Registration of ‘Seabreeze’
Slender Creeping Red Fescue

‘Seabreeze’ slender creeping red fescue (Festuca rubra var. litoralis Vasey) (Reg. no. CV-73, PI 578025) was released by Pure Seed Testing, Inc., Hubbard, OR, in August 1992. The first certified seed was produced in 1994. Seabreeze was tested under the designation Frt-30149.

Seabreeze traces its maternal origin to four plants. In 1972 and 1973, slender creeping red fescue cultivars were topcrossed with ‘Highlight’ Chewing’s fescue (F. rubra var. commutata Gaud.) in the Netherlands. Twenty-four mother plants of each slender creeping red fescue cultivar were used. Progenies from each cross were increased during the 1974—1975 growing season in the Netherlands. Seed harvested in 1975 was used to establish a 10,000-spaced-plant nursery in the Netherlands during the 1978—79 growing season. During this season, 235 rhizomatous plants were selected with 2n = 6x = 42 chromosomes, narrow leaves, good spring growth, and resistance to powdery mildew (caused by Erysiphe graminis DC.). Four of these selected plants were the maternal parents of Frt-30149. Two of these plants trace their origin to ‘Golfrood’ topcrossed with Highlight, and two trace their origin to ‘Dawson’ topcrossed with Highlight. Seed was harvested from these plants during 1983 and used to establish turf trials in the Netherlands, New Jersey, and Oregon. These trials were evaluated through 1987.

During the fall of 1987, tillers from Oregon turf plots of Frt-30149 were used to establish an isolated 1216-spaced-plant nursery near Hubbard. Offtype plants were removed from this population prior to anthesis to increase uniformity. Selection criteria for remaining plants were high numbers of reproductive tillers, resistance to leaf spot [caused by Drechslera dictyoides (Drechs.) Shoemaker], and resistance to rust (caused by Puccinia crandallii Pammel & H. Hume in Hume). During the summer of 1988, seed was harvested from 210 plants and used as the breeder seed of Seabreeze.

Seabreeze is a low-growing slender creeping red fescue with a bright green color, good establishment rate, high tiller density, and improved turf quality. It has excellent winter color, cold tolerance, and shade tolerance. Seabreeze has exhibited resistance to leaf spot, rust, and dollar spot (caused by Sclerotinia homoeocarpa F.T. Bennett).

Seabreeze was developed for turf uses including lawns, parks, cemeteries, industrial sites, and golf course roughs. Seabreeze should perform well in temperate regions and should be especially well-suited for low-maintenance or shady areas with poor soils. Seabreeze should perform well as a monostand or in mixtures with other fine-leafed fescues (Festuca spp.)

Seed production of Seabreeze is limited to two generations of increase from breeder seed: one each of Foundation and Certified. Pure Seed Testing, Inc., maintains breeder seed of Seabreeze in Oregon. U.S. plant variety protection (PVP Certificate no. 9400085) is pending.

Registration of ‘Tiffany’
Chewing’s Fescue

‘Tiffany’ Chewing’s fescue (Festuca rubra var. commutata Gaud.) (Reg. no. CV-72, PI 567906) was released by Pure Seed Testing, Inc., Hubbard, OR, in August 1992. Tiffany is a synthetic cultivar resulting from the interpollination of ‘Longfellow’. Tiffany was selected for low growth habit and high numbers of reproductive tillers. The first certified seed was produced in 1995. Tiffany was tested under the designation PST-4CD.

During the summer of 1988, 28 plants with low growth profiles were selected from two Chewing’s fescue clones topcrossed with Shadow (Reg. no. CV-72, PI 567906) and Shadow (Reg. no. CV-73, PI 578025) was released by Pure Seed Testing, Inc., Hubbard, OR, in August 1992. Tiffany is a synthetic cultivar resulting from the interpollination of ‘Longfellow’. Tiffany was selected for low growth habit and high numbers of reproductive tillers. The first certified seed was produced in 1995. Tiffany was tested under the designation PST-4CD.

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