

Registration of 'NuStar' Kentucky Bluegrass

NuStar Kentucky bluegrass (Poa pratensis L.) (Reg. no. CV-48, PI 561038) is a turf-type cultivar released August, 1991, by Jacklin Seed Company, Post Falls, ID. NuStar, which was tested as experimental W-1, originated as a single plant selection from an apomictic bluegrass found growing near Ritzville, WA, by Jacklin Seed Company field representative, W. E. Willard, in 1982. The plant was found on a rural road-side, 60 km from the nearest bluegrass production field or pasture, in an area receiving less than 250 mm of annual precipitation. The plant appeared green when surrounding plants were brown from drought. Seedheads were numerous and intermediate in height. Vegetative propagules of this plant were transferred to the greenhouse at Jacklin Seed Company and subsequently to a spaced-plant observation nursery. Seed of W-1 was harvested in July, 1986, and used to plant a replicated, seed yield trial near Post Falls, ID, in August, 1986. W-1 was tested for seed yield potential for 5 yr prior to release. In August, 1987, W-1 was established in replicated, mowed turf trials at Post Falls, ID, and New Brunswick, NJ. It was entered in the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program in 1990, in both the medium/high (1) and low maintenance (2) tests. Spaced-plant nurseries were established in 1988 to assure the degree of uniformity within progenies, which was used as a measure of the level of apomixis. Breeder seed was first harvested in 1989 in northern Idaho.

NuStar Kentucky bluegrass is a stable and uniform cultivar. Apomixis rate of NuStar Kentucky bluegrass under spaced-plant conditions is > 85%. Aberrant progeny are rogued from breeder, foundation, and registered fields to insure continued uniformity and stability, but aberrants continue to occur in every generation due to occasional sexual reproduction. Aberrant plants of NuStar tend to be smaller and weaker than maternal plants of this plant. NuStar is resistant to ergot [caused by Claviceps purpurea (Fr.:Fr.) Tul.] honey-dew and sclerotia. Seed yield of NuStar has been more stable across environments than other Kentucky bluegrass cultivars. NuStar is recommended for lawns, recreational turf, golf courses, parks, and low maintenance sites in areas where Kentucky bluegrass is well adapted for turf. It can be grown in full sun or some shade. NuStar is compatible in blends with most other Kentucky bluegrass cultivars and in mixtures with improved turf-type perennial ryegrasses (Lolium perenne L.), but will not be sought for this cultivar.

References and Notes

1. Dept. of Plants, Soils, and Biometeorology, Utah State University, Logan, UT 84322-4820. Foundation seed is available from the Utah Crop Improvement Association, Utah State University, Logan, UT 84322-4855. Plant Variety Protection will not be sought for this cultivar.

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