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NTEP *Comings and Goings*

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The NTEP Bentgrass Fairway trial at UMass, Amherst, MA

Spring has sprung in 2011, and in some areas, we have moved into summer already! The trials we have seen, thus far, are delivering outstanding data.

Our staff has been working hard this spring and has published new data on bentgrass (putting green and fairway/tee), fineleaf fescue and bermudagrass. Data from other warm-season grasses will be coming later this month, with tall fescue and Ky. bluegrass reports being available probably by July 4th.

Tips on using NTEP data and results (part five of a series)

In the past several newsletters, we have discussed various aspects of NTEP operations. In this issue, we offer five tips on using NTEP results.

Tip #1

To identify the best grasses for your area, go to your state on our site. Use the turf quality and other data. Also, find your state in our regional or AMMI turf quality tables. For instance, this AMMI table of 2010 bermuda turf quality data shows the trial locations with similar data. This table, with locations in Texas, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee and others, shows the broad

If you need any help in finding any specific data or interpreting results, please feel free to contact us (301-504-5125, kmorris@ntep.org).

Enjoy those summer BBQ's on outstanding turf!!

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The latest on NTEP's upcoming Ky. bluegrass test

Summer patch is a serious disease problem on Kentucky bluegrass

The 2011 NTEP Kentucky Bluegrass Test is taking shape. Plans are being finalized for the trial to be seeded at 24 locations this fall.

Standard trials will be planted at 11 locations; six locations will use a medium maintenance level, five will utilize a low maintenance level with no, or very reduced irrigation.

adaptability of top cultivars. Look closely at the 'Mean' column.

Tip #2

Data on descriptive traits, such as leaf texture, genetic color and spring greenup is often collected at many locations. It is useful to use the 'Mean' value in a table, instead of a rating at only one or two locations. For example, in this leaf texture table for tall fescue, 16 locations contributed data. Use the 'Mean' column, from 6.6 to 6.3 (LSD=0.3) to find the finest textured entries (LSD is explained below).

Leaf texture varies - note *z. japonica* above and *z. matrella* below

Tip #3

The LSD Value is a tool showing whether two data points are *statistically* different. The LSD Value is at the bottom of each column of data - use it to determine true *statistical* differences. For instance in the example below:

Variety #1 6.0
Variety #2 5.5

Ancillary trials will be planted at 13 locations to evaluate specific problems or traits. Ancillary trials include summer patch tolerance (2 sites), salinity tolerance, response to organic management (2 sites), sod strength, shade tolerance and traffic tolerance (6 sites).

Interest in organic lawn care is increasing

New to this trial, NTEP will conduct DNA testing on each entry, so that all entries can be grouped according to their 'type' or classification. This information will help growers and consumers choose the best cultivar for their needs.

Detailed information on the Ky. bluegrass trial can be found here on the NTEP web site.

Stay tuned for more information!

Variety #3 5.3

LSD VALUE 0.5

The LSD figure of 0.5 indicates for any two data points to be *statistically* different, there needs to be *more than a 0.5* difference in the numbers. In the example above, Variety #1 and #2 are *not* statistically, Variety #2 and #3 are *not* statistically different, however, Variety #1 and #3 *are* statistically different. Therefore, if choosing between #1 and #2, they performed *statistically similar* and either one is acceptable. If choosing between #2 and #3, they performed similarly. Only #1 outperformed #3 in this example.

Using the LSD is essential for critical and analytical evaluations of performance differences in NTEP tests.

Tip #4

Certain diseases such as leafspot, red thread, dollar spot and brown patch occur quite frequently and uniformly in test plots. Therefore, NTEP reports often contains data from several of these diseases. Since disease organisms can vary from one location to another, it is important to choose varieties that have resistance to a particular disease at several locations even though no data for that disease may have been collected at test sites nearest your location. Also, tracking a varieties' response to diseases over several years gives a better indication of the true disease resistance under different environmental

Please help us - take our tall fescue survey!

In fall 2012, NTEP will initiate a new tall fescue trial. New tall fescues are in various stages of development, and their significant improvements need to be evaluated. Help us to design this new trial - we want your input!

Click here to take our survey.

Thanks for your participation!

Thanks for reading again, in this issue, about what is happening at NTEP. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please feel free to contact me at 301-504-5125 or kmorris@ntep.org.

Sincerely,

Kevin Morris
Executive Director
National Turfgrass Evaluation Program

conditions.

Tip #5

Diseases such as summer patch, necrotic ring spot, powdery mildew and rusts occur infrequently in test plots. These diseases, when they occur, often do not distribute themselves uniformly across the test area making an accurate estimation of resistance or susceptibility very difficult. Making decisions concerning resistance to these infrequent diseases should follow these guidelines: 1) be careful using only one years' data from one location to determine resistance, 2) if you choose to evaluate data from only one or two locations, look closely at the LSD Value. A high LSD Value that shows little statistical differences among all entries probably indicates that the disease was not distributed uniformly enough across the plot area and 3) only consider resistance to diseases that are problems in your area.

NEXT TOPIC: HOW TO BEST UTILIZE THE NTEP WEB SITE

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