germplasm exploration and improvement program initiated at Rutgers University in 1962.

The parental clones of Longfellow were selected for improved seed yield potential and uniformity of plant type utilizing phenotypic recurrent selection of germplasm collected from Longfellow Park, Cambridge, ME. Ten genotypes were selected on the basis of favorable appearance, medium-low growth habit, maintenance of leaf turgidity under moderate drought stress, and improved maintenance of green color during summer. In 1980, the 10 clones were crossed in isolation to produce Syn 1 seed.

During fall 1980, 2000 Syn 1 seedlings were transplanted to an isolation block near Tangent, OR. In 1981, this population was screened for uniformity of plant type prior to anthesis followed by selection for uniformity of plant type prior to anthesis followed by selection for improved seed yield potential. Syn 2 seed was produced from this block. In 1983, Syn 2 seed of Longfellow 10 was entered in the 1983 National Turfgrass Evaluation Program. Remnant Syn 2 seed of Longfellow 10 was used to establish a 5000 plant isolation block near Scio, OR in 1984. This block underwent a second cycle of selection for improved seed yield potential and uniformity of plant type in 1985. Syn 3 seed was produced from selected plants in this block. Foundation seed increase was initiated in 1986 near Silverton, OR. Certified seed was commercially available in 1989.

Longfellow provides a uniform and attractive turf under both medium and low input turfgrass maintenance. It tolerates a low mowing height, requires only low to moderate nitrogen fertilization, and provides quality turf under light intensities ranging from full sun to moderate shade. Longfellow produces significantly less thatch than some chewing fescue cultivars due to its erect growth habit. Golf course superintendents, landscapers and homeowners can elevate mowing heights during summer stress without adversely affecting turf quality or significantly increasing secondary disease invasion due to excessive thatch accumulation. Longfellow exhibits excellent heat and cold tolerance and retains good green color under moderate drought conditions. Under extreme drought, Longfellow will enter stress-induced dormancy. It also has moderately high wear tolerance and good recuperative ability.

Longfellow is recommended for new seeding and reseeding of golf course fairways, tees, roughs, home lawns, and parks in mixtures with improved perennial ryegrasses (Lolium perenne L.), Kentucky bluegrasses (Poa pratensis L.), and other fine fescues (Festuca spp.). It is also utilized for winter overseeding of dormant warm-season turfgrasses in mixtures with improved perennial ryegrasses, improved slender creeping red fescues (Festuca rubra L. subsp. litoralis), and rough bluegrass (Poa trivialis L.).

Breeder seed of Longfellow is produced and maintained by International Seeds, Inc., Halsey, OR. Seed increase is limited to three generations of increase from breeder seed, one each of Syn 1, Syn 2, and Syn 3 seed. Syn 1 seed was produced from a 1000 plant isolation block near Longfellow Park, Cambridge, ME. Ten genotypes were selected in 1982 and used to establish a 5000 plant isolation block near Scio, OR in 1983. Syn 1 seed was produced from selected plants in this block. Syn 2 seed of Longfellow was harvested from a 1000 plant isolation block near Scio, OR in 1984. Syn 2 seed was produced from selected plants in this block. Syn 3 seed of Longfellow was harvested from a 5000 plant isolation block near Tangent, OR in 1985. Syn 3 seed was produced from selected plants in this block. Foundation seed increase was initiated in 1986 near Silverton, OR. Certified seed was commercially available in 1989.

Registration of ‘Della’ Sweet Sorghum

‘Della’ is a sweet sorghum [Sorghum bicolor (L.) Moench] (Reg. no. CV-130, PI566819) developed for sorghum syrup production. The cultivar is a cross of “Dale” and “ATx622”. Della was bred using breeding methodology to the 6th generation and determined to be a pure line in 1990. Major advantages are increased seedling vigor and early plant establishment, earlier maturity at Blacksburg, VA.

Della appears to have resistance to soilborne pests caused by Colletotrichum graminicola, tolerance to Maize Dwarf Mosaic Virus, and susceptibility to bacterial stripe caused by Pseudomonas andro-gonii (E.F. Smith) Stapp. The culture is resistant to low water and high temperature stress, compared to Dale, however standability is not as good. Height is 2.4 to 3.3 m depending upon growing conditions and fertility. About the same as Dale. Stalk diameter and mature plant yield have been similar to Dale, however plant is seven to 10 days earlier. Panicle is semi-open, with a red pericarp and a pigmented testa. "Della" is of the author. Sincere appreciation is expressed to all participants in the Turfgrass Evaluation Program for their contribution to the development of Longfellow.

Published in Crop Sci. 33:1415–1416 (1993).