

1998 Fine Fescue Cultivar Trial

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This was the fifth and final year of data from the 1998 Fineleaf Fescue National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) trial. It was replaced with a new trial in the fall of 2003. It is being conducted at many locations around the U.S. The purpose of the trial is to study the regional adaptation of 79 fineleaf fescue selections. Cultivars are evaluated for quality each month of the growing season, May through October. The study is conducted in full sun. The plot size for each cultivar was 3 x 5 ft (15ft²). The plots, established in October 1998, were randomly arranged and replicated three times. The trial has been maintained at a 2-inch mowing height, fertilized with 3.5 lbs N/1000 ft² during the growing season, and irrigated when needed to prevent drought. Preemergent herbicide was applied once in the spring of each year.

The visual quality was evaluated monthly in 2003 from May through July (Table 1). 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 scale of 9 to 1: 9 = best quality, 6 = lowest acceptable quality, and 1 = worst quality. The yearly average of the monthly data for each cultivar was calculated and is listed in the last column (Mean). The first cultivar listed in Table 1 had the highest average visual quality rating for the entire 2003 season. The cultivars are listed in descending order by average quality. The last row states the LSD (least significant difference), which is a statistical measurement of how widely the datum in each column must vary before they are considered to be different from one another. Spring greenup data were taken in April 2002 and were estimated using a 9 to 1 scale with 9 = green and 1 = dormant turf.

Table 1. The 2003 visual quality and other turf attribute ratings for cultivars in the 1998 Fineleaf Fescue Cultivar Trial.

Fine Fescue Cultivar	Species	Greenup	-----Visual Quality-----			
			May	Jun	July	Mean
ABT-HF1	hard	5	7	7	7	7
ISI F1 12	hard	5	6	7	7	7
SRX 3961	hard	5	5	8	7	7
ABT-HF-2	hard	4	6	7	7	7
ASC 172	strong creeping	5	6	6	5	6
ASC 087	strong creeping	6	7	6	6	6
AHF 008	hard	4	5	7	7	6
AHF 009	hard	5	5	6	6	6
ASR 049	slender creeping	5	5	5	6	6
Attila E	hard	5	5	6	7	6
Minotaur	hard x blue	5	6	6	6	6
Intrigue	chewings	5	5	6	6	6
DGSC 94	strong creeping	5	6	5	6	6
Ambassador		5	6	6	6	6
Oxford		5	5	7	7	6
Pathfinder		6	7	6	5	6
Defiant	hard	6	6	6	6	6
Shademark	strong creeping	5	7	5	5	6
Pick FF A-97	hard	4	6	7	7	6
Jasper II	strong creeping	5	7	5	6	6
Salsa	strong creeping	6	6	6	7	6
4001	hard	5	5	7	7	6
Pick Frc 4-92	chewings	6	6	6	5	6
BAR HF 8 FUS	hard	4	6	7	7	6
Bridgeport	chewings	5	6	5	5	6
PST-EFL	strong creeping	5	6	6	6	6
Pick Frc A-93	chewings	4	6	5	6	6
Shademaster II	strong creeping	6	6	5	6	6
Discovery	hard	4	5	7	6	6
Treasure (E)	chewings	6	6	6	7	6
PST-4HM	chewings	5	6	6	7	6
PST-4MB	blue hard	4	6	6	6	6
Bighorn	hard	5	6	6	6	6
ISI Frr 5	strong creeping	6	7	5	5	6
ISI Frr 7	strong creeping	5	7	6	5	6
Longfellow II	chewings	5	6	6	6	6
ISI F1 11	hard	5	5	6	6	6
Quatro	sheep	4	5	6	6	6
Reliant II	hard	5	5	7	6	6
ABT-HF-4	hard	5	6	6	7	6
ABT-CHW-1	chewings	5	6	6	6	6

Fine Fescue Cultivar	Species	Greenup	-----Visual Quality-----			
			May	Jun	July	Mean
ABT-CHW-2	chewings	5	5	6	5	6
SRX 52961	strong creeping	6	7	5	5	6
SRX 52LAV	strong creeping	5	6	5	6	6
SR 5100	chewings	4	6	6	5	6
SR 3200	blue	5	6	5	6	6
Osprey	hard	4	6	6	6	6
ABT-CHW-3	chewings	5	5	6	6	6
ABT-CR-2	strong creeping	5	6	6	6	6
ABT-HF-3	hard	5	6	6	7	6
Nordic (E)	hard	4	5	6	6	6
ABT-CR-3	strong creeping	6	7	6	6	6
MB-82	hard	4	5	6	6	6
ACF 083	chewings	5	6	5	4	5
ACF 092	chewings	5	5	5	5	5
ASC 082	strong creeping	6	6	5	5	5
Dawson E+	slender creeping	5	4	5	6	5
Scaldis	hard	4	5	5	5	5
Brittany	chewings	6	5	5	5	5
Rescue 911	hard	4	4	5	5	5
Magic	chewings	6	6	5	5	5
BAR CHF 8 FUS2	chewings	5	5	5	5	5
BAR CF 8 FUS1	strong creeping	6	6	5	5	5
BAR SCF 8 FUS3	slender creeping	4	4	5	5	5
PST-4FR	strong creeping	5	5	5	5	5
PST-47TCR	strong creeping	5	6	5	5	5
Florentine	strong creeping	5	6	5	5	5
Shadow II	chewings	5	5	6	5	5
Tiffany	chewings	5	5	6	5	5
MB-63	chewings	5	6	5	5	5
Jamestown II	chewings	6	5	6	5	5
Seabreeze	slender creeping	5	5	5	5	5
Culombra	chewings	5	5	5	6	5
SR 6000	tufted hairgrass	5	5	4	5	5
Sandpiper	chewings	6	6	5	5	5
Heron	hard	5	5	5	5	5
Banner III	chewings	6	6	5	5	5
Common creeping red	strong creeping	5	5	5	6	5
Boreal	strong creeping	5	5	5	5	5
LSD		1.2	1.4	1.0	1.1	1.8