Registration of Crop Cultivars

REGISTRATION OF TOUCHDOWN
KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS1
(Reg. No. 14)

'TOUCHDOWN' Kentucky bluegrass (Poa pratensis L.) was developed by the National Golf Links of America in cooperation with the U.S. Golf Association Green Section, the New Jersey Agric. Exp. Stn., and Pickseed West, Inc. Its experimental designation was NJE P-143. The first certified seed was harvested in 1974.

Touchdown was selected from the ninth fairway of the National Golf Links of America, Southampton, N.Y. An attractive, vigorous, moderately dark green patch of grass approximately 9 m in diam. was observed to give outstanding performance over a period of years under close-cut fairway maintenance. Examination of the site indicated that Touchdown most likely originated as a single plant which persisted and spread to its present size.

Field-grown, spaced-plant seed progenies were very uniform with a bright, moderately dark green color, good density and medium texture. Under New Jersey conditions, Touchdown has produced an attractive, aggressive, persistent turf of good density and vigor under medium levels of turf maintenance. The cultivar has demonstrated good resistance to leaf spot and crown rot disease caused by Helminthosporium vagans Dreschler, the stripe rust disease caused by Puccinia poaenemoralis Orth. It has shown moderate to good resistance to many races of powdery mildew caused by Erysiphe graminis Pers. It has been susceptible to stem rust caused by Puccinia graminis Pers.

Touchdown appears well suited for lawns, parks, and sports turf in most regions where Kentucky bluegrass is well adapted. It appears to be compatible and highly useful in blends with most other Kentucky bluegrass cultivars and in mixtures with fine fescues and improved, turf-type perennial ryegrasses.

Seed propagation is limited to two generations of increase from breeder seed, one each of foundation and certified. Breeder seed is produced in spaced-plant nurseries under the direction of New Jersey Agric. Exp. Stn.

A U.S. certificate of plant variety protection number 7400066 has been issued for Touchdown. The cultivar has been assigned licence No. 1593 in Canada.

1 Registered by the Crop Science Society of America. Paper of the journal series, New Jersey Agric. Exp. Stn., Cook College, the State Univ. of New Jersey, New Brunswick, NJ 08903. Accepted 20 Oct. 1977.
2 Superintendent, National Golf Links of America, Sebonac Inlet Road, Southampton, NY 11968; National research director, U.S. Golf Association Green Section, Highland Park, NJ 08904; president Pickseed West, Inc., Box 888, Tangent, OR 97389; vice president Otto Pick and Sons Seeds Ltd., Box 126, Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada; and research professor of turfgrass breeding, Soils and Crops Dep., Rutgers Univ., respectively.

Further selections were made within the variety Touchdown in 1955. After 3 years of testing, strain 1028 was released as the final refinement of the cultivar in 1958.

A moderate increase in resistance to Verticillium is the main reason for the release of the newer strains. Further screening of the cultivars grown in the USA, generally ranging from medium to medium-late in maturity. It is one of the taller cultivars grown in the USA, generally ranging from 1 to 1.25 m in height. At spacings normally used in commerce, the fruiting branches are of medium length, and a strong tendency for vegetative branches to develop. The bolls usually have five lockets, are very broad, ovate, and green, and average 7.5 g of seed cotton when lint content is 1517C is considered mildly resistant to Verticillium Reinke and Berth, but is fully susceptible to Verticillium albo-atrum (E. F. Smith) Duvall.

Seed of Acala 1517C are medium-large and possess excellent seedling vigor.

The fiber is generally in the 1-1/8 in. to 1-5/32 in. staple length classes, with high strength for an upland cotton. Acala 1517C produces a high-yielding, wilt-resistant cotton neither excessively strong nor late in maturity. This cultivar resulted from a cross in 1956 of 'Acala 2503' × 'Coquette'. Acala 2505 came from a cross of two experimental Acala strains, one of which

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