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Dear Kevin,

At the beginning of a new growing season, we strive to provide the best information available anywhere on commercial turfgrass varieties and new experimental grasses. Please follow along with us this year as exciting developments and enhancements are displayed in these newsletters.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or criticisms, please feel free to forward those to us. Enjoy!

PRELIMINARY DATA AVAILABLE!

2011 data on the Web

Preliminary NTEP data from 2011 is now available on the [NTEP web site](#). This 'preliminary' data consists of turfgrass quality averages we have received thus far. As more data is provided by other locations, this will be added to our database for our final annual report of each species. Please keep in mind that this data is sorted alphabetically based on entry name, and not listed from highest to lowest quality.

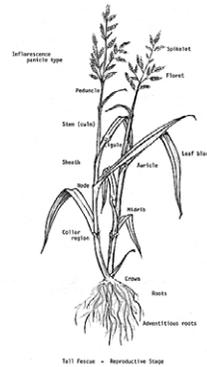


New this year is data from our latest perennial ryegrass test, seeded in 2010. More data on specific characteristics, such as drought and salt tolerance of perennial rye will be included in the final annual reports published on our web site starting in mid-late April.

NEW TALL FESCUE TRIAL

Locations determined, other details

Plans have been finalized for the 2012 National Tall Fescue Test, the entries of which will be assembled and mailed to chosen cooperators in August. We are planning on a mix of standard trials, evaluating turfgrass quality, color, texture, diseases, etc., and ancillary trials that evaluate one specific trait, such as drought or brown patch. Go [here](#) for more details on our plans.



DROUGHT TRIAL PROVIDES DATA

Images and data coming soon!

The 24 entries in the [2009 Cool-Season Drought Trial](#) were established at five locations in fall 2009/spring 2010. The locations simulated either acute (restricted irrigation and rainfall) or chronic drought (reduced irrigation), to mimic what Mother Nature can deliver in the midwestern and eastern humid regions (acute summer drought) or drier western regions (chronic annual drought) of the U.S.



Digital images from the five trial locations were to be collected over various time periods to record each entry's progression into drought dormancy and then recovery after irrigation. Significant difficulties have been experienced thus far, but we feel we are close to publishing our first images and data analysis from this trial. Keep track of our web site for this information, as well as a pending announcement on our [Facebook](#) page.

TURF EXHIBIT AT U.S. NATIONAL ARBORETUM

Exhibit to showcase turf benefits, uses

The [U. S. National Arboretum](#) is a 446 acre USDA, ARS research and education public



gardens facility three miles from the U.S. Capitol in Washington, DC. The National Arboretum is the home of many beautiful gardens and collections (below left), as well as the Capitol Columns, the original sandstone columns from the East side of the U. S. Capitol (below right). With over 500,000 visitors each year including members of Congress, the National Arboretum excels in research and education programs for young and old alike.

To highlight the benefits and uses of turf, as well as provide information on grasses, maintenance and the turf industry, the National Arboretum is planning an outdoor turf exhibit. Plans for the approximately 1.5 acre site are in the discussion stages, with a site design and plan being developed by mid-2012. Fundraising for the exhibit will take place in 2012 with the exhibit opening planned for fall 2013. The exhibit will run for three years, if sufficient funding is raised for installation and maintenance. Future details on this project will be released in this publication as well as our [Facebook](#) page.



We hope this newsletter and future issues provide some important information that you can use in your business or job. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Good luck in 2012!

Sincerely,



Kevin Morris
National Turfgrass Evaluation Program

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