

SUBJECT: 2000 National Kentucky Bluegrass Test
TO: Cooperators
FROM: Kevin N. Morris, Executive Director
DATE: December 13, 1999

The National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) is sponsoring a Kentucky bluegrass test to be established in fall 2000 at locations across the United States and Canada. This test will be planted in 4' x 6', 5' x 5' or similar size plots with three replications. Estimated number of entries is 100.

This test will be assembled in three versions, "official", "commercial" and "consumer" tests. *Official* tests will be established by university personnel on government-owned land only. *Commercial* tests are for private cooperators; they may be established and evaluated under the direction of private institutions that have at least one entry in the commercial test. *Consumer* tests are available to university personnel and others interested in the performance of commercially available entries. Some evaluations of *official* test sites will be funded by the NTEP Grants Program, either as a grant or contract, upon request by the cooperator and the approval of the NTEP Policy Committee. Only data from official test sites will be summarized and reported by NTEP.

A "standard" evaluation would include seedling vigor or establishment ratings, leaf texture, genetic color, spring greenup, quality ratings for each month throughout the growing season and ratings for any disease or insect resistance, cold or drought tolerance, etc. that becomes evident in test plots. Grant or contract forms will be supplied to cooperators by the NTEP.

Each location will be provided \$12,000 total funding (over five years) for the standard turfgrass evaluations. In addition, proposals for specific **supplemental** evaluations of these tests will be considered for additional funding of \$2,000.00 - \$4,000.00 per year. Examples of specific evaluations could be wear tolerance, sod strength, specific disease evaluations, etc.

At this time, we are asking for interest in evaluation of *official* tests only. If you are interested in establishing this test, please complete the attached questionnaire and return to me by **January 7, 2000** (by mail or fax (301) 504-5167). Please understand that we will use the maintenance level you provide on the questionnaire as a guide and we may modify that later if you are chosen to evaluate this test.

If you have any questions concerning this test, feel free to contact me (301-504-5125 office, 301-873-6545 mobile or kmorris@asrr.arsusda.gov).

2000 NATIONAL KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS TEST (Official Test)

Questionnaire on interest in participating in a national test to evaluate Kentucky bluegrass varieties and experimental selections

1. ADDRESS

Your name _____

Institution _____

Bldg., Street _____

P. O. Box _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone No. _____ FAX No. _____

Email address _____ Date _____

2. How many locations of this test would you like to establish? _____

3. What maintenance regime do you plan for this test?

_____ " mowing height _____ lbs./Nitrogen/1000 sq. ft./year

Irrigation regime: _____ infrequent or no irrigation

_____ irrigation to prevent dormancy

_____ irrigation to prevent stress

4. Will funding be requested for this test? ____ Yes ____ No

For how many locations will funding be requested? _____

5. What other evaluations, (possibly for additional funding), would you be willing to conduct on this test? Please explain.

6. COMMENTS:

Return questionnaire to: Kevin Morris, Executive Director
(by January 7, 2000) National Turfgrass Evaluation Program
BARC-West, Bldg. 001, Room 245

or fax to: Beltsville, Maryland 20705
(301) 504-5167 (301) 504-5125 Voice