

**NTEP 1995 Kentucky Bluegrass Cultivar Trial -  
High Maintenance, High Traffic  
1996 Progress Report**

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The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has sponsored several regional Kentucky bluegrass cultivar trials conducted at most of the northern agricultural experiment stations. The current test consists of 103 cultivars. Each cultivar was replicated three times. This trial, a high-maintenance traffic study, was seeded in August, 1995, and received 4 lb N/1000 ft<sup>2</sup>/yr, and is irrigated as needed. The study is 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 high-traffic areas in Iowa. Traffic treatment will begin in the summer of 1997 once plots are completely covered with grass.

The values listed under each month in Table 1 are the averages of visual quality ratings made on three replicated plots. 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 on the table received the highest average rating for the entire 1996 season. The cultivars are listed in descending order of average quality.

Genetic color (Gcol), spring green-up (Grn), leaf texture (Leaf), spring density (Den), percentage spring ground cover (Scov), summer ground cover (Sucov), and fall ground cover (Fcov) data are included for the high-maintenance, irrigated traffic trial.