HQ95 has a higher yield potential and matures significantly earlier than Tamcot CD3H (3). It is similar to Tamcot CD3H (3) in fruiting characteristics, maturity, and yield potential. A major improvement of Tamcot HQ95 is that it produces significantly longer (0.08 cm) and stronger (19.62 kN m kg\(^{-1}\)) fibers than Tamcot CD3H.

Tamcot HQ95 has the B,B,B,B, major genes, and minor and modifier genes that confer resistance to the 19 designated U.S. races of the bacterial blight pathogen \([Xanthomonas campestris pv. malvacearum] (Smith) Dye\).

Tamcot HQ95 has the same levels of resistance to plant pathogens causing seed rot–seed deterioration, seeding decay, bacterial blight, verticillium wilt \([Verticillium dahliae Klb.]\), fusarium wilt \([Fusarium oxysporum] Schlect. f. sp. vasinfectum\] (Atk.) Snyder & Hans\.,–root knot nematode \([Meloidogyne incognita] (Kofoid & White) Chitwood\) complex, phymatotrichum root rot \([Phymatotrichum omnivorum\] (Shear) Dug.\., and leaf spots as Tamcot CD3H (3). Tamcot HQ95 has a higher level of resistance to \(P. omnivorum\) than "Tamcot SP37."

Tamcot HQ95 has higher levels of resistance to insects \([fanleehopper, (Pseudomoscelis seratus] (Hall)\] (Acari: Eriophyidae), which is presently considered a minor pest. Prairie does not produce pollen. It is aesthetically pleasing even when unmowed, because female inflorescences are all located within the leaf canopy. Prairie is susceptible to the buffalograss mite \([Eriophyes (Aceria) slykhuisi] (Hall) (Acari:Eriophyidae)\], which is presently considered a minor pest.

Prairie initiates spring growth \(\approx 2\) wk earlier and exhibits considerably improved frost tolerance than turf-type bermudagrasses. It is responsive to annual N fertilization of \(\approx 2\) kg a\(^{-1}\) (195 kg ha\(^{-1}\)) but will persist with no supplemental fertilization. Annual fertilization of 0.5 to 1.0 kg a\(^{-1}\) will greatly improve density of stand, quality of turf, and competitive ability against weed invasion. Experimental plantings in Corpus Christi, San Antonio, and Dallas, TX; Fort Collins, CO; and Lincoln, NE, indicate Prairie has excellent winter hardness, and rapid coverage when planted as sprigs, plugs, or sod.

Production research suggests Prairie will produce acceptable quality sod in 7 to 10 mo following sprig planting, and can be marketed as sod, sprigs, or plugs.

Prairie buffalograss is recommended for use as a minimal-maintenance turfgrass for roadsides, industrial parks, and neglected landscape sites throughout the southern mid-continental USA. Once established, Prairie will require infrequent supplemental irrigation to maintain quality turf, and will require little or no irrigation to maintain a competitive turf stand.

REGISTRATION OF 'PRAIRIE' BUFFALOGRASS

'PRAIRIE' (Reg. no. 134, PI 530858) is a female plant of the species \(Buchloe dactyloides\) (Nutt.) Engelm. It was selected and developed for its turf-type characteristics by Texas A&M University and released in September 1989. Prairie was selected as an open-pollinated progeny of TAES1363, a female plant originally collected by the USDA-SCS from a heavy clay soil site in Falls County, Texas. TAES1363 was established and grown in a spaced-plant hybridization nursery with 150 other buffalograss accessions. Seed was harvested from maternal lines. Maternal identity was maintained during progeny evaluation. Prairie, designated as TAES 1363.2 and DALBD8201 during development, is a vegetatively produced turf-type buffalograss plant. Prairie produces female inflorescences prolifically, but produces no viable seed in the absence of a compatible pollen source. Male inflorescences are absent.

Prairie is a blue-green, dense, fine-textured, stoloniferous turfgrass with a mature plant height of 10 to 15 cm. Color and mature plant height are dependent on level of management. Prairie spreads faster and is more dense and uniform in visual appearance than other commercially available buffalograss cultivars. Mature Prairie turf is competitive against weeds and other grasses, including johnsongrass \([Sorghum halepense] (L.) Pers.\., dallisgrass \([Paspalum dilatatum] Pers.\., and bermudagrass \([Cynodon dactylon] (L.) Pers.\.) When grown in an area with 45 to 70 cm annual precipitation, Prairie will require infrequent supplemental irrigation to maintain quality turf, and will require little or no irrigation to maintain a competitive turf stand.

The area of adaptation for Prairie extends from the South Texas Plains north into Nebraska. Good turf persistence is also reported in California and Georgia. Prairie will perform best on heavier soils, and performs well on neutral to alkaline soils. Prairie is best adapted to high sunlight conditions and its shade tolerance is similar to most turf-type bermudagrasses. It has good wear tolerance and survives well under moderately compacted soils. In comparison to most warm season grasses, Prairie has excellent cold tolerance, heat tolerance, and drought resistance. Because it is a female plant, Prairie does not produce pollen. It is aesthetically pleasing even when unmowed, because female inflorescences are all located within the leaf canopy. Prairie is susceptible to the buffalograss mite \([Eriophyes (Aceria) slykhusi] (Hall) (Acari:Eriophyidae)\], which is presently considered a minor pest.

Prairie does not produce pollen. It is aesthetically pleasing even when unmowed, because female inflorescences are all located within the leaf canopy. Prairie is susceptible to the buffalograss mite \([Eriophyes (Aceria) slykhusi] (Hall) (Acari:Eriophyidae)\], which is presently considered a minor pest.

Prairie initiates spring growth \(\approx 2\) wk earlier and exhibits considerably improved frost tolerance than turf-type bermudagrasses. It is responsive to annual N fertilization of \(\approx 2\) kg a\(^{-1}\) (195 kg ha\(^{-1}\)) but will persist with no supplemental fertilization. Annual fertilization of 0.5 to 1.0 kg a\(^{-1}\) will greatly improve density of stand, quality of turf, and competitive ability against weed invasion. Experimental plantings in Corpus Christi, San Antonio, and Dallas, TX; Fort Collins, CO; and Lincoln, NE, indicate Prairie has excellent winter hardness, and rapid coverage when planted as sprigs, plugs, or sod.

Production research suggests Prairie will produce acceptable quality sod in 7 to 10 mo following sprig planting, and can be marketed as sod, sprigs, or plugs.

Prairie buffalograss is recommended for use as a minimal-maintenance turfgrass for roadsides, industrial parks, and neglected landscape sites throughout the southern mid-continental USA. Once established, Prairie will require infrequent supplemental irrigation to maintain a uniform stand. With modest fertilization and minimal supplemental irrigation, Prairie will provide an acceptable quality turf for most residential lawns and domestic landscape sites. Recommended mowing height is 10 cm with \(\leq 1.0\) kg N a\(^{-1}\).

Prairie buffalograss was released for certified commercial production in September 1989. Only certified planting stock will be sold in the wholesale or retail market.

Breeders stock will be maintained by the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station. Only breeder, foundation, and certified classes of sod are recognized for Prairie. All certified production must be directly from foundation or breeder stock, and certified production is limited to 7 yr from the date of the initial planting.

Application has been made for a U.S. Plant Patent, Serial no. 07/436,831, and a U.S. Utility Patent, Serial no. 07/467,239.