Registration of ‘Cody’ Buffalograss

‘Cody’ buffalograss [Buchloë dactyloides (Nutt.) Engelm.] (Reg. no. CV-242, PI 593467) was developed through cooperative efforts of the Native Turfgrass Group and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. It was released in March 1995 by the Agricultural Research Division, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Nebraska. Cody was evaluated under the experimental designation NTG-6.

Cody, a turf-type buffalograss, was derived by intermating NTG-1 (‘Tatanka’) (Klingenberg et al., 1997), NTG-2, NTG-3, NTG-4, and NTG-5 (‘Bowie’) (Severmuth et al., 2005). Each line was derived from a four-clone synthetic consisting of two female and two male clones. The nine female and seven male parental clones that made up these five NTG experimental lines were selected from a large heterogeneous buffalograss collection established at the John Seaton Anderson Turfgrass Research Facility located near Mead, NE.

These original buffalograss clones used in Cody are geographically diverse. Eight are adapted to the northern Great Plains and eight to the southern Great Plains. Because of this diversity, the adaptation of Cody may extend from Plant Hardiness Zone 3 in the north to Zone 10 in the southern, arid regions of the USA, and from the West Coast of the USA to east of the Great Plains. Cody is also expected to grow well in the southwestern USA (Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas).

Trials in Nebraska indicated Cody was more responsive to early fall dormancy than ‘Top Gun’, ‘Texoka’ (Voight et al.), and ‘Sharps Improved’ during establishment and at maturity. This early fall dormancy contributes to the excellent winter hardiness of Cody. Early dormancy is a response to northern adaptation. Northern-adapted plants survive the winter cold period by going dormant early in the fall and resuming growth in the spring (Riordan et al., 1983). Cody greens up in the spring earlier than Texoka, ‘Bison’ (Taliaferro, 1994), and ‘609’ (Riordan et al., 1992), and is similar to Tatanka (Morris, 1996).

Turf quality and density of Cody is superior to Texoka and Bison, and comparable to Tatanka. Overall quality rankings place Cody first among seeded cultivars in the 1996 NTEP National buffalograss test (Morris, 1996). In Nebraska, Cody exhibits better establishment than Tatanka and Bison, and is similar to Texoka (Morris, 1996). It has excellent mealybug [Tridiscus sporoli (Cockerell) or Trionymus spp.] and buffalograss mite [Eriophyes (Aceria) slykhuisi (Hall)] resistance, and high to moderate chinch bug (Blissus occiduus Barber) resistance (Heng-Moss et al., 2002). Cody has shown excellent resistance to leaf spot (caused by Helminthosporium spp.), purple leaf spot [caused by Stagonospora maculate (Grove) Sprague], and good resistance to dollar spot (caused by Sclerotinia homeocarpa F. T. Bennett.) (Morris, 1996) and powdery mildew (caused by Erysiphe graminis DC. Ex Merat). Cody is susceptible to false smut (caused by Cercospora seminalis Ellis & Everh.), but has moderate resistance to ergot [caused by Pseudum sect. Inocybe].

The grass canopy when unmowed. Male flowering in unmowed turf is most prominent in late spring and early fall, when ‘Cody’ buffalograss [Buchloë dactyloides (Nutt.) Engelm.] nights are cool and days are warm. Cody bur r' yields measured for Texoka.

Cody is recommended for low- to mediterranean turfgrass sites in the northern, southern, and plains (Plant Hardiness Zones 3 to 10) and the desert regions of the USA. As with other buffalograss, a low water-use rate (Beard and Kim, 1998), Cody established, tolerates dry conditions and warm temperatures better than most cool-season turfgrasses (Wallner, 1982).

Four hundred seedlings each of experimental lines NTG-2, NTG-3, NTG-4, and NTG-5 were planted in Bow and Murdock, NE, and Enid, OK, for generation and Breeder seed increase. These seed were milled at time of planting. Seed was hand-sorted and planted into foundation and certified for locations. All seed production fields of Cody were segregated.

Cody should be increased no more than 50% beyond Breeder seed: Foundation, Registered, and Breeder, Foundation and Certified seed are available for the commercial market. Breeder seed is to be produced and maintained by Native Turfgrass, with the cooperation of Arrow Seed Co., Broken Bow and Murdock, NE, and the Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station (no. 9600125) has been received for United States Golf Association.

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References