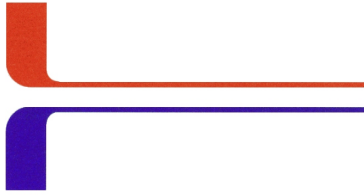


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SUBJECT: 2007 National Bermudagrass Test
TO: Seed Companies and Breeders
FROM: Kevin N. Morris, NTEP Executive Director
DATE: March 5, 2007

Plans have been finalized for the upcoming national bermudagrass test sponsored by the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP). Three tests will be assembled - an *official* test to go to university personnel to be established on government-owned land only, a *commercial* test to go to commercial companies for their use only and a *consumer* test available to university personnel and others interested in the performance of commercially available entries. Companies that have at least one entry in the official test may request a set of the commercial test for evaluation as long as they are (1) members of the Turfgrass Breeders Association (TBA) and (2) allow **all** their entry(s) in the official test to be included in the commercial test. If a company does not want to evaluate the commercial test, they can elect not to have their entry(s) included in the commercial test. Please note that the NTEP will collect, summarize and disseminate data only from *official* tests. Data collected on the *commercial* and *consumer* tests will **not** be summarized and published by NTEP.

The following gives the details concerning this test. Please complete the enclosed Test Entry Application Form and Sponsorship Agreement for each entry you wish to submit. The first payment for testing is due when the seed is shipped to us. Please make checks payable to the "National Turfgrass Evaluation Program" in \$US only.

This test will be evaluated for five years at sixteen *official (standard)* test locations across the United States, as well as being tested for salinity tolerance, sod strength, spring dead spot and traffic. This trial will use the two maintenance regimes (see attached spreadsheet). The regimes correspond either to maintenance commonly found on a fairway/tee or an athletic field/intensively managed lawn.

Plot size will be 36 sq. ft. (6' x 6' or similar size) replicated three times and the seeding rate will be 16 grams per plot (1 lb./1000 sq. ft.). Therefore, we will need the following amounts of seed:

- Inclusion in the *official* test only - **2.5** lbs. (1.13 kg) of seed of each entry
- Inclusion in both *official* and *commercial* tests - **3.0** lbs. (1.36 kg) of seed of each entry
- Inclusion in both *official* and *consumer* tests - **3.0** lbs. (1.36 kg) of seed of each entry
- Inclusion in the *official*, *commercial* and *consumer* tests - **3.0** lbs. (1.36 kg) of seed of each entry

Vegetative entries will be planted using 1.5" plugs on one-foot centers. Therefore, if sending vegetative entries, please forward *twenty-five* (25) one-piece plastic trays (3" x 3" cells, 18 cells per tray) of plant material for each entry. Trays can be purchased from Paradise Plastics, P. O. Drawer Y, Plant City, FL 33564, Ph. (813) 752-1155. These plants should be grown in a light planting medium, i.e. Pro-Mix, Metro-Mix, etc. This plant material should be shipped via overnight or second day air to ensure good plant survival.

2007 National Bermudagrass Test (continued)

The entry fee structure for this test is the following:

**All
entries**

\$2,000.00 each entry - when seed or plant material is sent to us
\$2,000.00 each entry - on or before June 1, 2008
\$2,000.00 each entry - on or before June 1, 2009
\$2,000.00 each entry - on or before June 1, 2010
\$2,000.00 each entry - on or before June 1, 2011
\$10,000.00 total

The following are guidelines for sending seed or plant material for this test:

- a. Seed or plant material must be received at Beltsville, MD by May 18, 2007.
- b. Seed or plant material received after May 18, 2007 but by May 25, 2007 can be included in this test but a **double (2x)** entry fee will be charged.
- c. Seed or plant material received after May 25, 2007 will **not** be included in this test.
- d. The entire requested amount of seed or plant material is needed for an entry to be included into this test. Entries that are received with less than the requested amount of seed will **not** be included in this test.

Therefore, we encourage good planning in preparing and shipping entries on or before the May 18th deadline. Please do not send seed treated with a pesticide. Treated seed will **not** be accepted by the NTEP. Also, please make sure seed is prepaid for shipping charges to Beltsville, MD. The NTEP will **not** pay any additional shipping fees to forward seed to Beltsville.

Please forward all *payments* and completed *application forms* to:

Kevin Morris, Executive Director
National Turfgrass Evaluation Program
Beltsville Agricultural Research Center-West
Building 003, Room 217
Beltsville, Maryland 20705 USA

Please forward all *seed* and *plant material* to:

Kevin Morris, Executive Director
National Turfgrass Evaluation Program
Beltsville Agricultural Research Center-West
Building 046A
Beltsville, Maryland 20705 USA

If any of the above information is unclear, or if you have a question about any aspect of this test, feel free to contact me by phone (301-504-5125), fax (301-504-5167), mobile (301-873-6545) or via email (kmorris@ntep.org). Thanks for your continued cooperation with the NTEP.

Enclosures

2007 National Bermudagrass Test

TEST ENTRY APPLICATION FORM

(Please complete one for each entry)

Required Information:

1. Variety name or experimental designation _____

2. Genus and species name _____

3. All previous name(s) or experimental designation(s) this entry has been tested under _____

4. Genetic structure, i.e. single plant selection, number of parental clones, composite cross, open pollinated, etc.

5. Is this variety in commercial production? _____ If not, what are the prospects of it being made available in the United States in two or three years? _____

6. For seeded types, has seed been treated with a pesticide? _____
Treated seed will not be accepted.

7. Name and address of organization sponsoring this entry and contact person

8. Besides the official test, in which test should this grass be entered?
Commercial _____ Consumer _____. If a company wants to receive a set of the commercial test to evaluate, they must allow their entry(s) to be included in the commercial test.

TEST ENTRY APPLICATION FORM (continued)

Suggested Information:

1. What is the origin of the entry? _____

2. Seed Quality (SEEDED ENTRIES ONLY):

- a. Seed lot number _____
- b. Year of production _____
- c. Location of production _____
- d. Purity _____
- e. Germination percent _____ Test date _____
- f. Noxious and objectionable weed or other crop present _____

3. Description of entry (merits or limitations) _____

The NTEP reserves the right to reject any entry submitted for testing based on:

- a. Completeness of information supplied
- b. Seed or plant material quality, quantity, or presence of pesticide treatment
- c. Failure to pay entry fee(s)

2007 National Bermudagrass Test

SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENT

(Please complete one for each entry)

We _____ agree to pay the entry fee for
 sponsor

_____ to be included in the 2007 National
 entry name or code

Bermudagrass Test.

Payment will be made to the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program as follows:

 All
 entries

\$2,000.00	-	when seed or plant material is sent to us
\$2,000.00	-	on or before June 1, 2008
\$2,000.00	-	on or before June 1, 2009
\$2,000.00	-	on or before June 1, 2010
<u>\$2,000.00</u>	-	on or before June 1, 2011
\$10,000.00	total	

Name and address of sponsor:

Authorized Signature

Date