REGISTRATION OF ‘609’ BUFFALOGRASS

‘609’ Buffalograss [Buchloë dactyloides (Nutt.) Engelm] (Reg. no. CV-151, PI 561149), experimental designation NE 84–609, was released by the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln in October 1991. Development of this cultivar was funded by the U.S. Golf Association. Cultivar ‘609’, a female clone, was selected from progeny of a buffalograss germplasm collection made by the USDA Soil Conservation Service and evaluated at the Texas A&M University Research and Extension Center, Dallas. Cultivar ‘609’ is from progeny of selection 1321.1 originally collected in Austin, TX. In 1985, this selection was planted at the John Seaton Anderson Turfgrass Research Facility, along with 3500 other genotypes, in turf plots maintained at a medium level of culture that included 10 g N m⁻² per growing season, pre-emergence weed control, and supplemental irrigation during establishment. Cultivar ‘609’ was propagated vegetatively by stolons and plugs to provide genetically uniform planting stock for studying performance and for making comparisons to commercially available cultivars and other experiments. The first breeder’s block was planted in 1989.

Cultivar ‘609’ is one of the first turf-type buffalograsses developed specifically for golf and lawn use. Prior to the release of ‘609’ and ‘Prairie’ buffalograss (1), most cultivars utilized for turf were common forage types. ‘609’ had outstanding turfgrass quality in the South, with quality comparable to Prairie and superior to Texoka. Establishment of ‘609’ has been evaluated at both the University of Nebraska and at Texas A&M–Dallas. Cultivar ‘609’ had a spring green-up rate similar to Texoka in Nebraska and to Prairie in Texas.

Turfgrass quality is very important in buffalograss because its turf characteristics have been overlooked. Cultivar ‘609’ had outstanding turfgrass quality in the South, with quality comparable to Prairie and superior to Texoka. Spring green-up has been evaluated at both the University of Nebraska and at Texas A&M–Dallas. Cultivar ‘609’ has a spring green-up rate similar to Texoka in Nebraska and to Prairie in Texas.

Low water-use and a deep root system are important characteristics of the drought-resistant buffalograss. Cultivar ‘609’ has been shown to have excellent drought resistance at the University of Arizona, Texas A&M–Dallas, and at the University of Nebraska. Water-use rates of ‘609’ have been comparable to Texoka and Prairie in Nebraska and less than those of other commonly cultivated turfgrass species.

Breeder fields of ‘609’ have been established at the John Seaton Anderson Turfgrass Research Facility at the University of Nebraska Agriculture Research and Development Center near Mead, NE, and at the Crenshaw & Doguet Turfgrass, Inc., sod farm at Bastrop, TX. Foundation and certified sod, plugs, and stolons of ‘609’ are available at Crenshaw & Doguet, 609 Castle Ridge Rd, Bastrop, TX 78746, phone (512) 328-0884. Plant variety protection has been applied for.

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References and Notes


CROP REGISTRATIONS

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