REGISTRATION OF 'SPARTAN' HARD FESCUE

'SPARTAN' hard fescue (Festuca longifolia Thuill.) (Reg. no. 34) (PI 518649) was developed and released in September 1984 by Pickseed West, Inc. of Tangent, OR, using germplasm obtained from the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station. Spartan is an advanced generation synthetic cultivar selected from the progenies of 142 clones. It was developed using a population improvement program initiated in 1968 to improve pest resistance, stress tolerance, attractiveness, turf performance, seed yield, and ability to provide an acceptable turf cover on poor soils without need for supplemental fertilization or irrigation. This breeding program involved germplasm collection and evaluation, the screening of over 50,000 seedlings for disease resistance, the evaluation of over 10,000 clones in spaced-plant nurseries, and the study of nearly 500 single-plant progenies in seeded turf trials. Germplasm selected from or related to 'Biljart', 'Reliant', 'Scaldie', 'SR-3000', and 'Waldina' was used in the development of Spartan in addition to collections made from old turfs of eastern USA and western Europe. The final cycle of selection of Spartan involved the establishment of the progenies of 142 selected clones in a large, spaced-plant nursery in western Oregon. Selection within this nursery was directed toward improving seed yield, disease resistance, and uniformity. Pickseed Syn TR was the experimental designation of Spartan. The first certified seed was produced in western Oregon in 1984.

Spartan is a leafy, persistent, turf-type hard fescue. It has excellent cold tolerance and is capable of producing an attractive, dense, low-growing, fine-textured turf with limited or no supplemental fertilization or irrigation. Spartan has shown good drought resistance and improved summer performance on well-drained soils. Green color retention during summer stress is notably good. Spartan has good shade tolerance. Its ability to withstand competition from tree roots is superior to many other turfgrasses. Spartan has demonstrated improved resistance to many diseases. Powdery mildew (excited by Erysiphe graminis D.C.), anthracnose (caused by Colletotrichum graminicola (Ces.) Wils.), net blotch (excited by Helminthosporium dictyoides (Drechs.) Shoem.), rust (excited by Puccinia graminis D. C.), leaf blight (caused by Drechslera dictyoides f. sp. dictyoides (Drechs.) Shoem.), and net blotch (excited by Laetisaria fuciformis (McAlpine) Burd.)

Spartan is recommended for turf use in areas where fine fescues are adapted. It should be especially useful on acidic, infertile, poorly drained soils and sites where supplemental irrigation and fertilization are not used. Its resistance to seedling establishment from turf roots is superior to many other turfgrasses. Spartan can be used in mixtures with the strong creeping red fescues (F. rubra L. subsp. rubra), Kentucky bluegrass (Poa pratensis L.), and the improved turf-type perennial ryegrasses (Lolium perenne L.).

Breeder seed of Spartan is produced and maintained by Pickseed West, Inc. Seed classes will include breeder, foundation, registered, and certified.

United States Plant Variety Protection Certificate No. 8500214 has been granted for Spartan.


References and Notes

1. G.W. Pepin, W.K. Wiley, and D.E. King, Pickseed West, Inc., P.O. Box 888, Tangent, OR 97389; R. W. Duell and C. R. Funk, Soils and Crops Dep., New Jersey Inst. of Agric. Exp. Sta., New Brunswick, NJ 08903, Publ. No. D-51566-7-87 and D-15257-1-87, New Jersey Agric. Exp. Sta. Some of this work was conducted as part of NJAES Project no. D-51566 and D-15257, supported by New Jersey Agric. Exp. Sta. Funds, other grants, and gifts. Additional support was received from the USA Golf Association Green Section Res. and Ed. Fund, Inc. Appreciation is expressed to all participants in the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program for their contributions in the evaluation of Spartan hard fescue. Registration by CSSA. Accepted 30 Apr. 1988. *Corresponding author.

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REGISTRATION OF 'VICTORY' CHEWINGS FESCUE

'VICTORY' Chewings fescue (Festuca rubra L. subsp. commutata Gaud.) (Reg. no. 35) (PI 518650) was developed and released in September 1986 by Pickseed West, Inc. of Tangent, OR, using germplasm obtained from the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station. Victory is an advanced generation synthetic cultivar selected from the progenies of 178 clones. It was developed using a germplasm collection and population improvement program initiated in 1962 to improve pest resistance, stress tolerance, attractiveness, turf performance, and seed yield. This breeding program involved extensive germplasm collection and evaluation, the screening of over 76,000 seedlings for disease resistance, the evaluation of over 7000 clones in spaced-plant nurseries, and the study of over 2000 single-plant progenies in seeded turf trials. Sixty percent of the parental germplasm used in the development of Victory originated from plants collected from old turfs in Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. The remaining germplasm traces to plants selected from cultivars of European origin including 'Barfella', 'Highlight', 'Koket', 'Menuet', and 'Waldorf'.

The final cycle of selection involved the establishment of progenies of the 178 parental clones of Victory in a large, spaced-plant nursery in western Oregon. Selection within this nursery was directed towards improving seed yield, disease resistance, and phenotypic uniformity. Pickseed CF-2 was the experimental designation of Victory. The first certified seed was produced in western Oregon in 1986.

Victory is a moderately low-growing, turf-type Chewings fescue. It is capable of producing an attractive, dense, fine-textured turf with a bright, dark-green color. Victory has shown improved resistance to powdery mildew (excited by Erysiphe graminis D.C.), net blotch (caused by Drechslera dictyoides f. sp. dictyoides (Drechs.) Shoem.), rust (excited by Puccinia coronata Pamm. and Hume), and dollar spot (caused by Sclerotinia homoeocarpa F. T. Bennett). Victory has good tolerance to close mowing, moderate shade, moderately acid soils, and moderately low soil fertility. It can be highly competitive in mixtures with other turfgrasses.

Victory is recommended for lawns, parks, play areas, and similar turf sites receiving light to moderate shade in regions where Chewings-type fescues are well adapted. Use in full sun is recommended in regions with cooler summers and