Registration of ‘MS-Choice’ Bermudagrass

‘MS-Choice’ (Reg. no. CV-26, PI 584769), an improved turf-type bermudagrass [Cynodon dactylon (L.) Pers.], was released by the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station on 21 May 1991. Seventy-two ecotypes were collected from nonirrigated fairways of four golf courses in west-central Mississippi during a period of prolonged drought. These fairways had been established with bermudagrass seed between 1913 and 1933. This ecotype collection was observed in a spaced-plant nursery for 5 yr. High shoot density, dark-green color, and low seedhead density were among the selection criteria applied to this Nursery. MS-Choice was selected from this collection and is derived from a single clone collected from Shady Oaks Country Club, Jackson, MS, on 21 Aug. 1980. MS-Choice is a tetraploid (2n=4x=36).

MS-Choice was evaluated in the National Bermudagrass Test-1986 under the experimental designation MSB-30. It displayed dark-green color, medium leaf texture, and medium rate of establishment. MS-Choice exhibited high shoot density relative to other tetraploid bermudagrasses in the test. MS-Choice had significantly fewer seedheads than any other bermudagrass tested. In 21 evaluations that included sites in 13 states, MS-Choice ranked sixth in overall turfgrass quality among 28 cultivars tested. In California and New Mexico, MS-Choice exhibited less scalping damage than most bermudagrasses tested. Measurements conducted in Arizona and California revealed a higher thatch accumulation in MS-Choice relative to other bermudagrasses tested. At Mississippi State University, MS-Choice had medium sod strength. Under medium levels of disease incidence, it exhibited good resistance to leaf spot [caused by Bipolaris cynodontis (Marignoni) Shoemaker], but was susceptible to dollar spot (caused by Lanzia spp., Sacc. and Moellerodiscus spp., Henn.). MS-Choice had the best shade tolerance of any bermudagrass tested.

MS-Choice must be vegetatively propagated. It is recommended for lawns, sports fields, golf tees, and fairways in regions where bermudagrass is adapted for turf.

Breeder and foundation stock of MS-Choice will be maintained by the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station. Certified sod and sprigs will be marketed by the Mississippi Sod Producers Association, 117 U.S. Highway 49, Hattiesburg, MS 39402. Application has been made for a U.S. plant patent.

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References and Notes


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