

INSTITUTE

**Final Report** 

# RYEGRASS CULTIVAR TRIAL 2005-2007

Auckland, New Zealand

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New Zealand Sports Turf Institute - Natural & Synthetic Sports & Lifestyle Turf Specialists

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#### TRIAL OBJECTIVE

A total of 23 perennial ryegrasses cultivars were sown in April 2005 in a comparative trial at NZSTI, Auckland.

The objectives of the trial were:

- 1. To evaluate a range of ryegrass cultivars under wear, and no wear conditions.
- 2. To provide participating seed companies with comparative information about the performance of their turfgrass varieties. The trial was intended to be maintained under normal council sports field conditions. The low fertility of the site meant that the trial was effectively conducted under low maintenance fertility.

#### MATERIALS AND METHODS

#### Site details Location: NZSTI. Auckland Soil type: Clay loam, pipe drained Mean annual rainfall: 1162 mm Mean relative humidity: 89% (Mar-May), 94.2% (Jun-Aug), 84.9% (Sep-Nov), 86.1% (Dec-Feb) Mean monthly temperature: 16.2°C (Mar-May), 11.6°C (Jun-Aug), 14.6°C (Sep-Nov), 19.2°C (Dec-Feb), Trial design: Completely randomised Plot size: 1.75 m by 1.75 m Replication: Three per cultivar

#### Variety details

*Species:* Perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*)



#### Cultivars

Participant	Cultivar	
Cropmark Seeds	Green magic	
DLF Seeds Ltd	All*Star 2	
	Keystone	
	Gator 3	
	Essence	
	Tophat II	
	Ponderosa	
	Elfkin	
	Greenway	
	Margarita	
Evans Turf Supplies Ltd	Reliant	
	Inspire	
PGG Wrightson Seeds Ltd	Colosseum	
	Centurion	
	Excalibur	
	Tambour	
	Joust prima	
	Camelot	
	PI6562	
	PI6563	
Prebble Seeds Ltd	SR4200	
	SR4500	
	PreRye3	

#### Trial maintenance

Trial maintenance	
Seeding date:	8 April 2005
Seeding rate:	35 g/m <sup>2</sup>
Mowing:	Weekly, clippings returned, height of cut 35 mm.
Irrigation:	No regular irrigation applied.
Fertiliser:	Four times per annum with ammonium sulphate at 120 kg/N/ha per year.
Weed control:	Broadleaf weeds were controlled with two applications of broad- spectrum selective herbicide per year in July and November 2005 and,

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	April and December 2006. <i>Poa annua</i> hand weeded as required. Weed control treatments were ineffectual in 2006 resulting in patchy invasion of weeds such as white clover and <i>Oxalis corniculata</i> . Weed invasion could have affected scoring. The nitrogen fixing effect of white clover could have benefited some cultivars.
Pest control:	None.
Wear:	Year one wear was applied fortnightly from 25 July to 25 September 2005, 4 to 8 passes of a standard wear machine.
	Year two wear was applied fortnightly 3 May to 31 May, 4 passes of a standard wear machine. Further wear was applied 17 and 21 August 2006, 8 and 2 passes respectively.
Disease:	No fungicides were used to control disease. The only significant disease has been red thread and rust.

#### Assessments

*Early seedling establishment vigour:* Plots were scored for early seedling vigour using a 1-9 scale to give a visual assessment of how quickly the plants were growing and establishing with 1 being low vigour (bare ground) and 9 being high vigour (very dense, rapid ground coverage).

*Early seedling establishment density:* Plots were scored for early seedling density using a 1-9 scale to give a visual assessment of how quickly the plants were to establish with 1 being bare ground and 9 being very dense ground cover.

*Density and uniformity:* Year one; plots were scored using a 1-9 scale to give a visual assessment of the number and uniformity of plants per unit area, with 1 being bare ground and 9 being very dense/uniform.

Density: Year two; plots were scored for sward density using a 1-9 scale to give a visual assessment of the density of plants per unit area, with 1 being bare ground and 9 being very dense. Invasion of the sward by weeds due to low maintenance, low management inputs made scoring for uniformity no longer relevant. Density was scored only on areas not affected by weeds.

*Disease incidence*: Scored for red thread on <u>unworn</u> plots only using a 0-5 scale, with 0 being no red thread, 5 being severe outbreak.

*Colour*: Scored on <u>unworn</u> plots using a three-colour scale of light green, medium green, and dark green as an indication of overall unworn plot colour on the date of the assessment, under low management inputs of the trial. Colour assessments do not necessarily reflect the inherent colour of the genotype.

*Worn density and uniformity (damage/recovery):* As for unworn density and uniformity scoring above.

#### Industry standard

No "industry standard" was used in this trial.

#### Data collection, processing and statistical analysis

Results were grouped into appropriate time periods (e.g. density/uniformity for each year), as follows:

Unworn plots			
Early seedling establishment vigour:	Measurement on 29/04/05		
Early seedling establishment density:	Measurement on 8/06/05		
Density and uniformity:	For year one, measurements pooled from 25/08/05, 28/11/05, 21/12/05, 4/04/06		
Density:	For year two, measurements pooled from 29/05/06, 20/06/06, 11/07/06, 21/07/06, 3/08/06, 8/09/06, 27/11/06, 22/02/07, 4/05/07		
Disease incidence:	Measurements pooled from 14/09/05, 28/11/05, 20/12/05, 12/01/06, 26/04/06		
Colour:	Measurement made on 28/11/05, 4/04/06, 27/11/06, 22/02/07		
Worn plots			
Density and uniformity:	For year one, measurements pooled from 25/08/05, 28/11/05		
Density:	For year two, measurements pooled from 29/05/06, 20/06/06, 11/07/06, 21/07/06, 3/08/06, 8/09/06		

Results were statistically analysed using multiple sample comparison function of Statgraphics Centurion XV version 15.0.10 with the least significant difference (LSD) used to determine cultivar differences at the 5% probability level. Means were grouped using Duncan's Multiple Range Test. Means with the same letter in each column are not significantly different. Note: ns = Not Significant; \* = p<0.05; \*\* = p<0.01; \*\*\* = p<0.001.

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#### RESULTS

#### Early seedling establishment vigour

The results for early establishment vigour are shown in Table 1. At 21 days Green Magic had a significantly lower early establishment vigour compared to the other cultivars. All other cultivars recorded similar early establishment vigour (range 7.3 to 4.0).

	_	
	Vigour	
	29/04/05	
Cultivar name	21 Days	
	after	
	seeding	
Tambour	7.3a	
Centurion	7.0ab	
All*Star 2	7.0ab	
Tophat II	7.0ab	
Elfkin	7.0ab	
Essence	7.0ab	
Camelot	6.7abc	
Greenway	6.7abc	
SR4200	6.7abc	
SR4500	6.7abc	
Gator 3	6.3bcd	
Keystone	6.3bcd	
Inspire	6.3bcd	
Margarita	6.3bcd	
Colosseum	6.0cd	
Excalibur	6.0cd	
Ponderosa	6.0cd	
PreRye3	6.0cd	
PI6562	6.0cd	
PI6563	6.0cd	
Reliant	6.0cd	
Joust Prima	5.7d	
Green Magic	4.0e	
Significance	***	
CV%	12.03	
LSD 5% level	0.7	

Table 1: Ryegrass early seedling establishment vigour

#### Early seedling establishment density

By 61 days after sowing early establishment density scores were all in the range 9 to 6.7 (Table 2). There were significant differences between the highest scoring cultivars with scores in the range 9.0 to 8.7 compared to the more slowly establishing cultivars (range 6.7 to 7.3).

	Density
	08/06/05
Cultivar name	61 Days
	after
	seeding
Centurion	9.0 a
All*Star 2	8.7a
Gator 3	8.7a
Keystone	8.7a
SR4200	8.7a
Tophat II	8.7a
Elfkin	8.3ab
Essence	8.3ab
Greenway	8.3ab
Inspire	8.3ab
Ponderosa	8.3ab
PreRye3	8.3ab
Reliant	8.3ab
Excalibur	8.0abc
Margarita	8.0abc
SR4500	8.0abc
Camelot	7.3bcd
Colosseum	7.3bcd
Joust Prima	7.3bcd
Tambour	7.3bcd
PI6562	7.0cd
PI6563	7.0cd
Green Magic	6.7d
Significance	***
CV%	10.24
LSD 5% level	1.0

#### Table 2: Ryegrass early seedling establishment density

#### Disease incidence (red thread)

Red thread was noted in a number of cultivars in the spring of 2005 and the outbreak continued through the summer and into autumn 2006. Plots were scored for red thread severity on five occasions during this period (Table 3). All cultivars suffered from red thread infection at various stages during this spring to autumn period. None of the differences between cultivars were significant.

Red thread severity scores						
	Measurement date					
0	14/00/05	1	1	1	00/04/02	
Cultivar name	14/09/05	28/11/05	20/12/05	12/01/06	26/04/06	Mean
		Days after sowing				
	159	234	256	277	383	
SR4200	0.3	0.3	1.3	3.7	1.0	1.3
Green Magic	0.7	1.0	2.3	4.3	1.3	1.9
Keystone	0.0	2.0	2.0	4.3	1.3	1.9
Tambour	0.3	1.7	2.0	3.7	2.0	1.9
Camelot	0.0	2.7	2.7	4.7	1.3	2.3
Tophat II	0.0	2.0	3.3	4.7	1.3	2.3
Excalibur	1.3	2.7	1.7	3.7	2.3	2.3
Essence	0.0	2.0	3.7	4.7	1.3	2.3
PreRye3	1.0	3.0	2.0	3.7	1.7	2.3
SR4500	0.3	2.0	2.7	4.3	2.7	2.4
Colosseum	0.0	3.3	3.3	4.0	2.0	2.5
PI6562	0.7	2.7	4.0	4.0	1.0	2.5
Centurion	0.0	2.7	3.0	4.7	2.0	2.5
All*Star 2	0.0	3.0	3.3	4.3	2.0	2.5
Ponderosa	0.3	3.3	3.0	4.3	2.0	2.6
Elfkin	0.0	2.3	3.7	4.3	2.7	2.6
PI6563	0.0	2.7	4.7	4.7	1.7	2.7
Inspire	0.0	3.0	4.3	4.7	1.3	2.7
Joust Prima	1.0	4.0	3.3	4.7	1.7	2.9
Margarita	0.3	4.0	4.3	4.3	1.3	2.9
Reliant	0.0	4.0	4.7	4.7	1.7	3.0
Greenway	3.3	3.3	4.3	3.3	1.3	3.1
Gator 3	0.0	3.3	4.3	4.7	3.0	3.1

#### Table 3: Red thread severity scores

No significant difference between cultivars

#### Colour

Tables 4a to 4d classifies the different cultivars according to three shades of green (light, medium, dark green) as scored once in each of the following seasons; spring 2005, autumn 2006 spring 2006 and summer 2007.

Light green	Medium green	Dark green
Tambour	Colosseum	Inspire
PI6562	Camelot	Tophat II
Margarita	Ponderosa	All*Star 2
	Elfkin	Gator 3
	Green Magic	
	SR4200	
	Greenway	
	Centurion	
	SR4500	
	Excalibur	
	PreRye3	
	Essence	
	Keystone	
	PI6563	
	Reliant	
	Joust Prima	

### Table 4a:Ryegrass colour description - spring 2005<br/>(as scored on 28 November 2005)

Table 4b:

#### Ryegrass colour description - autumn 2006 (as scored on 4 April 2006)

Light green Medium green Dark green				
Medium green	Dark green			
Elfkin	Inspire			
SR4200	Tophat II			
Centurion	All*Star 2			
SR4500	Gator 3			
PreRye3	Green Magic			
Essence				
Keystone				
	Medium green Elfkin SR4200 Centurion SR4500 PreRye3 Essence			

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Light green	Medium green	Dark green
Colosseum	Ponderosa	Green Magic
Camelot	Elfkin	Tophat II
Tambour	SR4200	All*Star 2
Excalibur	Greenway	Gator 3
Margarita	Inspire	
Joust Prima	PI6562	
PI6563	Centurion	
	SR4500	
	PreRye3	
	Essence	
	Keystone	
	Reliant	

### Table 4c:Ryegrass colour description -spring 2006(as scored on 27 November 2006)

## Table 4d: Ryegrass colour description - summer 2007(as scored on 22 February 2007)

Light green	Medium green	Dark green
PI6562	Colosseum	Camelot
	Ponderosa	All*Star 2
	Elfkin	
	Green Magic	
	SR4200	
	Greenway	
	Tambour	
	Inspire	
	Centurion	
	SR4500	
	Excalibur	
	PreRye3	
	Essence	
	Tophat II	
	Keystone	
	Margarita	
	Gator 3	
	Reliant	
	Joust Prima	
	PI6563	

#### Unworn sward density and uniformity (year one) and density (year two)

Scores for unworn sward density and uniformity in year one and density in year two are presented in Tables 5a and 5b respectively.

Some significant differences were recorded in the first year of measurements (Table 5a) between the higher scoring cultivars (Tophat II, Centurion, SR4500) and the lowest scoring cultivars (Ponderosa, PI6563, Joust Prima).

In the second year of measurements (Table 5b) significant differences between cultivars were only measured on three dates and as in year one the differences were only significant between the highest scoring cultivars and the lowest scoring cultivars.

		Sward de	nsity and u	iniformity	
Cultivar name	25/08/05	28/11/05	4/04/06	Mean	
		Mean			
	139	234	255	361	
Tophat II	8.3ab	7.0a	7.0	6.7a	7.3a
Centurion	8.0abc	7.0a	7.0	6.3ab	7.1ab
SR4500	7.7abc	7.0a	7.3	6.3ab	7.1ab
Inspire	8.7a	6.0bc	6.7	6.0abc	6.8abc
Gator 3	8.0abc	6.3abc	6.7	6.3ab	6.8abc
SR4200	8.3ab	5.7c	7.0	6.3ab	6.8abc
Essence	7.7abc	6.7ab	6.3	6.7a	6.8abc
Excalibur	8.3ab	6.3abc	6.3	6.0abc	6.8abcd
All*Star 2	7.7abc	6.7ab	7.0	5.3abcde	6.7abcd
Greenway	7.7abc	7.0a	6.0	6.0abc	6.7abcd
Elfkin	8.0abc	5.7c	6.7	6.0abc	6.6abcde
Camelot	7.7abc	6.3abc	6.3	5.7abcd	6.5bcdef
Margarita	7.3bc	6.3abc	7.0	5.3abcde	6.5bcdef
Keystone	8.0abc	5.7c	6.7	5.3abcde	6.4bcdefg
Green Magic	7.3bc	6.0bc	6.3	6.0abc	6.4bcdefg
PreRye3	8.0abc	6.0bc	6.0	5.7abcd	6.4bcdefg
Reliant	7.7abc	6.3abc	6.3	5.0abcde	6.3cdefg
PI6562	7.7abc	6.0bc	6.3	4.7bcde	6.2cdefg
Colosseum	7.3bc	5.7c	6.3	5.3abcde	6.2cdefg
Tambour	7.3bc	6.0bc	6.3	4.7bcde	6.1defg
Ponderosa	8.0abc	6.3abc	5.7	3.7e	5.9efg
PI6563	7.0c	6.3abc	6.0	4.0de	5.8fg
Joust Prima	7.0c	6.0bc	5.7	4.3cde	5.8g ***
Significance	*	**	ns	**	
CV%	7.69	9.42		19.67	7.59
LSD 5% level	0.8	0.8		1.4	0.6

 Table 5a:
 Ryegrass unworn sward density and uniformity - year one

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						density	ard density	v - year two		
	Measurement date									
Cultivar name	29/05/06	20/06/06	11/07/06	21/07/06	3/08/06	8/09/06	27/11/06	22/02/07	4/05/07	Mean
				Day	s after sov	ving				mean
	416	438	459	469	481	517	597	684	755	
Tophat II	6.3	7.3	7.0ab	7.7a	7.7	8.3a	7.3	5.0	5.0	6.9
Centurion	5.7	7.3	7.3a	7.3ab	7.0	8.0ab	7.0	6.3	5.7	6.9
SR4200	6.0	7.3	7.3a	7.3ab	7.0	7.7abc	7.0	6.0	4.7	6.7
Excalibur	6.0	6.7	7.3a	7.0abc	8.0	7.3abc	7.0	6.0	5.0	6.7
Green Magic	5.7	6.7	7.3a	6.7abcd	7.0	7.7abc	6.7	6.3	6.0	6.7
SR4500	5.7	7.0	7.3a	7.3ab	7.0	8.0ab	7.0	5.7	4.7	6.6
All*Star 2	6.0	7.0	6.7ab	7.0abc	7.0	7.3abc	6.7	6.3	5.0	6.6
PreRye3	6.0	7.0	7.0ab	7.3ab	7.7	7.3abc	6.7	5.3	4.3	6.5
Camelot	5.7	6.3	7.0ab	6.3abcd	6.7	7.0bc	7.3	6.7	4.7	6.4
Greenway	5.3	6.7	7.0ab	6.7abcd	7.0	7.7abc	6.3	5.3	4.7	6.3
Inspire	6.7	6.7	6.7ab	6.3abcd	7.0	6.7cd	6.3	5.3	4.3	6.2
Elfkin	5.7	6.7	6.3ab	6.3abcd	7.0	7.3abc	6.3	5.3	4.7	6.2
Margarita	6.0	6.7	7.0ab	6.7abcd	7.0	7.0bc	6.7	4.7	3.7	6.1
Gator 3	5.7	6.0	6.0b	6.3abcd	7.0	7.0bc	6.7	5.3	4.7	6.1
Essence	5.7	6.0	7.0ab	7.0abc	6.7	7.3abc	6.7	5.0	3.0	6.0
Keystone	6.3	6.7	6.7ab	6.0bcd	6.3	7.0bc	6.3	4.7	3.7	6.0
PI6562	5.0	6.0	6.3ab	5.7cd	6.0	7.0bc	6.3	5.7	5.0	5.9
Reliant	4.7	6.3	6.0b	6.0bcd	6.0	7.7abc	6.7	5.7	4.0	5.9
Tambour	5.3	6.0	6.3ab	5.3d	6.3	6.7cd	6.0	5.7	5.0	5.9
Colosseum	5.3	6.0	6.7ab	5.7cd	7.0	6.7cd	6.7	4.7	3.7	5.8
Joust Prima	5.0	6.0	6.0b	5.7cd	6.0	7.0bc	6.0	5.7	4.7	5.8
PI6563	4.7	6.3	6.3ab	6.0bcd	6.0	6.7cd	6.3	5.0	4.3	5.7
Ponderosa	4.7	6.0	6.0b	5.3d	6.3	5.7d	5.3	4.3	3.3	5.2
Significance	ns	ns	*	*	ns	**	ns	ns	ns	ns
CV%			10.16	14.88		10.86				
LSD 5% level			1.0	1.4		1.1				

#### Worn sward density and uniformity (year one) and density (year two)

Worn sward density and uniformity for year one and density for year two are presented in Tables 6a and 6b, (w) indicates measurements recorded during a period when wear was being applied.

No significant differences were found between cultivar worn density and uniformity or density scores for any measurement date for either year.

	Swa	vard density and uniformity					
	Mea						
Cultivar name	25/08/05	Mean					
	Day	Mean					
	139(w)	234	255				
Centurion	8.0	6.3	6.3	6.9			
Gator 3	8.0	5.7	4.7	6.1			
Inspire	7.7	5.3	5.0	6.0			
Tophat II	7.7	5.3	5.0	6.0			
SR4500	7.3	5.0	5.3	5.9			
Margarita	7.7	5.0	5.0	5.9			
All*Star 2	8.0	4.3	5.3	5.9			
Essence	7.7	5.0	4.7	5.8			
SR4200	7.3	4.7	5.0	5.7			
Greenway	7.3	5.3	4.3	5.7			
Excalibur	8.0	4.0	5.0	5.7			
Keystone	8.0	4.3	4.0	5.4			
Camelot	7.0	4.7	4.7	5.4			
PreRye3	7.7	4.0	4.7	5.4			
Elfkin	7.3	4.7	4.0	5.3			
Joust Prima	7.3	4.3	4.0	5.2			
Reliant	7.3	4.3	4.0	5.2			
Ponderosa	7.0	4.7	3.7	5.1			
Green Magic	7.3	5.0	3.0	5.1			
PI6562	6.7	4.7	4.0	5.1			
Tambour	6.3	4.0	4.7	5.0			
PI6563	7.7	4.3	3.0	5.0			
Colosseum	6.7	3.7	4.0	4.8			

Table 6a: Ryegrass worn sward density and uniformity – year one

No significant differences between cultivars

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Sward density for year two										
	Measurement date									
Cultivar name	29/05/06	20/06/06	11/07/06	21/07/06	3/08/06	8/09/06	27/11/06	22/02/07	4/05/07	Mean
	Days after sowing									Mean
	416(w)	438	459	469	481	517	597	684	755	
Centurion	4.3	4.3	5.7	5.7	6.0	5.0	4.7	5.7	5.3	5.6
Tophat II	4.3	4.7	5.0	5.3	5.3	5.3	4.7	5.0	4.3	5.2
All*Star 2	4.3	4.3	5.0	4.7	5.0	5.3	5.0	5.7	4.7	5.1
PreRye3	4.3	5.0	5.0	5.7	6.0	4.7	4.0	6.0	3.7	5.1
SR4200	4.7	4.3	5.3	5.7	5.3	4.7	4.3	5.0	4.0	5.0
Excalibur	4.3	3.7	5.3	5.3	5.7	4.3	5.0	5.7	4.0	5.0
SR4500	4.3	4.0	5.3	5.0	5.3	4.7	5.0	4.3	4.3	5.0
Camelot	4.0	3.7	5.0	4.3	5.0	5.7	5.3	6.0	4.3	5.0
Greenway	4.3	4.0	5.0	5.0	5.3	5.7	4.7	4.3	4.3	5.0
Inspire	4.3	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.7	4.3	4.7	3.7	5.0
Margarita	4.3	4.3	5.0	4.7	5.0	6.0	4.7	4.3	3.3	4.9
Gator 3	3.7	4.0	5.0	4.3	4.7	5.3	4.3	4.7	4.3	4.9
Green Magic	4.0	4.3	5.0	4.7	5.0	5.3	4.7	5.7	4.0	4.8
Keystone	4.3	4.7	5.0	4.3	5.0	5.0	4.3	5.0	4.0	4.8
Elfkin	4.0	4.0	4.7	4.7	5.0	5.3	4.7	5.0	4.3	4.8
Essence	4.3	3.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	3.7	4.3	3.3	4.6
Colosseum	3.7	3.7	4.7	4.7	5.0	5.0	4.7	5.0	4.0	4.6
Joust Prima	3.7	4.0	4.7	3.7	4.0	5.3	4.0	5.3	4.3	4.6
PI6562	3.7	4.0	5.0	4.0	4.7	4.3	4.0	5.0	4.7	4.6
Tambour	4.0	4.0	4.3	4.0	4.3	4.7	4.3	5.0	4.3	4.5
PI6563	3.3	4.0	4.7	4.0	4.3	5.3	4.0	5.0	4.0	4.5
Reliant	3.7	4.0	4.7	4.0	3.7	5.3	3.7	5.0	3.3	4.4
Ponderosa	3.7	3.7	4.3	4.0	4.0	4.7	4.0	4.7	3.3	4.3

No significant differences between cultivars