



Photos by B. Horgan

Fine Fescues and Colonial Bentgrasses for Fairways

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Objective

Determine the best cultivars and combination(s) of fine fescues and colonial bentgrasses for use as fairway turfgrass.

Summary

There is interest in low-input turfgrass systems that meet the expectations of golfers. Fine fescue and colonial bentgrass have attributes that make them good candidates for low-input fairways.

Selected fine fescue and colonial bentgrass cultivars were either planted alone or in combination in field plots in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Fertilizer was applied at low and high rates using either an organic or synthetic water soluble nitrogen fertilizer. Irrigation was applied only to prevent significant stand loss during drought.



Results

- There were no significant differences among mixtures containing colonial bentgrass and fine fescue regardless of the fertility source or rate.
- Water-soluble fertilizer provided better turf quality, higher percent of living ground cover, fewer weeds, higher colonial bentgrass percentages and quicker divot recovery.
- Because plots were irrigated only to prevent turf death, the lack of moisture in summer may have limited mineralization of organic fertilizers and thus, led to lower turf quality.
- Overall, monostands of chewing fescues SR 5100 and Longfellow II provided the best turf quality in sites receiving traffic and limited supplemental irrigation.

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