

1999 Non-Irrigated Fairway Height Kentucky Bluegrass Cultivar Trial

Nick Christians and Luke Dant

The fairway height Kentucky bluegrass trial was established in September 1999 to evaluate a number of the new ‘low mow’ bluegrasses at a mowing height of 0.5 to 0.75 inches under non-irrigated conditions. The area receives 3 lbs. N/1000 ft²/year and is treated with preemergence herbicides in the spring and broadleaf weed controls in the fall. No fungicides are used on the area. Dry conditions through most of the season eliminated differences among the cultivars during 2004.

The visual quality was evaluated monthly in 2004 from April through September (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 2004 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.

Table 1. Non-Irrigated Kentucky Bluegrass Trial 2004

Cultivar	Quality April	Quality May	Quality June	Quality July	Quality August	Quality September	Mean Quality
Award	4	6	6	6	6	6	6
Midnight	4	6	6	5	7	6	6
Total Eclipse	4	6	5	6	6	6	6
Absolute	4	6	5	5	6	5	5
Rambo	5	4	5	6	5	6	5
Nublu	5	6	4	5	6	6	5
Bluechip	5	4	5	5	6	6	5
**Sure-Shot Mix	4	5	5	5	6	6	5
Nuglade	4	5	6	5	5	5	5
Bluemoon	5	4	5	5	6	5	5
Rugby II	4	5	5	5	5	6	5
*Sodgrower II	5	4	4	5	5	5	5
Limosine	5	4	5	4	4	5	4
Kenblue	5	3	4	4	4	5	4
Park	5	3	4	5	4	4	4
LSD	1.3	1.4	NS	NS	1.4	1.8	1.0

*Sodgrower II Mix is composed of Bluechip, Nustar, Rambo, and Rugby II.

**Sure-Shot Mix is composed of Nuglade, Bluemoon, Award, Rugby II, and Rambo.