

NTEP Policy Committee Meeting Summary
July 2, 2004
Kevin Morris, NTEP Executive Director

Current NTEP Policy Committee Members:

Ms. Chris McDowell – ASTA, Lawn Seed Division	Dr. Tom Voigt, University of Illinois
Dr. Leah Brillman – Turfgrass Breeders Assoc.	Dr. David Williams, University of Kentucky
Dr. Mike Kenna – USGA Green Section Research	Dr. Gwen Stahnke, Washington State University
Dr. Clark Throssel – GCSAA Research	Dr. Jim Murphy, Rutgers University
Mr. Ike Thomas – Turfgrass Producers International	

1. NTEP Policy Committee met in Beltsville, MD on June 1-3, 2004

June 1 – visited US National Arboretum, Dr. Scott Warnke, USDA-ARS turfgrass researcher

June 2 – all day Policy Committee meeting in Beltsville

June 3 – Washington, DC

meet with lobbyist Bill Laforge

signing ceremony for Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with ARS (agree to cooperate on National Turfgrass Research Initiative)

2. Significant decisions from June Policy Committee Meeting:

- a. **Extend length of trials** – all new trials will be five years of data collection, six years between start of trials, starts with 2004 Perennial Ryegrass, will charge \$2000 for additional year of data collection
- b. **Number of official tests per location** – now limited to one official test, can also have ancillary trial, universities with breeders will continue to have trials
- c. **Rankings in Appendix Table** – will be removed from Appendix Table for 2004 data; overall mean column and % in Top 25% columns will stay
- d. **Eight subcommittees** – dealt with various issues raised during Listening Session (see attached table)
- e. **Increased site visits** – voted to hire Dr. Jeff Krans on contract basis to conduct 10-12 site visits per year, will make report (NTEP Trial Audit) and also work with cooperators on improving data collection
- f. **Standard entries** – developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) for selection of standard entries
- g. **Regional data analysis** – developed standardized regions to use for all NTEP trials when analyzing data by region
- h. **Schedule of future trials** –
Perennial Ryegrass - 2004, 2010
Kentucky Bluegrass - 2005, 2011
Tall Fescue - 2006, 2012
Bermudagrass, Buffalograss, St. Augustinegrass, and Zoysiagrass - 2007, 2013
Fine-leaf Fescue, Bentgrass Fairway, Bentgrass Putting Green - 2008, 2014
- i. **National Turfgrass Federation, Inc.** – parent organization of NTEP, will reorganize with more formal board of directors, will have two committees – NTEP Policy Committee and National Turfgrass Research Initiative Steering Committee

3. Other Items:

- a. **2004 Perennial Ryegrass Test** – adjust standard entries to fit SOP's just approved
- b. **On-Site Overseeding Trial** – Twelve golf course sites, two years (fall 2004, fall 2005)
- c. **National Turfgrass Research Initiative** – have asked Congress for twelve (12) positions at nine locations for FY05 (\$5.4 million total). Funding is to hire ARS scientists (\$300,000 each) plus grants to universities (\$150,000 for each position). Research priorities include water use efficiency, use of low quality irrigation water, germplasm and watershed quality.

Summarization of NTEP Policy Action taken in response to issues presented at Listening Session conducted on 14 February 2004 at San Diego Convention Center. Includes input from individuals that could not attend and submitted information via e-mail to the Executive Director.

Issue Raised at Listening Session	Policy Committee Action at February 2004 Meeting	Discussion/Decision made at June NTEP Policy Committee Meeting (if necessary)
More information needed on entries including genetic background, lineage, Kentucky bluegrass classification, etc.	Uncertain as to how to best achieve this -Will request input (proposal) from Turfgrass Breeders Association on best approach	No additional discussion needed
Trials needed involving saline soil/water and effluent water	Agreement - Subcommittee appointed to develop strategic plan to target trial work not currently being addressed, cost estimates of such trials will also need to be determined	A saline or effluent water trial could be initiated but depends on the interest from the seed industry in supporting. We will explore further.
Trials targeted to important pests	Agreement - Subcommittee appointed to develop strategic plan to target trial work with pathologists and entomologists, cost estimates of such trials will also need to be determined	Solicited ideas from some pathologists and entomologists. We will initiate dialogue with turf pathologists and entomologists to better cooperate with them on NTEP trials
Trials of other species currently under develop for turf but not being evaluated under NTEP, use of blind testing procedures, number of test sites per location	Subcommittee appointed to investigate these items and come up with recommendations for each	Possible new trials – seashore paspalum is the most probable. Rejected use of blind tests because of marketing needs and field day show and tell. Limited official tests to one per location.
Hardcopy reports should not be eliminated	Agreement - hardcopy report will be available (upon request) with a generic NTEP cover for a fee that covers expense of printing	NTEP will print in-house hard copies of reports. These are available upon request.
More information on management and conditions of trials needed	Agreement – more detailed information, possibly including digital images, on the trials will be made available through the website	Dr. Jeff Krans will be hired to make trial site visits. This will give us more info and improved trial management and data collection.
Seedling vigor data confounded by after-ripening dormancy factor	Agreement – 1 st rating of data for trials will be for rate of establishment rather than seedling vigor (as is already done for some species)	These changes have been made in the last few years.

Issue Raised at Listening Session	Policy Committee Action at February 2004 Meeting	Discussion/Decision made at June NTEP Policy Committee Meeting (if necessary)
Mean data for entries should be ranked based on two significant digits (i.e., one decimal point) rather than 3 or 4 significant digits	Subcommittee appointed to study and provide a recommendation to Policy Committee for consideration at June 2004 meeting	After considerable discussion, we voted to eliminate the rankings in the Appendix Table next year. The overall mean will remain.
Shorter (2-yr) screening trials needed as compliment to longer term (4-yr or more) commercial trials	Subcommittee appointed to study trial length for each species and provide a recommendation to Policy Committee for consideration at June 2004 meeting	Preliminary trials are being explored by some seed companies. We will watch their results and if there is sufficient interest, may propose preliminary trials in the future.
Report endophyte levels present in NTEP entries	NTEP will collect data from cooperators that perform such evaluations and report	No further discussion needed.
Number of entries in some trials is too large for cooperators conducting trial	NTEP will review options to keep trial size to a manageable level	No further discussion needed.
More seed industry representation is needed on NTEP Policy Committee	Issue will be an agenda item for full discussion at June 2004 meeting	Unfortunately, we missed this item and did not discuss. Will discuss at next meeting.
Time (years) of trials need to be greater; lengths of 5, 6, and 7 years suggested	Subcommittee appointed to study trial length for each species and provide a recommendation to Policy Committee for consideration at June 2004 meeting	Increased length of all trials to five years of data collection – six years between start of new trials.