seed lots in MD and VA.

⁽⁴⁾ to be considered for removal in 2017 due to lack of recent testing in MD and VA.