



SUBJECT: 2009 National Cool-Season Traffic Trial

TO: Seed Companies and Breeders

FROM: Kevin N. Morris, Executive Director

DATE: July 6, 2009

In response to the need for more specific information on turfgrass species and cultivars, the NTEP Policy Committee has proposed a new program, 'Trait Specific Testing'. This new program will establish its first two trials in fall 2009, focusing on drought tolerance and traffic tolerance of cool-season grasses.

This trial, conducted in conjunction with the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA), Safer Athletic Fields Environment Foundation (SAFE), will evaluate traffic tolerance over three years at ten locations. Traffic will be imposed to simulate fall football damage. In addition, one half of each plot will be overseeded before year two and year three to approximate practices undertaken by athletic field managers. The trial will be open to all cool-season grass species, blends and mixtures.

Following are some highlights of the trial:

1. Ten locations (Riverside, CA, Ames, IA, Puyallup, WA, University Park, PA, Lexington, KY, East Lansing, MI, Amherst, MA, Columbia, MO, Ithaca, NY and North Brunswick, NJ) will conduct this trial. Traffic will be applied during a fall 'season' of 8-10 weeks, to simulate fall football traffic, in 2010, 2011 and 2012. Traffic will be applied to approximate 30% loss of ground cover by week 4-5 and 70% loss of ground cover by week 8-10. High and low traffic tolerant indicator plots will be included in the trial to gauge the 30/70 ground cover loss.
2. Data will be collected regularly on turfgrass ground cover during the traffic season. Species composition will be evaluated (using tiller counts) after the final fall traffic season (2012).
3. One-half of each plot will be overseeded in spring 2011 and 2012. Overseeding establishment will be rated and compared to recovery rates of non-overseeded plots.
4. Cooperators will be required to measure bulk density (at a two inch depth), soil moisture and hardness (using the ASTM F1702-96(2002)e1 method for the Clegg impact hammer) immediately before traffic is applied in a season and immediately after traffic is completed for that season. This will be measured either for each plot or for the standard entries only.

TRAFFIC TRIAL MEMO (page two)

5. After surveying STMA members, plots will be mowed between 1-3/4 and 2-1/4". Nitrogen will be applied at the rate of 0.5 lbs/1000 sq. ft./growing month equivalent to approximate 4 lbs./1000 sq. ft. per year in an eight month growing season. Other nutrients will be applied on a soil test basis.

To read the more detailed traffic trial proposal, please go to the NTEP web site News Room, www.ntep.org/newsroom.htm.

The following gives the details concerning this test. Please complete the enclosed Test Entry Application Form and Sponsorship Agreement for each entry you wish to submit. The first payment for testing is due when the seed is shipped to us. Please make checks payable to the "National Turfgrass Evaluation Program" in \$US only.

Plot size will be 25 sq. ft., replicated three times. Initial seeding rates will be based on the following: Ky. Bluegrass – 3 lbs./1000 sq. ft., Tall fescue - 8 lbs./1000 sq. ft. and perennial ryegrass – 6 lbs./1000 sq. ft. Seeding rates of blends and mixtures will be determined by the advisory committee.

Overseeding rates will be 6 lbs./1000 sq. for tall fescue or perennial ryegrass and 2 lbs./1000 sq. ft. for Kentucky bluegrass. The same overseeding rates will be used for blends and mixtures that were used for the initial establishment.

Considering the initial establishment in fall 2009 and overseeding in spring 2011 and 2012, we will need the following amounts of seed (to fulfill all three seedings):

- Ky. Bluegrass straight cultivars and 100% blends – 8 lbs.
- Tall fescue straight cultivars and 100% blends – 22 lbs.
- Perennial ryegrass straight cultivars and 100% blends – 20 lbs.
- Mixtures of predominantly perennial ryegrass and/or tall fescue - 22 lbs.
- Mixtures of predominantly Ky. Bluegrass or other small seeded species - 8 lbs.

Please contact us if you are submitting a species other than those listed above.

The entry fee structure for this test is the following:

All
entries

- \$2,000.00 each entry - when seed is sent to us
- \$2,000.00 each entry - on or before June 1, 2010
- \$2,000.00 each entry - on or before June 1, 2011

\$6,000.00 total

TRAFFIC TRIAL MEMO (page three)

The following are guidelines for sending seed for this test:

- a. Seed must be received at Beltsville, MD by August 17, 2009.
- b. Seed received after August 17, 2009 but by August 21, 2009 can be included in this test but a **double (2x)** entry fee will be charged.
- c. Seed received after August 21, 2009 will **not** be included in this test.
- d. The entire requested amount of seed is needed for an entry to be included in this test. Entries that are received with less than the requested amount of seed will **not** be included in this test.

Therefore, we encourage good planning in preparing and shipping entries on or before the August 17th deadline. In addition, it would be helpful to send seed earlier than the August 17th deadline if possible. Please do not send seed treated with a pesticide. Treated seed will **not** be accepted by the NTEP. Also, please make sure seed is prepaid for shipping charges to Beltsville, MD. The NTEP will **not** pay any additional shipping fees to forward seed to Beltsville. Please forward all seed, payments and completed application forms to:

Kevin Morris, Executive Director
National Turfgrass Evaluation Program
Beltsville Agricultural Research Center-West
Building 005, Room 307
Beltsville, Maryland 20705 USA

If any of the above information is unclear, or if you have a question about any aspect of this test, feel free to contact me by phone (301-504-5125), fax (301-504-5167), mobile (301-873-6545) or via email (kmorris@ntep.org). Thanks for your continued cooperation with NTEP.

Enclosures

2009 NATIONAL COOL-SEASON TRAFFIC TRIAL

Sponsorship of Entries

TEST ENTRY APPLICATION FORM

(Please complete one for each entry)

Required Information:

1. Variety name or experimental designation _____

2. Genus and species name _____

3. For Blends, Mixtures and Brands - percentage (%) of each variety component

4. All previous name(s) or experimental designation(s) this entry has been tested under

5. Genetic structure, i.e. single plant selection, number of parental clones, composite cross, open pollinated, etc.

6. Is this variety/blend/mixture in commercial production?_____ If not, what are the prospects of it being made available in the United States in two or three years?

7. Has seed been treated with a pesticide?_____ Treated seed will not be accepted.

8. Name and address of organization sponsoring this entry and contact person

TEST ENTRY APPLICATION FORM - 2009 NATIONAL COOL-SEASON TRAFFIC TEST (cont'd)

Suggested Information:

1. What is the origin of the entry? _____

2. Seed Quality:

a. Seed lot number _____

b. Year of production _____

c. Location of production _____

d. Purity _____

e. Germination percent _____ Test date _____

f. Noxious and objectionable weed or other crop present _____

3. Description of entry (merits or limitations)

The NTEP reserves the right to reject any entry submitted for testing based on:

a. Completeness of information supplied

b. Seed quality, quantity, or presence of pesticide treatment

c. Failure to pay entry fee(s)

2009 NATIONAL COOL-SEASON TRAFFIC TEST

SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENT

(Please complete one for each entry)

We _____ agree to pay the entry fee for
 sponsor

_____ to be included in the 2009 National
 entry name or code

Cool-Season Traffic Test.

Payment will be made to the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program as follows:

 All
 entries
 \$2,000.00 - when seed is sent to us
 \$2,000.00 - on or before June 1, 2010
 \$2,000.00 - on or before June 1, 2011

 \$6,000.00 total

Name and address of sponsor:

Authorized Signature

Date
