

Seed Now Available: **'Hollywood' Bermudagrass**

by Doug Brede, Ph.D.



Hollywood bermudagrass (foreground plot) at the Oklahoma State University NTEP plots in Stillwater. Hollywood was the #1 top-quality seeded variety there in 2010.

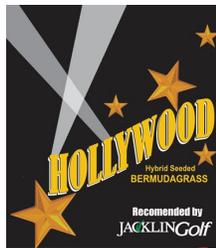
Hollywood has exceptional winter hardiness for a fine bladed, dwarf bermudagrass. Hollywood's leaf texture is similar to Princess, yet it is far more winter hardy as shown on the graph on page 2. Hollywood retains its rich dark green color well into the fall, and greens up early in the spring.

Hollywood was bred in Post Falls, Idaho (USDA climate zone 5) by Susan Samudio, who was the breeder of Jackpot, Southern Star, and Sundevil II. To instill the exceptional cold hardiness in the variety, Samudio in 2000 selected several hundred promising breeding lines and planted them in "spot plots" on the Jacklin farm and subjected them to harsh Idaho winters over a five-year period. Temperatures during that time dipped as low as -20 F. Only the strong survived. Samudio chose the finest-leaved survivors as breeder plants for Hollywood.

Seeded bermudagrass has enormous advantages over vegetative varieties, especially for *Continued p. 2*

Hollywood bermudagrass is a new, high-performance seeded bermuda variety designed to rival the quality of the sterile hybrids like Tifway 419. Hollywood has improvements in color, fine leaf texture, cold weather staying power, and disease resistance versus earlier releases, according to NTEP results (see page 2).

Hollywood is highly competitive with Riviera and Princess bermudagrass and can be substituted where you have used them in the past.



Introducing: **'Lighthouse' Slender Fescue**

by Jon Schnore, MSc.

Slender creeping red fescue is a new species to many people. It offers excellent shade and salt tolerance and promising utility for mixtures. Slender



creeping red creeping fescue is a little known subspecies of red fescue that is getting more attention from researchers. Two recent studies at the University of Minnesota have shown slender creeping red fescue's ability to tolerate salt as well as contribute to successful mixtures.

With all of its attributes, you might wonder why slender creeping red fescue is not more prevalent in the landscape. The main reason is seed yield. Slender creeping red fescue has been an unreliable yielding



species, which made it expensive and unpredictable in availability. This is where Jacklin Seed's new variety, 'Lighthouse,' comes in. It has a more stable seed yield and still

maintains good turf quality as well as the other attributes that make slender creeping red fescue a natural choice for mixtures.

Slender creeping red fescue is a subspecies of strong creeping red fescue that can be differentiated by its shorter, less aggressive rhizomes. According to Dr. James Beard, "slender creeping red fescue has excellent shade adaptation; moderate freeze stress tolerance, wear tolerance, salt tolerance and recuperative rate." Fine fescues, including chewings and slender,

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Hollywood, continued

international customers. Sprigs and vegetative material can become contaminated with local off-types, resulting in an undesirable checkerboard of textures and colors across a sports field or fairway. Seed propagation ensures easier customs movement, as well as uniform planting stock. It also opens up opportunities for additional planting methods such as hydroseeding and dormant seeding, which are not possible with sprigs.

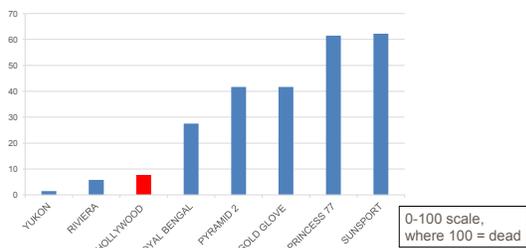
Seeded varieties also have the advantage that they are a population of plants rather than one single clone as is the case with vegetatives. When a disease hits, there are more diverse resistance genes in a seed population than in a clone.

NTEP highlights

The 2007-13 bermudagrass NTEP recently wrapped up. In the trial there were 25 seeded entries, including Hollywood. Here are some of Hollywood's performance highlights:

- **Fine leaf texture** – #5 out of 25 entries in 2011; #2 in 2010; #5 in 2009.
- **Rich genetic color** – #4 in 2011; #4 in 2007.
- **Extended fall/winter color** – #2 in 2011; #1 in October 2007.
- **Early spring greenup** – #5 in 2011; #4 in 2010; #5 in 2009.
- **Tenacious ground coverage** – #2 in summer 2011; #4 in fall 2011.
- **Wear tolerant** – #7 in spring wear recovery in Florida; #7 in traffic recovery in Arkansas.
- **Winter hardy** – #3 in least winterkill in 2010.
- **Fewest seedheads in the turf** – #3 in least seedheads in Mississippi in 2010.
- **Disease resistance** – #1 in spring dead spot resistance in North Carolina in 2010; #1 in spring dead spot resistance in 2011.
- **Overall turf quality** – #2 in Georgia in 2011; #2 in Tennessee in 2011; #1 in Oklahoma in 2010; and among the top 10 in Arizona, Kentucky, Missouri, Texas, Louisiana, and Virginia.

% Winterkill



* Full table at: [www.ntep.org/2007 National BermudagrassTest, 2007-2012](http://www.ntep.org/2007%20National%20BermudagrassTest,%202007-2012)
Data, Final Report NTEP No. 13-10, Table 37B from 2 locations



Winter injury from cold exposure at 2 test sites in the bermudagrass NTEP trial. Larger numbers indicate more winter injury.

Lighthouse, continued

are grown with bentgrass in both roughs and fairways at some of the oldest courses in Scotland.

In a recent study at the University of Minnesota, 74 turfgrass cultivars from 14 species were placed in a salt bath and grown for 2 weeks. Digital images were collected and analyzed for percent green using custom computer software. At the 24 dS/m salt level (1/2 seawater strength), the slender creeping red fescues performed as well as alkaligrass, which is known for its extreme salt tolerance.

In a second study at Minnesota, researchers looked at the effects of differing proportions of nine species within roadside mixtures. The mixtures were determined using 3 to 6 species, each constituting no more than 40% of the mixture. They were planted on two different roadsides in Minnesota. Ground cover was determined by the use of custom computer software. At the conclusion of the study, the top four mixtures all contained slender creeping red fescue.

The message from these studies is that slender creeping red fescue as a species is one of the most salt tolerant cool-season turfgrasses on the market. The second point is that this tolerance is not just present in greenhouse experiments, but can also be translated to use in mixtures in the real world.



The famous course at St. Andrews, Scotland, is where golf originated. The grass on the course is comprised of native plant species adapted to the harsh, coastal conditions. The natural mixture contains many fine fescues, including slender creeping red fescue due to its tolerance of salty spray off the sea.

[below] A typical spaced plant of Lighthouse slender creeping red fescue after one year's growth in the field, originating from a single seed. Lighthouse is a new cultivar from Jacklin Seed debuting in 2015. Unlike earlier slender fescue releases, Lighthouse has a reliable seed yield profile which makes it predictable in the marketplace.

