



Gray Leaf Spot Resistance Program

Save money with fewer fungicide applications and less need to overseed damaged areas with our Gray Leaf Spot resistant varieties.

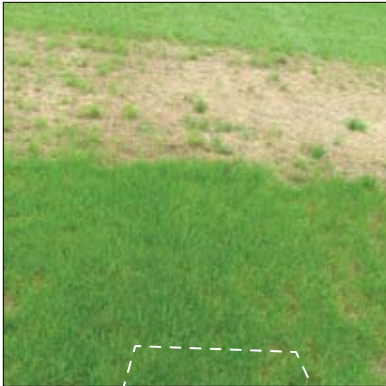


What qualifies Turf-Seed perennial ryegrass varieties as Gray Leaf Spot resistant?

Gray leaf spot (*pyricularia grisea*) is a disease of increasing concern, especially in the Mid-Atlantic and Transition Zone areas, where perennial ryegrass (*loium perenne*) has been extremely susceptible. To help turfgrass managers battle gray leaf spot, researchers at Pure-Seed Testing, Inc., in Rolesville, NC are conducting trials exposing perennial ryegrass to heavy gray leaf spot pressure. The varieties that perform in the top 12% of those trials show good-to-excellent gray leaf spot resistance, with 60–100% live mature turf after being subjected to high levels of gray leaf spot disease pressure. The majority of commercially available perennial ryegrass varieties succumbed. Additionally, these varieties have performed well in trials at other locations that were infected with gray leaf spot as very young seedlings. Our varieties qualifying for the *gray leaf spot resistance* icon have maintained 50–100% cover when damaged by gray leaf spot in these trials and have gone on to completely recover from disease damage as the turf matured.

Research & Breeding Work

Pure-Seed Testing, Inc. works to identify perennial ryegrass varieties with increased gray leaf spot resistance for use in breeding projects. These gray leaf spot outbreaks have occurred on mature turf trials that are 9–12 months old. Of 43 commercially available varieties evaluated in 2004, 38 (88%) rated below 2.0 for gray leaf spot damage. This is based on a scale of 1–9, where 9 = no disease and 1 = dead. In 2005, 88% of varieties rated below 4.0. Each year, perennial ryegrass survivors from the Pure-Seed Testing, Inc. trials in North Carolina are selected and recombined in Oregon. The performance of the Pure-Seed Testing, Inc., experimental varieties, under heavy disease pressure, shows progress in identifying varieties that are genetically resistant to gray leaf spot.



What varieties made it?

PERENNIAL RYEGRASS

Variety
Brightstar SLT
Gray Fox
Gray Goose
Gray Hawk
Silver Dollar