



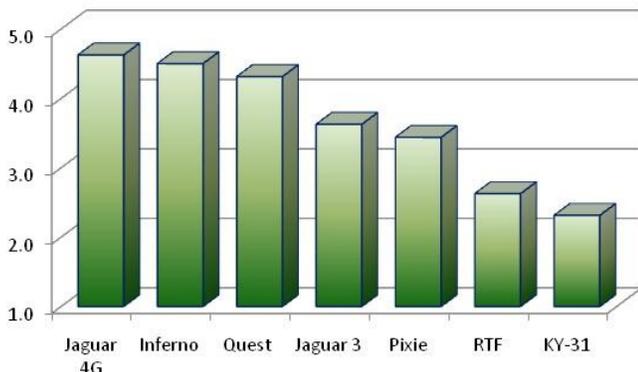
## 'Jaguar 4G' Tall Fescue

by Susan Samudio, MSc.

This month we are highlighting 'Jaguar 4G' tall fescue since its popularity just keeps climbing as more and more people ask for it by name. **Jaguar 4G** has developed a loyal following because of its consistent endurance and performance. In sod trials in Maryland and Ohio, its turf quality beat DaVinci, Cayenne, Avenger, Justice, 2<sup>nd</sup> Millennium, Padre, Falcon IV, and Finelawn Elite. Among Jacklin Seed tall fescues, **Jaguar 4G** compliments all of our top tall fescues, including **Inferno**, **Quest**, **Pixie**, **Arid 3**, and **Jaguar 3**.

**Jaguar 4G** has become popular on sod farms because it binds together well, forming a dense sod. It has a leaf width and dark color similar to **Inferno**, which has been a regular in NTEP's top 10. **Jaguar 4G** is darker green than **Pixie** and **Arid 3**. Because of its heat tolerance, **Jaguar 4G** retains good color during periods of summer heat stress. It performed well when grown in a trial on salty soil. While all entries had reduced quality due to the salinity, **Jaguar 4G** outlasted **Jaguar 3** and many other varieties. 🏆

*Jaguar 4G has outstanding density and stress tolerance, even at lower mowing heights. Jaguar 4G was bred at Jacklin Seed and is marketed in the US through a Jaguar sales group.*



Three-year turf quality averages from an unirrigated turf trial on a working sod farm near Dayton, OH. Trial was planted in 2007.

## 2010 Seed Outlook Tough Times for Seed Growers

by Glenn Jacklin

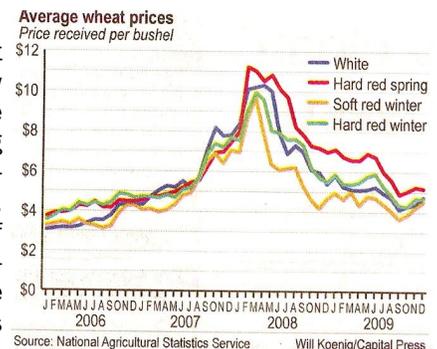
The winter in most of the Pacific Northwest was milder than normal, with little to no snow. Credit El Nino. There was only one extreme cold event in early December. That cold snap did some harm to newly planted fields, but for the most part there was no major damage to grass crops. We are behind on moisture in our dryland bluegrass producing region, however most fields went into the winter with fairly good greenup and recovery. Growers will need some timely rains this spring to produce an average crop in those non-irrigated areas.

At the present time, growers are now getting out into the fields, applying spring fertilizers and chemistry for weed control. With the condition of the economy and housing starts at all-time lows, there continues to be a strong push to growers to reduce acreage, to bring supply into alignment with demand on tall fescue, perennial ryegrass, Kentucky bluegrass, fine fescue and bentgrass.

**Tall fescue:** Acres of tall fescue continue to be reduced dramatically to try and correct the oversupply and pricing situation this species is currently in.

From 2008 to 2009, acreage was reduced 20%. We expect another 20 to 30% reduction in 2010. Older fields have been rotated out to other crops. Only the best fields have been kept in for another harvest. The 2010 crop harvest will be down, but quality will remain good.

**Perennial ryegrass:** The Willamette Valley of Oregon is the prime production area for perennial ryegrass. Once again we will see a dramatic reduction of acres in 2010. The feeling in the seed trade is that this species will be the first one to break out of the housing doldrums and begin moving. Inventories are expected to be back in **Page 2**



**Double domino effect:** In 2007 China decided to curtail fertilizer exports and retain the fertilizer for domestic use. This led to a worldwide run-up in fertilizer prices, which led to a bubble in wheat prices (above). That led to a doubling of the price farmers charge for growing turfgrass seed. This double-priced grass seed crop was harvested in 2009 at a time when homebuilding was at a 40-year low. Says Jacklin Seed's general manager, Chris Claypool: "These are hard times for both the grower and the grass seed industry."

### Harvest, continued

line with consumption by fall 2010. Look for pricing to strengthen as the year progresses.

The current perennial ryegrass crop conditions look good, but the crop is small. Seed quality should be very good, as most “quality challenged” fields have been plowed out.

Kentucky bluegrass: Bluegrass is produced on irrigated acres in the Columbia River Basin of Washington and on dryland areas of the Palouse in central Idaho. Washington acres are mainly proprietary elite bluegrasses while Idaho acres are mainly common types.

In 2009 there was a major plow-out of proprietary bluegrass acreage in the range of a 50 to 60% reduction. There was also a significant plow of dryland acreage around Spokane and Idaho, in areas producing low-end proprietaries and common types. The latter plow-out was also in the realm of 50 to 60%. Remaining fields look fair to good, however, as mentioned earlier, they are very dry. Timely rains will be needed to bring the crop to maturity. Common type, open market bluegrass inventories could become tight by spring 2011 as supply has been ratcheted back significantly and the 2009 crop yields were very low.

There were some ill-advised and irresponsible speculative plantings of open-source, low-end proprietaries that occurred from a couple production companies late in 2009. But most farmers and seed companies have been willing to do their part to reduce inventories. The remaining fields left in, all in all look good, and growers are concentrating on top quality to help move the seed.

Fine fescue: Fineleaf fescues are seeing the same scenario as the other species. Production acres are in retreat, and inventories are beginning to come back in line with consumption. The fields left in look very good. A new challenge to fine fescue is a change in the Oregon field burning laws. In the long run this law could eventually cause a fine fescue shortage.

Bentgrass: Creeping bentgrass acres have been significantly cut back in Oregon. In the US, there is a net negative total in golf course construction – in other words, more golf courses are closing than are being constructed. Therefore bent seed inventory levels are not dwindling very fast. The 2010 crop will be the smallest on record. Consumption and construction will need to pick up before we see a turnaround in this species.

In summary, it's a great year to be a grass seed consumer – prices are favorable, availability is excellent, and we may have the cleanest, most weed-free crop in history. 🚧

### **New Step-by-Step Interseeding Guide Posted to Web**

Christian Baldwin, Ph.D., Jacklin Seed's Research Scientist, has written an excellent new summary paper of everything we know to date about interseeding creeping bentgrass into existing golf course greens and fairways. The report can be downloaded from [www.jacklin.com](http://www.jacklin.com) and printed as handouts for meetings or conferences. If you have questions or would like more information, contact Christian at 800-688-7333 ext. 6102.

# 75 Years of Jacklin Seed

## Part 2: “The War Years”

by Doug Brede, Ph.D.

Following his graduation from Washington State College in 1934, Arden Jacklin worked as an agronomist for the newly formed Soil Erosion Service (SES). The SES (now called the Natural Resource Conservation Service) was an outgrowth of the dust bowl era of the 1930's. Arden worked for the SES until Pearl Harbor dumped the US into WWII. During his time with SES he experimented with forages and crop rotations to control wind and water erosion on the Palouse – a fertile region in Eastern Washington with steep undulating farmland. In his spare time, Arden set up his own retail garden and field seed store in the Spokane, WA, suburb of Dishman. He used his knowledge gained at SES to fine tune the practice of raising grass seed.

In the spring of 1942 Jacklin Seed planted its first grass seed fields in the suburb of Millwood, in the shadow of 5889-ft. Mount Spokane. Two species were established in this test planting: blue wildrye (a reclamation grass) and chewings fescue. Later in 1944 they added fields of 'Olds' creeping red fescue and some forage grasses.

The chewings fescue yielded well. After a few years of baling and hauling off the threshed straw, Karl Pauleon, a local grower, suggested they try burning the dry grass stubble after harvest. He'd seen that work in a field that was accidentally torched by a cigarette. “Seed yields increased spectacularly,” wrote Arden in his memoirs. “Open field grass burning had begun!”

By the late 1940's word reached Arden that farmer Ed Geary of Klamath Falls, OR, had successfully grown and marketed a crop of Kentucky bluegrass

seed. Arden immediately obtained seedstock from Geary and planted a production field directly adjacent to Jacklin Seed's present headquarters in Post Falls, ID. Arden also bought seedstock of the common variety 'Delta' from Canada, which was the company's first named Kentucky bluegrass product.

But it was 'Merion' Kentucky bluegrass, two years later, that really built all the buildings at Jacklin Seed. Merion was a public release of the US Golf Association and Penn State College. With demand from the WWII baby boomers, Merion became a household word and the Spokane/North Idaho area became the world's largest producer of Merion. “Growers had a heyday,” wrote Arden. Very quickly Merion “shattered the \$1 per pound price barrier for lawn seed,” and that was in the 1950's.

Merion was a low-growing selection of bluegrass straight off the #17 tee area at Merion Golf Club near Philadelphia. Arden's budding relationship with Drs. Burt Musser and Joe Duich at Penn State ensured that he was one of the first in line to get seedstock of this new elite variety. 🚧

*Arden Jacklin examining a Fylking Kentucky bluegrass seedstock field in July 1977.*

