

SEED RESEARCH REPORTS

8500 Turf-Type Tall Fescue

SR 8500 is a dwarf turf-type tall fescue developed to form a low-growing, dark green, dense, fine textured turf. These aesthetic characteristics have been combined with both drought and disease resistance to create a beautiful new tall fescue designed to survive under tough conditions.

BREEDING HISTORY

SR 8500 is the result of a nine year breeding program to produce a dwarf tall fescue with all the benefits of its taller counterparts. The origins of SR 8500 lead back to a project initiated in the late eighties. This project utilized a three pronged approach to improving tall fescues. The original plants were planted at three separate locations, in Oregon, Missouri and California. In Oregon the individually spaced plants were selected for disease resistance, growth form and height, color, leaf fineness and seed yield. In California the spaced plants were mown and selected for drought tolerance and turf quality. In Missouri the plants were mown and inoculated with five different strains of brown patch to screen for resistance and selected for overall turf quality. The best material was then passed from one location to another until all the best material had undergone screening at all locations. After this initial screen the material was then sent to different test sites across the nation for evaluation in turf plots and even further refinements until a variety with all these improvements was created.

SURVIVAL

The result of this extensive breeding is an outstanding variety that over time has survived extremes of drought, close mowing, disease and cold, and still maintained its superior appearance and low growing nature. The resistance of SR 8500 to disease makes it especially well suited to the brown patch troubled Southeast and transition zones. Its drought tolerance and deep roots make it a natural for lower maintenance situations and water rationed areas such as California. Try SR 8500 wherever a tough, yet dark green and dense lawn is needed.

DISEASE RESISTANCE

SR 8500 has very good resistance to brown patch (caused by *Rhizoctonia ssp.*) and to net blotch (caused by *Drechslera dictyoides* F. Sp. *dictyoides* Drechs.).

MAINTENANCE

SR 8500 can significantly reduce your maintenance costs. It has slower vertical growth rates that result in fewer mowings per growing season but excellent tillering. Its drought resistance can help lower irrigation costs and insure survival. SR 8500 has a naturally dark green color that reduces the need for nitrogen applications, and its disease resistance can lower chemical application costs.

OUTSTANDING TURF QUALITY

- Vivid, dark green color
- Compact, dense turf
- Fine texture
- Dwarf growth, reduced mowing
- Excellent shade tolerance
- Outstanding turf performance under adverse conditions

PVP

IMPROVEMENT THRU RESEARCH