



### Verifying the Mixture Ratios in Jacklin's Scottish Links™

by Jon Schnore



*Schnore examines species ratio differences in his Idaho plots*

At Jacklin Seed we are never content to just sit on our hands. We are always looking for ways to improve even products that are at the top of their class like **Jacklin's Scottish Links** fine fescue blend.

**Jacklin's Scottish Links** is our proprietary blend of fine fescue species. It has been used on top-rated golf courses the world over. Our agronomic formulation has continually evolved throughout the years for golf courses wanting the "links look" in their roughs along with

a fine delicate appearance and reduced maintenance inputs. Today, **Jacklin's Scottish Links** is the biggest selling fine fescue blend for roughs.

In 2009 we planted field studies to verify the mixture ratios in **Jacklin's Scottish Links**. We took the original blend and made several variations of it. Each variation involved increasing the percentage of one or two components to see what effect it had. We planted them in two trials.

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Composition

|                         | Play-ability | Aesthetics | Recovery from scalp | Mowing quality |
|-------------------------|--------------|------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Original Scottish Links | Blue         | Green      | Yellow              | Green          |
| Heavier chewings        | Blue         | Green      | Yellow              | Yellow         |
| Heavier creeping red    | Orange       | Blue       | Blue                | Orange         |
| Heavier hard/sheep      | Blue         | Blue       | Blue                | Yellow         |
| Heavier hard            | Green        | Blue       | Green               | Blue           |
| Heavier sheep           | Blue         | Yellow     | Blue                | Blue           |

*Data from the first two growing seasons (green=best, blue=good, yellow=medium, orange=fair). The original Jacklin's Scottish Links formulation had the highest mowed performance of the blends tested. It also had the highest aesthetics rating for unmowed turf. Playability was our term for how easy it was to find and play a golf ball within the plot when dropped from waist height.*

### Spring 2012 Crop Report

by Glenn Jacklin & Rick Dunham

Winter in the Pacific Northwest has come and gone, and for the most part it was a pretty mild one. Moisture in some areas of our dryland Kentucky bluegrass production areas is marginal and we will need some timely rains this spring. But for the most part, all production areas seem to have weathered the storm so to speak. Here's what to expect by species for 2012:



*Bluegrass seed harvest in Idaho*

**Kentucky bluegrass:** New seedings of proprietary bluegrasses were planted late due to delayed harvest of proceeding crops, so going into winter they were a little small. The open, warmer-than-normal winter allowed them to grow a little longer in the fall, and by all accounts they look average. Acres are still down as inventories clean up, and production companies struggle to get all their needs in the ground. Competing crops are yielding higher returns to the farmer than grass.

Public common Kentucky bluegrass seed will become tight as we roll into fall. Low end common-type proprietaries will be in adequate supply. High-end elite proprietaries will tighten up going into fall 2012 and spring 2013. Look for pricing to strengthen due to tight supplies. Other species in short supply will be pulling bluegrass along.

**Tall fescue:** Inventory carryover of tall fescue is pretty much cleaned up. Pricing has strengthened, and with few acres planted in spring of 2011, look for pricing to stay firm and inventories to be tight.

The crop came through the winter in good shape, with the exception of fall plantings, which seem to have suffered damage from frost heaving. With other commodity prices favorable, growers are controlling the urge to plant more grass, and this will bode well for the trade as a whole.

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### Scottish Links, continued

One was mowed as turf at 1½ inch. The other was maintained like a golf course outer rough, mowed once per year. Both trials were important because of the many uses people make of our **Scottish Links** blend.

### Results

The results of the two trials were interesting but similar. Our traditional **Jacklin's Scottish Links** blend had the highest turf quality when maintained at 1½ inches. It also had the best aesthetic rating when maintained as unmown rough.



As we expected, we found that too much red fescue in the mixture decreases playability and mowed turf quality. Since red fescue is the least expensive of the various fine fescues, some other seed companies increase that component in their mixtures as a cost savings. We do not do that with **Jacklin's Scottish Links** because our focus is on turf performance.

We plan to continue monitoring these two studies over the next two years and take a series of photographs illustrating plot differences. 🌱

### Seed report, continued

**Perennial ryegrass:** Slugs, slugs and more slugs. The major production area in Oregon is under attack this winter from slugs, wiping out large areas in fields.

There was a fair amount of acreage planted in fall 2011, but due to firm commodity prices, dealers weren't successful in getting all their planting needs met. Pricing has strengthened as supplies are in check, so look for firm pricing as we go into what looks to be an average crop. Supply and demand are in check with each other.

**Fine leaf fescues:** Supplies are beginning to really tighten up on fine leaf fescues, as very few acres were planted in 2011. Like other species, high commodity pricing has left growers with more lucrative crops.



*A seedstock production field of JT-708 tall fescue located in Moses Lake, Washington, in November 2011. Note that the grower had gotten a good kill on the broadleaf weeds in this field.*

Acres of Canadian creeper, hard and sheep fescues look fair coming out of winter, however they are short. Look for inventories to tighten and pricing to remain firm or strengthen.

**Bentgrass:** Inventories are beginning to dwindle, but with few golf courses being built, usage is minimal. Few acres are in the ground for 2012 crop and there will be very little planted as we roll into spring planting season. By 2013, look for this species to begin a price recovery and inventory stability.

**Bermudagrass:** Seeded bermuda is in very short supply and most producers are not even quoting for spring 2012 shipment. The price of bermuda hay has many growers taking their fields as hay instead of a seed crop. In addition, many acres in the primary production area were sold to a solar power company and fields are being taken out of seed production to install solar panels. Lastly, with the value of water, growers are being paid to sell their water rights and not use it for irrigation. Water can be sold elsewhere at higher prices.

**Zoysia:** Zoysia seed production is small with very few players. Very little seed is available and there won't be more until new crop in the fall of 2012.

**Low maintenance grasses:** The drought last year in Texas where southern native species are produced was a complete bust for seed farmers. Prices on these species sky rocketed and most are not available, or very limited. With the shortage of the southern types, this has put pressure on the northern natives and kept prices up and availability low. This will continue until November 2012 when new crop becomes available, provided mother nature does not curse us with another disaster. 🌱

## **New Jacklin Ryegrasses Excel in NTEP**

After two years of testing and anticipation, two new Jacklin Seed varieties are showing excellent quality in the first data from the new perennial ryegrass NTEP trial. JR-178 is a joint project between Jacklin Seed and Rutgers to develop a superior gray leaf spot resistant variety. Preliminary results indicate that JR-178 will likely place in the top 10 of new varieties.

JR-192 is a new Jacklin variety bred for wear tolerance and disease resistance in the Transition zone. Both varieties will be named and be available in commercial quantities in fall 2012. 🌱

