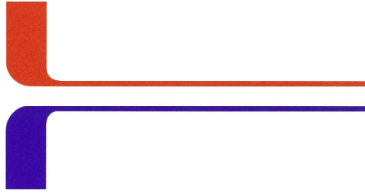


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SUBJECT: 2007 National Bermudagrass Test

TO: Seed Companies and Breeders

FROM: Kevin N. Morris, Executive Director

DATE: July 20, 2006

In spring 2007, the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) will sponsor a new national bermudagrass test. This test will be planted in 6' x 6' or similar size plots with three replications; and will be evaluated for five years. We estimate that this test will be established in 15-20 locations across the U.S.

Three test versions will be established, "official", "commercial" and "consumer". *Official* tests will be established by university personnel on government-owned or controlled land only. Evaluations of *official* test sites will be funded by NTEP, either as a grant or contract, upon request by the cooperator and the approval of the Policy Committee.

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. Companies that have at least one entry in the official test may request a set of the commercial test for evaluation as long as they are (1) members of the Turfgrass Breeders Association (TBA) and (2) allow all their entries in the official test to be included in the commercial test. If a company does not want to evaluate the commercial test, they can elect not to have their entry(s) included in the commercial test.

Consumer tests are for university personnel and others interested in the performance of commercially available varieties. Data from commercial or consumer tests will not be collected, summarized and reported by NTEP.

Seed and vegetative material will be needed at Beltsville by mid-May, 2007. Most likely, 3.5 - 4.0 lbs. (1.6 - 1.8 kg) of seed will be needed for each entry. The amount of seed needed will depend on whether the entry is included in one, two or all three (official, commercial, consumer) tests.

2007 NATIONAL BERMUDAGRASS TEST (page two)

Vegetative entries will be planted using 1.5" plugs on one-foot centers. Therefore, if sending vegetative entries, please grow 25-30 trays of plant material. Please use one-piece solid plastic trays with 3" x 3" cells, 18 cells per tray. Trays can be purchased from Paradise Plastics, 1200 W. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Plant City, FL 33563-5155, Ph. (813) 752-1155. See the trays (stock # 52134) on their web site, <http://www.paradiseplastics.com/partsstockhort.html#>. These plants should be grown in a light planting medium, i.e. Pro-Mix, Metro-Mix, etc. This plant material should be shipped via overnight or second day air to ensure good plant survival. *The cost for evaluations of either seeded or vegetative entries will be US\$10,000 per entry payable in five annual installments of \$2,000 each.*

If you have an entry or entries you would like to enter into either of these tests, please complete the attached questionnaire(s) and return to me by **September 1, 2006**. Also, complete the questionnaire(s) for any of the **commercial** tests you would like to evaluate. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me. Entry application forms, etc. will be mailed when I have more details on these tests.

Enclosures

2007 NATIONAL BERMUDAGRASS TEST

Sponsorship of Entries

1. Approximately, how many entries would you like to sponsor? _____

2. ADDRESS

Your name _____

Institution _____

Bldg., Street _____

P. O. Box _____

City, State,
Country _____

Phone No. _____ FAX No. _____

Email _____ Date _____

Return questionnaire to: Kevin Morris, Executive Director
(by September 1, 2006) National Turfgrass Evaluation Program
BARC-West, Bldg. 003, Room 217
or fax to: Beltsville, Maryland 20705
(301) 504-5167 (301) 504-5125 Voice

2007 NATIONAL BERMUDAGRASS TEST

Evaluation of Commercial Test

1. ADDRESS

Your name _____

Institution _____

Bldg., Street _____

P. O. Box _____

City, State, _____
Country _____

Phone No. _____ FAX No. _____

Email _____ Date _____

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

Return questionnaire to: Kevin Morris, Executive Director
(by September 1, 2006) National Turfgrass Evaluation Program
BARC-West, Bldg. 003, Room 217
or fax to: Beltsville, Maryland 20705
(301) 504-5167 (301) 504-5125 Voice