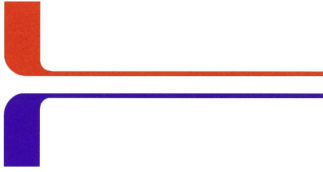


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SUBJECT: 2011 National Kentucky Bluegrass Test
TO: Seed Companies and Breeders
FROM: Kevin N. Morris, Executive Director
DATE: June 21, 2011

Plans have been finalized for the upcoming national Kentucky bluegrass test sponsored by the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP).

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.

PLEASE NOTE: Several significant changes have been made to this trial so please read carefully:

- 1. We have changed the entry fee structure for this trial. Experimental entries will be charged a reduced entry fee (\$1,000/year), which will remain at that level until the entry is named or commercialized (please see details below). Also, entries that have been previously tested by NTEP can be entered at a reduced entry fee (\$1,500/year).**
- 2. This trial will run for five years, therefore, five entry fee payments are required. The overall entry fee is \$10,000 for a commercially available entry. This is unchanged from past bluegrass trials.**
- 3. More ancillary trial locations (13) will be established than in past trials, covering more traits. traffic (six locations; low and medium mowing heights), salinity, summer patch (two locations), organic lawn maintenance (two locations), sod strength and shade tolerance are the ancillary traits to be evaluated. Seventeen (17) standard trial locations will also be established.**
- 4. Our deadline for receipt of seed is August 15rd.**
- 5. In addition, for the first time, we will be conducting DNA testing on each entry (see below).**

DNA TESTING 

There will be a one-time fee of \$400 per entry to cover the costs of DNA (SSR) characterization of all the entries in the 2011 National Kentucky Bluegrass Test. The fee will be paid in addition to the initial entry fee when seed is submitted to NTEP. All entries submitted will be characterized. This characterization will result in placing entries into "types", information that should be completed by fall 2012 and subsequently published in a scientific (refereed) journal. THEREFORE, THIS INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ENTRY SPONSORS IN THE FUTURE.

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In addition, NTEP will use the DNA information to report data in two ways: 1) entries will be separated according to their “type” or group and data will be analyzed/reported with only entries within that type or group, and 2) all entries will be grouped together and data will be analyzed/reported comparing all entries in the trial (as we have done in the past for Ky. Bluegrass).

The list of the chosen trial locations and details on the ancillary trial parameters, as well as these forms, are posted in the NTEP News Room (www.ntep.org/newsroom.htm.)

Standard test locations will be maintained within one of three maintenance regimes that approximate either 1) a high maintenance athletic field, 2) a medium maintenance athletic field or nice home lawn, or 3) a low maintenance home lawn/golf course rough. Plot size will be 25 sq. ft. (5' x 5', 4' x 6' or similar size) replicated three times and the seeding rate will be 25 grams per plot (2.2 lbs./1000 sq. ft.). Therefore, we will need **5.5 lbs. (2.5 kg)** of seed of each entry.

There are now three categories of entries. The following is an explanation of the new entry fee structure:

Commercial entries (named, commercially produced and/or marketed):

\$2,000.00 each entry + \$400 DNA testing fee - when seed is sent to us
\$2,000.00 each entry - on or before June 1, 2012
\$2,000.00 each entry - on or before June 1, 2013
\$2,000.00 each entry - on or before June 1, 2014
\$2,000.00 each entry - on or before June 1, 2015

\$10,400.00 total

Previously tested entries (have been included in previous NTEP tests):

\$1,500.00 each entry + \$400 DNA testing fee - when seed is sent to us
\$1,500.00 each entry - on or before June 1, 2012
\$1,500.00 each entry - on or before June 1, 2013
\$1,500.00 each entry - on or before June 1, 2014
\$1,500.00 each entry - on or before June 1, 2015

\$7,900.00 total

Experimental entries* (have never been named, commercially produced and/or marketed):

\$1,000.00 each entry + \$400 DNA testing fee - when seed is sent to us
\$1,000.00 each entry - on or before June 1, 2012
\$1,000.00 each entry - on or before June 1, 2013
\$1,000.00 each entry - on or before June 1, 2014
\$1,000.00 each entry - on or before June 1, 2015

\$5,400.00 total

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*** If an *Experimental* entry is named, commercially produced or marketed during the testing period, NTEP will be notified within 30 days by the entry sponsor. At that time, the entry will be reclassified as a *Commercial* entry and the fee will become \$10,000 total for the trial. NTEP will immediately invoice the sponsor or licensee for any past entry fees. Current and future NTEP entry fees will be invoiced at \$2,000 per year. This will expire the date of the last trial data publication.**

The following are guidelines for sending seed for this test:

- a. **5.5 lbs.** of seed of each entry must be received at Beltsville, MD by August 15, 2011.
- b. Seed received after August 15, 2011 but by August 19, 2011 can be included in this test but a **double (2x)** entry fee will be charged.
- c. Seed received after August 19, 2011 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.

We encourage good planning in preparing and shipping entries on or before the August 15th deadline. In addition, it would be helpful to send seed earlier than the August 15th 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, completed application forms and payments 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

2011 NATIONAL KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS TEST

TEST ENTRY APPLICATION FORM

(Please complete one for each entry)

Required Information:

1. Variety name or experimental designation _____

2. Genus and species name _____

3. Entry category

____ Commercial (named, commercially produced and/or marketed)

____ Previously tested (has been included in a previous NTEP test)

____ Experimental (has never been named, commercially produced and/or marketed)

PLEASE NOTE:

If an *Experimental* entry is named, commercially produced or marketed during the testing period, NTEP will be notified within 30 days by the entry sponsor. At that time, the entry will be reclassified as a *Commercial* entry and the fee will become \$10,400 total for the trial (\$10,000 entry fee + one-time \$400 DNA testing fee). NTEP will immediately invoice the sponsor or licensee for any past entry fees. Current and future NTEP entry fees will be invoiced at \$2,000 per year. This will expire the date of the last trial data publication.

4. All previous name(s) or experimental designation(s) this entry has been tested under (for *Previously Tested* entries, please indicate name(s) or experimental designations in past NTEP trials)

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

6. Is this variety 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

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) _____

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)

2011 NATIONAL KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS TEST

SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENT

(Please complete one for each entry)

We _____ agree to pay the entry fee as indicated
 Sponsor

below for _____ to be included in the 2011 National
 entry name or code

Kentucky Bluegrass Test. By signing this agreement, we also agree to the terms set forth below, stating that if an *Experimental* entry is named, commercialized or marketed as noted, NTEP will change the category of this entry to *Commercial*, hence increasing the entry fee to \$10,000.00 total.

Payment will be made to the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program in \$US.

Please check one box indicating the entry category at time of submission:

	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Commercial	Previously Tested	Experimental
When the seed is sent to NTEP	\$2,400.00	\$1,900.00	\$1,400.00
On or before June 1, 2012	\$2,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,000.00
On or before June 1, 2013	\$2,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,000.00
On or before June 1, 2014	\$2,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,000.00
On or before June 1, 2015	<u>\$2,000.00</u>	<u>\$1,500.00</u>	<u>\$1,000.00</u>
Total	\$10,400.00	\$7,900.00	\$5,400.00

PLEASE NOTE:

If an *Experimental* entry is named, commercially produced or marketed during the testing period, NTEP will be notified within 30 days by the entry sponsor. At that time, the entry will be reclassified as a *Commercial* entry and the fee will become \$10,400 total for the trial. NTEP will immediately invoice the sponsor or licensee for any past entry fees. Current and future NTEP entry fees will be invoiced at \$2,000 per year. This will expire the date of the last trial data publication.

Name and address of sponsor:

 Authorized Signature

 Date