Registration of ‘Seabreeze’
Slender Creeping Red Fescue

‘Seabreeze’ slender creeping red fescue (Festuca rubra var. littoralis 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 number 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. 9400083) is pending.

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References and Notes
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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 an advanced-generation synthetic cultivar resulting from the interpollination of plants selected for low growth habit and high number 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 populations near Hubbard. Twenty-four plants were selected from population LFE, which was infected with the fungal endophyte [Neonectria coenophialum (Morgan-Jones & Gams) Glenn, Bacon, Price & Hanlin; syn. Acrocnidium coenophialum] that was used in the development of ‘Longfellow’ (1). Four plants were selected from an endophyte-infected nursery of ‘Shadow’ (2).

During the fall of 1988, each of the 28 selected plants was vegetatively increased to 32 clones and planted into an isolated spaced-plant nursery, designated PST-4CD, near Hubbard. These plants were allowed to interpollinate, and the seed was harvested during the summer of 1989. This seed was used to establish progeny turf plots near Hubbard and North Brunswick, NJ.

During the summer of 1990, seed was harvested from 11 clones in the PST-4CD nursery. The other clones had been removed from the nursery prior to anthesis. The harvested clones were selected for low plant height, uniform maturity, high number of reproductive tillers, and good progeny turf performance. One of these clones was selected from Shadow and 10 were selected from LFE. Seed harvested from these clones was bulked and used to establish turf evaluation plots near Hubbard during the fall of 1990.

Tillers were dug from these turf plots and used to establish an isolated 1008-spaced-plant nursery near Hubbard during the fall of 1991. Offtype plants were removed from this nursery prior to anthesis, to increase uniformity. Selection criteria for the remaining plants were low plant height, freedom from disease, high number of reproductive tillers, and good progeny turf quality. During the summer of 1992, seed was harvested from 695 plants and bulked to produce breeder seed of Tiffany.

Tiffany is a low-growing Chewing’s fescue that produces a dark green, fine-textured, dense turf. It has shown good turf quality in trials throughout the USA. Tiffany has exhibited good seedling vigor, good winter color, and drought tolerance. It also has resistance to the following diseases: rust (caused by Puccinia crandallii Pammel & H. Hume in Hume), leaf spot (caused by Drechslera dictyoides (Drechs.) Shoemaker), summer patch (caused by Magnaporthe poae Landschoot & Jackson), and anthracnose [caused by Colletotrichum graminicola (Ces.) G.W. Wils.].

Tiffany was developed for turf uses including lawns, parks, cemeteries, industrial sites, and golf course roughs. It should perform well in temperate regions as a monostand, in blends with other Chewing’s fescues, or in mixtures with other fine-leaved fescues (Festuca spp.).

Seed production of Tiffany is limited to two generations of increase from breeder seed: one each of Foundation and Certified. Pure Seed Testing, Inc., maintains breeder seed of Tiffany in Oregon. U.S. plant variety protection (PVP Certificate no. 9300198) has been issued for Tiffany Chewing’s fescue.

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References and Notes