



JACKLIN[®] S E E D

by **Simplot**

Research Newsletter

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Certified Midnight Seed: Know What You're Buying!

Midnight Kentucky bluegrass hit the market in the early 1980's, and it is still one of the best bluegrass varieties for elite turf quality. Its excellent summer performance keeps it rated at the top in the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP). Since the Plant Variety Protection (PVP) certificate on Midnight expired years ago, you might think any seed company or farmer could produce it, but that is only partially true. In fact, Jacklin Seed is the only company in the world that can produce true certified Blue tagged Midnight seed. If someone is trying to sell you uncertified Midnight, beware. The seed in the bag is not the dark green, compact, elite summer performing turf you are looking for. Here's why:

First, Jacklin Seed controls the seed stock production of Midnight Kentucky bluegrass. All "certified" seed produced must come from this original seedstock. If it doesn't, then it is not eligible to be grown as certified Midnight seed.

Second, Midnight is not a high seed-yielder in production, so there is no such thing as cheap Midnight.



It is possible, due to the expired PVP, for anyone to buy bags of certified Midnight seed and plant a field, but growing uncertified Midnight this *(continued, p. 2)*

Did you see our grass?



Scottish Links covers the hillside below the clubhouse at Erin Hills. (Photo courtesy of Mark Grundman)

Leading up to the U.S. Open at Erin Hills in June, much of the talk focused on the tall, flowing, red and gold colored fescue roughs. The roughs, planted to Jacklin's **Scottish Links** fine fescue mix, made news before the tournament began when golfer Kevin Na posted a [video](#) demonstrating the difficulty of shooting a ball out of the tall rough. According to a June 18, 2017 article on GolfDigest.com, there was a lot of collective concern among players about the deep roughs at Erin Hills, and the USGA even cut some of the roughs back prior to the event.

With all the discussion about the **Scottish Links** roughs, is it possible to determine the effect the dense roughs had on play? The GolfDigest.com article mentions a USGA statistic used to determine the impact that balls hit into the roughs has on play, called "cost of rough." *(continued, p. 2)*

Cost of Rough, continued

The article goes on to state that the cost of rough at a typical U.S. Open is between .45 and .55 stroke, but the cost of rough at Erin Hills for the U.S. Open was .601. This is 50% higher than the previous year at Oakmont. Despite the high cost of rough, the number of under-par scores was a near record high for a U.S. Open. The lesson of Erin Hills? Don't miss the fairway!

Stachura, Mike. "Rough Estimate: The real effects of Erin Hills' tall grass." *Golf Digest*, 18 June 2017, www.golfdigest.com/story/rough-estimate-the-real-effects-of-erin-hills-tall-grass. Accessed 26 Sept. 2017.



Jacklin's Scottish Links in the rough at Erin Hills, host of the 2017 U.S. Open. (Photo courtesy of Mark Grundman)

Scottish Links is a proprietary mix of fine fescues including hard fescue, sheep fescue, creeping red fescue, and Chewings fescue. Fine fescues are known for their low maintenance, yet aesthetically pleasing look. The Scottish Links mix adapts well to the harsh conditions of bunker faces and roughs, but is also a good choice in low maintenance parks, roadsides, or home lawns. It can be maintained at heights from 1.5 in. (4 cm), to unmown. 🌿



A Jacklin Seed Midnight Foundation seed field nearing maturity in 2016. All Certified Midnight seed comes from the seedstock grown by Jacklin Seed in a Foundation field like this one.

Midnight, continued

way doesn't improve the yield. The grower can't sell the seed at a lower price unless the bag also has low-quality filler seed in it. Chances are, if you have seen uncertified Midnight sold at a bargain price then it is not true Midnight.

Jacklin Seed also owns the rights to the Midnight logo, so if the Midnight bag does not look like the old logo you are familiar with, then it is probably a low-end bluegrass masquerading as Midnight. Send us the lot number if you want to be sure that what you bought is really Midnight. 🌿

Trivia: When was the first golf course built in the United States?

1884 in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. The Oakhurst Golf Club, still in use today, was built by Russell Montague after he learned about golf in Scotland. The rules of play at the time were written on the scorecards and read:

1. Play the stymie rule.
2. If the ball breaks during play, play the largest piece until holed out.
3. If the ball lands in sheep castings you are allowed a free drop.

From Wikipedia, Timeline of Golf https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_golf_history_%281851%E2%80%931945%29



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