

## Results of Regional Kentucky Bluegrass Cultivar Trials

*Nick E. Christians and James R. Dickson*

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has sponsored several regional Kentucky bluegrass cultivar trials conducted at most of the northern agricultural experiment stations.

Two trials were underway at Iowa State University during the 1996 season. The first, a high-maintenance study, was established in 1995, and received 4 lb N/1000 ft<sup>2</sup>/yr, and is irrigated as needed. The second trial was established in 1995 and received 1 lb N/1000 ft<sup>2</sup>/yr in September but was non-irrigated. They are mowed at two inches. The objective of the high-maintenance study was to investigate cultivar performance under a cultural regime similar to that used on irrigated home lawns in Iowa. The objective of the second study was to evaluate cultivars under conditions similar to those maintained in a park or school ground.

The values listed under each month in Tables 1 and 2 are the averages of visual quality ratings made on three replicated plots for the two studies. Visual quality was based on a 9 to 1 scale: 9 = best quality, 6 = lowest acceptable quality, and 1 = poorest quality. Yearly means of monthly data were taken and are listed in the last column. The first cultivar received the highest average rating for the entire 1996 season. The cultivars are listed in descending order of average quality.

Data for genetic color (Gcol), spring green-up (Grn), leaf texture (Leaf), and percentage spring ground cover (Scov) also are included for the high-maintenance, irrigated trial and the low-maintenance trial.

**Table 1.** The 1996 ratings for the 1995 high-maintenance, irrigated Kentucky bluegrass trial.

Cultivar	Gcol	Grn	Leaf	Scov	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Mean
1 Blacksburg	6.0	6.3	8.0	56.7	6.0	7.7	8.0	7.0	7.3	7.7	7.3
2 H86-690	8.0	6.0	7.3	60.0	6.3	8.0	7.0	7.3	7.7	7.3	7.3
3 ZPS-2572	6.0	5.3	7.0	53.3	5.7	7.7	7.7	7.3	7.7	7.7	7.3
4 PST-B2-42	7.3	5.7	7.0	56.7	5.7	7.7	7.3	7.3	7.3	8.0	7.2
5 Award	7.3	5.3	6.7	46.7	5.0	7.3	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.3	7.1
6 Limousine	6.7	5.7	7.3	60.0	6.7	8.0	6.7	6.3	7.0	6.7	6.9
7 MED-1497	7.0	6.0	5.7	43.3	4.0	7.7	7.3	7.7	8.0	7.0	6.9
8 BAR VB 3115B	5.7	5.3	7.3	66.7	6.7	8.0	5.7	6.7	7.0	6.7	6.8
9 Unique	6.3	5.3	6.7	53.3	5.7	7.7	7.0	6.7	7.0	7.0	6.8
10 Baron	6.7	5.3	6.3	56.7	6.3	7.0	6.7	6.7	6.7	7.0	6.7
11 Haga	6.7	5.7	6.7	63.3	6.7	8.0	6.0	6.3	6.7	6.7	6.7
12 PST-BO-141	7.7	6.3	6.0	40.0	4.7	7.3	6.7	6.7	7.0	7.7	6.7
13 Baronie	5.7	5.3	6.3	50.0	5.0	7.7	6.3	7.0	6.7	6.7	6.6
14 Challenger	6.7	5.3	6.7	36.7	4.3	6.0	7.0	7.3	7.0	7.3	6.5
15 Midnight	6.7	5.7	7.0	33.3	4.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.7	7.3	6.5
16 BAR VB 233	6.0	6.0	7.0	53.3	5.0	7.7	6.7	6.3	6.7	6.3	6.4
17 Ba 73-373	7.0	6.0	6.0	46.7	5.7	7.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.4
18 Bartitia	6.0	6.3	7.3	43.3	5.0	6.7	6.3	6.7	7.0	7.0	6.4
19 Caliber	6.3	5.7	6.3	60.0	6.7	7.3	6.3	5.7	6.0	6.3	6.4
20 Classic	6.7	5.7	6.7	50.0	6.0	7.7	5.7	5.7	6.3	7.3	6.4
21 LKB-95	5.0	5.3	8.0	56.7	6.0	7.7	6.3	5.7	6.3	6.3	6.4

	Cultivar	Gcol	Grn	Leaf	Scov	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Mean
22	Shamrock	6.7	6.0	6.7	40.0	4.7	6.3	6.7	6.7	7.0	7.0	6.4
23	Coventry	7.3	5.7	5.3	36.7	4.0	6.0	7.0	7.0	6.7	7.3	6.3
24	J-1567	7.0	5.3	6.3	36.7	5.0	7.0	6.3	6.7	6.3	6.7	6.3
25	A88-744	7.7	5.0	6.0	36.7	5.7	5.7	6.0	6.0	7.0	7.0	6.2
26	Ba 81-220	6.3	6.3	6.3	36.7	4.7	6.7	6.0	6.0	7.0	6.7	6.2
27	Ba 81-270	6.3	5.3	5.7	40.0	4.7	6.3	6.0	6.3	6.7	7.0	6.2
28	NuStar	6.3	5.7	7.0	36.7	5.3	6.7	6.0	5.7	6.3	7.3	6.2
29	Raven	7.3	4.7	6.3	43.3	5.3	6.3	6.7	6.7	6.0	6.3	6.2
30	TCR-1738	7.3	5.0	6.7	33.3	4.3	5.3	6.7	6.7	7.0	7.0	6.2
31	ZPS-2183	6.7	5.0	7.0	43.3	4.7	6.7	6.7	6.0	6.3	6.7	6.2
32	Abbey	7.0	6.3	6.3	53.3	5.3	6.7	6.7	5.7	6.0	6.3	6.1
33	Ba 70-060	6.7	5.3	6.0	33.3	4.7	6.3	6.7	5.7	6.3	6.7	6.1
34	Ba 81-058	6.7	5.3	6.3	36.7	4.7	6.0	6.3	6.0	6.7	7.0	6.1
35	J-1936	7.3	6.0	6.0	30.0	4.3	6.0	6.3	6.3	6.7	6.7	6.1
36	Jefferson	7.3	5.0	7.0	40.0	5.0	6.3	6.0	6.0	6.3	7.0	6.1
37	MED-1991	7.0	6.0	7.0	40.0	4.7	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.7	6.1
38	Nimbus	5.7	6.0	7.7	40.0	4.7	7.0	6.3	6.0	6.7	5.7	6.1
39	Pick 8	7.0	5.3	6.0	40.0	4.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.7	6.1
40	NuGlade	7.3	5.3	6.3	33.3	4.3	5.0	7.0	6.7	6.7	7.0	6.0
41	Platini	6.0	5.3	6.7	40.0	5.7	6.0	6.0	6.5	7.0	6.0	6.0
42	BAR VB 6820	7.0	6.0	7.7	33.3	3.7	6.3	6.7	6.0	6.3	6.3	5.9
43	Ba 79-260	7.3	5.0	6.3	46.7	4.7	6.0	6.7	5.3	5.7	7.3	5.9
44	Ba 81-113	6.7	5.7	6.7	40.0	4.7	7.0	6.3	5.7	6.0	6.0	5.9
45	Ba 87-102	6.7	6.0	6.3	36.7	4.3	6.3	7.0	5.7	6.0	6.3	5.9
46	Chateau	6.0	6.0	5.7	30.0	4.3	5.3	6.0	6.3	7.0	6.7	5.9
47	MED-1580	6.7	6.0	6.3	36.7	4.3	6.7	6.7	5.3	6.0	6.3	5.9
48	NJ 1190	5.7	6.0	7.3	30.0	3.7	6.0	7.0	6.3	6.3	6.3	5.9
49	PST-638	8.0	6.0	6.0	33.3	4.3	5.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.7	5.9
50	J-1576	6.7	5.7	6.7	30.0	3.7	6.3	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.7	5.8
51	J-2579	6.7	5.3	7.7	30.0	3.7	5.7	6.3	6.0	6.3	6.7	5.8
52	Kenblue	6.3	5.7	8.0	56.7	5.7	6.7	5.0	5.3	6.0	6.3	5.8
53	Marquis	7.0	5.3	6.0	36.7	4.3	6.0	7.0	5.3	5.7	6.3	5.8
54	NJ-54	6.3	6.3	6.3	26.7	4.0	6.0	7.0	5.3	6.3	6.3	5.8
55	Princeton 105	7.0	6.0	6.7	30.0	4.0	5.3	8.0	5.7	6.0	7.0	5.8
56	SRX 2205	6.7	6.0	8.3	43.3	4.7	6.3	6.3	5.7	5.7	6.3	5.8
57	ZPS-309	5.7	5.3	6.7	40.0	3.7	6.0	7.0	6.0	6.3	6.0	5.8
58	America	7.7	6.3	7.3	30.0	4.3	6.0	6.0	5.3	5.7	7.0	5.7
59	Ascot	7.0	5.3	6.0	26.7	4.0	6.0	7.5	6.5	6.0	6.0	5.7
60	Ba 75-490	6.7	5.7	5.7	30.0	3.7	5.3	5.7	6.0	6.0	7.3	5.7
61	J-1561	7.3	5.3	6.7	36.7	4.0	5.7	7.5	5.7	6.0	6.7	5.7
62	PST-A7-245A	6.3	5.7	5.7	30.0	3.7	5.7	6.3	5.7	6.0	7.0	5.7
63	PST-A7-60	6.7	5.3	7.0	30.0	4.0	5.7	6.0	5.7	6.0	6.7	5.7

	Cultivar	Geol	Grn	Leaf	Scov	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Mean
64	PST-B3-180	7.0	5.3	7.0	23.3	3.3	4.3	6.7	6.0	6.7	7.3	5.7
65	Ba 76-197	6.3	5.3	6.3	23.3	3.7	5.3	5.7	5.7	6.7	6.7	5.6
66	HV 130	7.0	6.0	6.0	26.7	3.7	5.7	6.3	5.3	5.7	6.7	5.6
67	J-2582	6.3	5.0	6.3	30.0	3.7	5.0	6.7	5.7	5.7	6.7	5.6
68	Livingston	6.3	5.7	6.3	26.7	3.3	5.3	5.0	6.0	6.3	7.3	5.6
69	MED-18	6.7	5.3	6.3	30.0	3.0	5.3	5.7	6.0	6.3	7.0	5.6
70	PST-BO-165	6.7	5.7	5.7	33.3	4.0	6.0	5.7	5.3	5.7	6.7	5.6
71	Pick-3561	6.0	5.3	7.0	33.3	3.3	5.3	7.0	5.7	6.3	6.0	5.6
72	SR 2100	8.0	5.7	5.0	30.0	3.7	5.0	6.7	5.3	5.7	7.3	5.6
73	Wildwood	7.0	5.3	7.0	36.7	5.3	6.0	5.3	5.3	5.7	6.0	5.6
74	Glade	7.0	6.0	7.0	23.3	3.0	5.3	6.0	5.7	6.0	7.0	5.5
75	NJ-GD	7.0	6.0	6.3	30.0	4.0	5.3	5.0	6.0	6.3	6.3	5.5
76	Sodnet	7.0	5.7	6.7	30.0	3.7	5.7	5.3	5.7	6.7	6.0	5.5
77	BAR VB 5649	6.3	5.7	6.3	33.3	4.0	6.0	5.3	5.7	5.7	6.0	5.4
78	Baruzo	6.7	5.3	7.7	33.3	4.0	6.3	5.3	5.3	6.0	5.3	5.4
79	Fortuna	7.0	5.3	7.0	26.7	3.7	4.7	6.7	5.3	5.7	6.3	5.4
80	LTP-621	6.0	6.0	6.0	23.3	3.0	4.7	7.0	5.7	6.0	7.7	5.4
81	SR 2000	7.3	5.7	5.3	20.0	3.0	4.7	5.7	5.7	6.0	7.3	5.4
82	Sidekick	7.0	6.0	5.7	30.0	4.0	4.3	6.0	5.3	6.3	6.7	5.4
83	Allure	6.7	6.3	5.0	26.7	3.3	5.3	6.5	7.5	6.3	6.5	5.3
84	PST-P46	7.3	5.3	6.7	20.0	3.0	4.7	6.0	5.7	6.3	6.0	5.3
85	Ba 75-173	7.0	6.0	6.3	26.7	3.3	5.0	6.5	5.0	5.7	6.7	5.2
86	Ba 81-227	6.7	5.7	5.7	23.3	3.3	4.7	6.0	5.0	5.3	7.0	5.2
87	HV 242	6.7	5.7	7.0	20.0	3.3	4.7	6.0	6.0	6.3	5.7	5.2
88	Ba 76-372	7.3	5.7	5.0	20.0	3.7	4.3	5.0	5.0	5.7	6.7	5.1
89	Conni	6.0	5.7	7.3	23.3	3.3	4.0	6.0	5.3	5.3	6.3	5.1
90	Eclipse	6.7	5.3	6.0	23.3	3.7	4.7	6.0	4.7	5.7	6.7	5.1
91	J-1555	7.0	6.3	6.7	23.3	3.3	5.0	6.0	5.0	5.7	6.3	5.1
92	Cardiff	6.7	5.3	6.3	26.7	2.7	5.0	5.0	5.3	6.0	6.3	5.0
93	Compact	5.3	5.3	5.0	16.7	3.3	4.3	5.5	5.3	5.7	5.7	4.9
94	Pic-855	7.0	5.3	6.3	26.7	3.3	4.7	4.7	5.0	6.0	6.0	4.9
95	VB 16015	8.0	5.3	6.0	33.3	3.7	4.3	5.7	4.7	5.3	5.7	4.9
96	Ba 77-702	7.0	4.7	5.7	20.0	2.7	4.0	6.5	4.7	5.3	6.3	4.8
97	Lipoa	7.7	5.7	8.0	30.0	3.3	5.0	5.7	4.3	5.0	5.7	4.8
98	SR 2109	6.7	6.0	6.0	16.7	3.0	4.0	4.5	6.0	5.7	6.3	4.8
99	Ba 75-163	7.7	5.3	5.3	16.7	2.3	3.7	4.3	5.0	5.3	6.7	4.6
100	DP 37-192	6.7	5.3	7.0	33.3	3.0	4.7	5.0	4.7	5.7	4.7	4.6
101	LTP-620	6.7	5.0	5.3	16.7	3.0	3.7	6.5	4.3	5.3	7.0	4.5
102	ZPS-429	6.7	5.7	6.0	26.7	4.0	4.7	5.5	5.5	5.5	6.5	4.4
103	PST-A418	8.0	6.3	5.0	13.3	2.0	2.7	6.5	3.7	4.7	7.3	4.3
	LSD <sub>(0.05)</sub>	1.5	3.1	1.3	44.5	4.6	3.5	3.0	2.7	3.1	1.6	2.5

Quality based on a 9 to 1 scale: 9 = best quality, 6 = lowest acceptable quality, and 1 = poorest quality.

Gcol (Genetic color); Grn (Green-up); Leaf (Leaf texture); Scov (Spring ground cover)

**Table 2.** The 1996 ratings for the 1995 low-maintenance, non-irrigated Kentucky bluegrass trial.

	Cultivar	Gcol	Grn	Leaf	Scov	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Mean
1	Eagleton	6.7	7.0	7.0	80.0	7.7	7.7	6.3	7.3	7.3	8.0	7.4
2	Baronie	6.3	8.0	7.3	70.0	7.0	7.7	6.3	7.0	7.0	7.3	7.1
3	Caliber	6.7	8.0	7.0	60.0	6.7	7.3	6.3	6.0	7.0	7.3	6.8
4	BAR VB 233	6.7	7.3	6.7	53.3	6.0	7.7	5.7	6.0	7.7	7.3	6.7
5	Baron	7.0	8.0	7.0	56.7	6.0	6.3	6.0	7.0	7.0	6.7	6.5
6	Kenblue	6.0	6.7	6.7	70.0	6.0	7.3	6.3	6.7	6.7	6.0	6.5
7	BAR VB 3115B	7.0	6.3	6.7	43.3	5.0	6.7	5.3	6.0	6.7	6.7	6.1
8	Canterbury	7.0	7.0	7.0	46.7	5.0	5.7	5.0	6.3	6.3	7.3	5.9
9	Blue Star	6.3	7.3	7.7	43.3	4.7	6.3	5.7	6.0	6.0	5.7	5.7
10	South Dakota	6.7	6.3	6.0	36.7	5.3	6.0	5.3	5.7	6.0	6.0	5.7
11	BAR VB 5649	6.7	7.7	7.0	40.0	4.7	6.3	5.7	5.3	6.0	5.3	5.6
12	PST-A7-60	6.7	8.0	6.3	36.7	4.3	5.3	5.7	5.7	6.0	6.0	5.5
13	Bartitia	7.3	7.7	7.0	40.0	3.7	6.3	5.0	5.3	6.0	6.0	5.4
14	Baruzo	6.3	8.0	7.3	33.3	4.3	6.0	5.0	5.3	6.0	5.7	5.4
15	Lipoa	7.3	8.0	7.0	50.0	4.7	5.3	4.7	5.0	4.7	5.0	4.9
16	PST-B9-196	8.0	7.0	6.0	30.0	3.7	4.7	5.3	5.0	4.7	5.3	4.8
17	BH 95-199	7.3	7.0	6.7	40.0	3.0	4.7	4.0	4.3	6.0	6.0	4.7
18	MTT 683	6.0	7.7	6.7	33.3	3.3	5.7	4.3	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.6
19	ZPS-429	7.3	7.7	7.3	26.7	3.3	4.7	4.3	4.7	4.3	5.0	4.4
20	VB 16015	8.0	7.7	5.7	26.7	2.3	4.3	3.7	4.3	4.3	4.3	3.9
21	BAR VB 6820	6.7	7.7	6.7	20.0	2.0	3.3	2.7	3.0	3.0	4.0	3.0
	LSD <sub>0.05</sub>	1.5	1.6	1.4	18.8	1.7	1.2	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.2	1.2

Quality based on a 9 to 1 scale: 9 = best quality, 6 = lowest acceptable quality, and 1 = poorest quality.  
Gcol (Genetic color); Grn (Green-up); Leaf (Leaf texture); Scov (Spring ground cover)