

Professional Turf Newsletter



No. 1 2014

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A Champion Among Grasses

To explain the merits of 4turf® Field Manager of the Year 2013, Bertus Carelse of B.A.S. Begeleiding en Advies Sportterreinen, says: "4turf® germinates at low temperatures, emerges quickly, gives a nice green appearance and demonstrates high disease resistance."

Carelse likes to sow all his fields early. "This helps a great deal with the major maintenance. After all, the tournaments and events mean that the summer maintenance period is becoming ever shorter. I can just go ahead and sow 4turf® during a mild winter or in early spring, when the temperatures are often still below 8°C. The result is a nice and tight turf all year round, which increases the wear tolerance. Thanks to the rapid establishment of 4turf®, weeds do not even get a chance."



Field Manager Bertus Carelse.

4turf® Makes Dreams Come True

DLF's 4turf® made the dream of a permanently green and healthy field come true and a new grass seed standard has been born.

Take the well-respected Perennial ryegrass tetraploid - famous for its healthy growing power – and change it into a low growing, dense, wear tolerant, nice looking and disease resistant Perennial ryegrass turf type. 10-15 years ago that seemed to be unachievable and a huge challenge for DLF's R&D department. The recipe for success was intelligent, focused breeding with great patience. The outcome was the creation of 4turf® which has already been well received in the amenity world. This full market acceptance was due to the set of characters that 4turf® grass demonstrates.

"Field tests under long snow cover as well as under warm and dry conditions showed that 4turf® has spectacular disease resistance," says Turf Breeder Christophe Galbrun. On top of that, even under lower temperatures 4turf® shows astonishing quick emergence and juvenile growth.

With the satisfaction of these superb results, the DLF Group produced 4turf® varieties in 2013/14. An intensive sales and marketing campaign introduced 4turf® into markets around the world and it was selected for the stadiums and training pitches at the Brazilian Football World Cup 2014. The product exactly matched the high expectations and demanding needs of field managers and other professional turf customers.



4turf® has been used for the preparation of the stadium Arena de São Paulo in Brazil.

The 4turf® variety DOUBLE has been a success in the market, both in mixtures and in straight sales, and new 4turf® varieties have now followed: TETRAGREEN and FABIAN are now launched in amenity mixtures. Field production has been increased to feed the rising demand from customers.

4turf®
DOUBLE

4turf®
FABIAN

4turf®
TETRAGREEN

Shade Tolerance

What do garden trees, tall buildings, hedges and modern stadia have in common? - They all produce shade!

During winter, the shorter days also contribute to the challenge with less light and therefore less photosynthesis. This affects growth and performance of lawn grasses. Reduced growth does not only mean less plant material, but also reduced resistance to diseases and wear.

Shade tolerance combined with wear tolerance

For sports fields – especially for winter sports games – where the natural light/day length is reduced, shade tolerance alone is not sufficient, there is a need to combine shade tolerance with wear tolerance.

Improved gene pool

Since the 1990s, we have conducted special shade trials, under real conditions, using tunnels with special covers removing 70% of the light. Our gene pool has profited from the repeated testing for shade and wear and the average shade tolerance of our portfolio is increasing. Perennial ryegrass remains the best choice.



Shade tunnel with visible strips of wear treatment.

VARIETIES WITH SHADE+WEAR TOLERANCE

BERLIOZ 1	DUPARC	GREENWAY
BIZET 1	FABIAN	HAYLEY
CLEOPATRA	GIANNA	POSEIDON
COLUMBINE	GREENBLUSH	TETRASTAR
DICKENS 1	GREENSKY	VENICE

Examples of Perennial ryegrass turf varieties with high shade+wear tolerance.

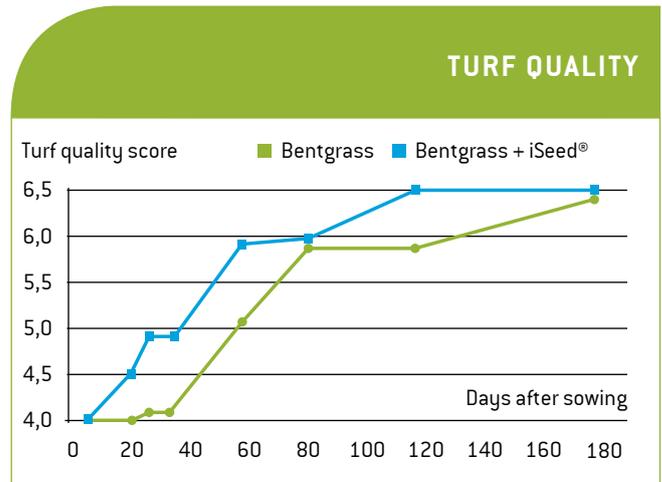
Four Weeks Faster Recovery with iSeed®

In an STRI Bingley overseeding trial on a golf green, iSeed® treated bentgrass encouraged recovery of Graden* lines up to four weeks earlier compared to non-coated bentgrass.



The green's composition was a 50/50 Poa/bent sward with a high thatch level and high organic matter content. Grass seeds were sown using a Graden sand injection system on 31 August 2012, after a Primo Maxx** application on 24 August. As the sowing machine was not adjusted for the iSeed® treatment, less seeds per square metre were sown for iSeed® compared to control.

Establishment within the Graden lines allowed heal up and closing of the lines more quickly in plots overseeded with iSeed® coated bentgrass. This is how the turf quality scores turned out:



Turf quality in plots overseeded with bentgrass seed mixtures. 1-10 scale; 1 = poor, 5 = acceptable, 10 = exceptional.

All treated plots achieved acceptable turf quality by the end of October. However, plots overseeded with iSeed® coated bentgrass achieved acceptable turf quality one month earlier, when turf quality in these plots was significantly better compared to those overseeded with non-coated seed. So the addition of the seed coating provided an extra benefit by decreasing the heal up time post Graden treatment compared to non-coated bentgrass.

* Graden is a special sowing machine

** Primo Maxx is used for reducing growth