JACKLIN SEED by Simplot

Volume 16, Issue 6
December 2013

# RESEARCH NEWSFLASH

## Introducing:
# No-Net™ Tall Fescue

by Doug Brede

After 10 years in the making, Jacklin Seed is proud to announce the release of "No-Net" tall fescue coming in 2014. No-Net is a research project aimed at eliminating the costly nylon netting used in commercial sod production of bunch grasses like tall fescue. It's a hassle for the sod grower to purchase and install, and it's a hazard for sports fields, where players' cleats catch on the net for years to come.

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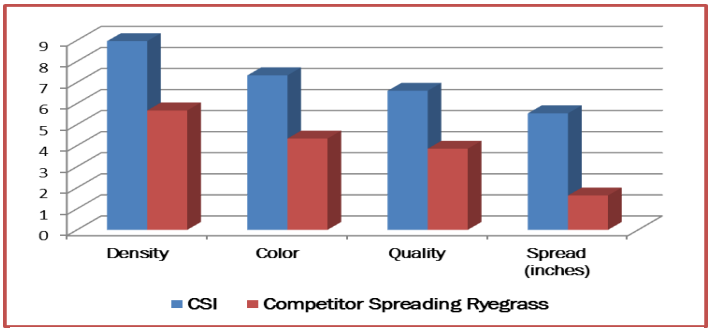
*[Above] Professor Tom Salaiz of the University of Idaho holds a 7-foot sod slice of No-Net tall fescue at The Turf Company near Boise, Idaho. A full video showing the harvesting at The Turf Company can be found at: www.YouTube.com. Locate the Jacklin channel by searching for the phrase, "Jacklin Seed Research."*
*[Below] At Biograss sod farm near Salt Lake City, Warren Bell and his crew planted a field of No-Net. The following year they cut the section shown using a tractor-mounted harvester. In the photo, you can see regrowth of tall fescue from remaining underground stems – something that never happens with a conventional tall fescue variety.*

# How Fast Does CSI Spread?

by Katie Dodson


One of the unique attributes of Jacklin's **CSI** creeping perennial ryegrass is its ability to spread, creating a dense uniform turf stand. **CSI** gets this spreading ability from the production of pseudo-stolons which are produced after it has gone through a cold period known as vernalization. One question often posed is: "**How does CSI perform compared to other spreading ryegrasses on the market today**?" Therefore we decided to examine just that.

Turf plots planted in August of 2010 in Idaho have been evaluated for the past 3 growing seasons for spring green-up, density, color and quality. This past year we noticed that the spreading type plots had spread outside their original borders into the adjacent plots. Measurements on how far they spread were taken from each direction (N,S,E,W) to determine how far the entries spread. What we found was impressive. The **CSI** plots on average had spread 5.5 inch (14 cm) outside the plot boundary in 3 years — **an average of almost 2 inches (4.7 cm) per year.** Not only did the **CSI** plots spread well; their density and quality was the highest of all the entries in the trial, and their color was superior to the competitors spreading ryegrass.




*"For a spreading ryegrass that has good color, great spreading ability, and superb density and quality think CSI."*

*No-Net, continued*

No-Net was born back in 2003 with a grass survey trip to New Zealand and Australia by Jacklin breeders. We brought back seed of tall fescue plants with a unique creeping ability not found in present-day varieties. These original plants from nature required considerable quality improvements, which took years of concentrated effort in plant nurseries, hybridizing them with state-of-the-art grass varieties.

But before we released the first pound of seed for sale, we sacrificed the entire crop of breeder seedstock for "lifting" studies on commercial sod farms in Idaho and Utah (see photos). These trials were not just small postage-stamp plots. They were large enough to allow the sod farmer to rev up his tractor-mounted Brouwer harvester and produce pallets of rolled sod. To everyone's breathless anticipation, the rolls held together through manual and mechanical handling to produce a useable pallet of sod - without nylon netting.

Because of this unique No-Net trait, strict quality control protocols had to be established for seedstock and commercial seed production fields. Jacklin plant breeders personally inspect production fields to make sure the No-Net trait is fully expressing. Any plants in the field not living up to expectations are killed and eliminated from the gene pool. It takes extra doing, but it's worth it to produce a unique quality product like No-Net.

<u>Questions and answers about No-Net:</u>

Q: How does No-Net look in a turf situation compared with a modern tall fescue variety?

A: Unlike spreading fescue varieties of the past, No-Net has not sacrificed turf quality or disease resistance for knitting ability. You will find that No-Net establishes fast, produces quality turf, and resists many troublesome summer diseases.

Q: Is No-Net strictly a sod producer product or does it have application elsewhere?

A: Obviously the No-Net name is pointed at sod producers. But remember, the sod they grow will be used on home lawns, school grounds, golf courses and other turf facilities. Wherever it's planted, the knitting ability of No-Net helps fill voids and wear areas, much like a bluegrass.

Q: Does No-Net work okay in mixtures and blends?

A: Some mixtures function better than others. Mixing No-Net with perennial ryegrass or with seed of a traditional tall fescue variety will dilute the knitting ability and may not produce "liftable" sod. On the other extreme, adding even 5% Kentucky bluegrass to No-Net improves the lifting ability and shortens the time until sod harvest. Liberator and Everest are excellent choices for mixing.


*"Creepy" tall fescue found growing down under.*

Q: How does No-Net perform on muck soils?

A: No-Net is a new product and we're still learning some of its advantages and limitations. The soils on which we have tested No-Net have been primarily alluvial silt loam in nature. That's not to say No-Net won't work on muck soils. It probably will. But try it out first on a smaller area and make up your mind.

Q: Will I be able to see a lot of visible rhizomes in No-Net like I see in bluegrass sod?

A: The rhizomes in No-Net take about 6 months to appear after seeding, which is still quicker than competing products. The number of rhizomes will depend on the density of the stand; denser turf will have fewer rhizomes by nature. But there also seems to be another factor other than rhizome count that determines the lifting ability of No-Net. We believe it is the extremely dense white root system that inter-tangles and makes lifting possible, even without nylon netting.

Q: When is the ideal time to cut and harvest No-Net sod to maximize its lifting ability?

A: Harvest time for any sod crop varies by months depending on geography, weather, soil type, planting date, and other factors. Before you plant a large field of No-Net, we recommend you plant a smaller test field and try various harvest timings to see what works best for your personal situation.

Q: What about seeding rate?

A: That's a good question, because seeding rate induces a plant density that ultimately has an effect on stand knitting. In other words, if you plant too lightly or too heavily, the plants may not knit together as effectively as at an optimum seeding rate. At Jacklin Seed's research farm in Post Falls, Idaho, studies are underway to learn the optimal seeding rate for best knitting. Until those studies are complete, I would recommend a 4 to 6 pound seeding rate per thousand square feet.

Q: When will seed of No-Net be available for sale?

A: First harvest of Blue tag quality seed is in 2014. An adequate first-year supply is anticipated. Seed samples are available right now for testing purposes. Contact your Jacklin representative.