Tifton 10 originated as a vegetative introduction collected by G.W. Burton in 1974 from a lawn in Shanghai, China. It is a vegetatively propagated hexaploid with 2n = 54 chromosomes. It sheds pollen but sets sparse seed. Foliage is coarse-textured with a natural dark bluish-green color. Tifton 10 has been evaluated at nine locations in four states from Ft. Lauderdale, FL, to New Brunswick, NJ.

Tifton 10 rapidly establishes from stolons and above-ground stems, which limits weed invasion. Under low management (1.22 N kg ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹, irrigated only in dry periods, and mowed at 4 cm wk⁻¹), it has maintained turf quality similar (but coarser textured) to 'Tifway' and 'Tifway 2' at all locations except Ft. Lauderdale, FL, where severe mole cricket (Scapteriscus spp.) damage destroyed stands during establishment. Tifton 10 was not seriously affected by mole cricket infestations at Gainesville, FL, and showed the least mole cricket damage of 26 bermudagrass entries at Savannah, GA. Tifton 10 has received higher turf quality ratings than 'Midiron' at locations where the two cultivars were compared.

Tifton 10 greens up early in the spring and appears to have winter-hardiness. It has received good winter survival ratings in New Jersey and has survived at the Mountain Station at Blairsville, GA, since 1980 (where temperatures reached -29 °C in 1983–1984).

Salinity studies by Dr. Leland Francois at the U.S. Salinity Laboratory in Riverside, CA, showed that Tifton 10 is moderately tolerant to salinity. Tifway 2 was classified as tolerant. In field plots at Tifton, Tifton 10 has shown tolerance (similar to Tifway 2) to ring nematodes [Criconemella ornata (Raski) Luc & Raski] in 4-yr-old plots. No significant number of other nematodes were observed in the plots. Tifton 10 has tended to produce less thatch than other commercial cultivars.

Tifton 10 should be suited for golf course roughs, roadsides, low-traffic athletic fields, commercial landscaping areas, and lawns. Its unusual dark bluish-green color will be useful for contrast plantings in various recreational areas. Because of its stoloniferous habit, care will need to be taken to keep it out of flower beds and other non-grassed areas. Traffic tolerance tests have not been conducted on Tifton 10 but its rapid recovery indicates it may have a use in low-traffic athletic areas. Although Tifton 10 has been compared with Tifway in research tests under low maintenance conditions, Tifton 10 will not replace Tifway or Tifway 2 in uses for which those two bermudagrass hybrids are grown.

The Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment Station, Tifton, GA, will maintain breeder stock. Foundation stock will be maintained by the Georgia Seed Development Commission, Athens, GA 30602.

W. W. Hanna,* G. W. Burton, and A. W. Johnson

References and Notes

1. USDA-ARS, Coastal Plain Experiment Station, Tifton, GA 31793. Registration by CSSA, Accepted 31 Mar., 1990. *Corresponding author.

2. Crop Science Dept., Univ. of Guelph, Guelph, ON L7E 5B9. This work was developed with financial support from the Canadian Food, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, and the Canola Council of Canada. Registration No. C-3379.


4. Crop Science Dep., Univ. of Guelph, Guelph, ON L7E 5B9. The Crop Science Department, Univ. of Guelph, Guelph, ON K2C 3N2. Outside Canada, seed is distributed by Seed Technologies, Inc., 6850 Goreway Drive, Mississauga, ON L4V 1P1. The Crop Science Department, Univ. of Guelph, Guelph, ON K2C 3N2. Corresponding author.