IMPROVING GRASS PLANTS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT FIRST STEP IN GROWING A BETTER SOD!

Labarinth Tall Fescue, the rhizomatous component of RTF™

Dakota Tall Fescue, a component of Black Beauty

K-31 Tall Fescue

WHAT IS BLACK BEAUTY™ SOD AND WHY IS IT SO SPECIAL?

Black Beauty Sod has been grown for over ten years by leading sod growers across the USA. Black Beauty™ is the brand name for the superior tall fescues bred using the new photo-chemical efficiency and anti-oxidant screening tests pioneered by Dr. Xunzhong Zhang of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University at Blacksburg, Virginia. Differences are known to exist among varieties in leaf color, disease resistance and visual quality. However physiological parameters for explaining the differences between lawn grasses were lacking. New studies pioneered at Virginia Tech, have revealed the inner processes of lawn grass plant cells. The studies have assessed how well a lawn grass plant manufactures food from sunlight and how well it wards off disease through antioxidants. This valuable information aids in developing new lawn grass varieties. The Black Beauty Sod is the result of this advanced research. Black Beauty produces a beautiful lawn, even under tough growing conditions.

WHAT IS RTF™ SOD AND HOW DOES IT COMPARE WITH BLACK BEAUTY?

RTF™ is an abbreviation for "Rhizomatous Tall Fescue" and Labarinth Tall Fescue is promoted as the rhizomatous component in the RTF™ sod. It is claimed that Labarinth is bred for increasing rhizome number and rhizome length in turf. A rhizome is a creeping stem or runner that extends outward from the main plant underground. The rhizome will send a shoot up to the soil surface while extending new roots downward, forming a new plant. The Kentucky Bluegrasses used in Black Beauty Sod can rhizome many feet from the parent plant and will repair bare spots quickly. Data from a reported Ohio State University study shows rhizome activity of Labarinth RTF™ at ten percent, less than four of the other five tall fescues evaluated. (http://www.osu.edu/sportsturf). At two other sites where Labarinth Tall Fescue has been evaluated it also has not been impressive when compared to other tall fescues and in particular, with Dakota Tall Fescue, which is a key ingredient in the Black Beauty Sod Mixture.

Labarinth Tall Fescue, (the rhizomatous component of RTF™,) on the left, Dakota Tall Fescue, (a component of Black Beauty,) on the right.

EASTERN US TRIAL LOCATION

Tall Fescue Variety	2007 Ave TQ	Color	Texture	Density
Dakota*	**6.8**	**6.5**	**6.0**	**6.0**
Inferno	6.6	6.0	6.7	6.3
Justice	6.5	6.2	5.8	5.5
Falcon 4	6.4	6.0	5.3	5.5
Rebel 4	6.3	6.3	5.7	5.8
Rebel Exceda	5.5	5.3	5.5	5.3
Tar Heel	5.3	5.3	5.7	5.8
Crewcut	5.0	4.2	4.3	4.0
Bonsai	4.8	4.3	5.0	3.5
Shortstop	4.6	4.0	4.3	4.2
Rebel Jr	4.1	4.0	3.8	3.5
Rebel II	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.5
Silverado	3.8	2.7	2.8	2.7
Bonanza	3.3	2.7	2.3	3.0
Mini Mustang	2.6	3.3	3.3	2.7
K 31	2.4	1.8	1.8	1.8
Labarinth	**2.2**	**1.8**	**3.7**	**2.0**
Grand Average	4.9	4.5	4.6	4.3

WESTERN US TRIAL LOCATION

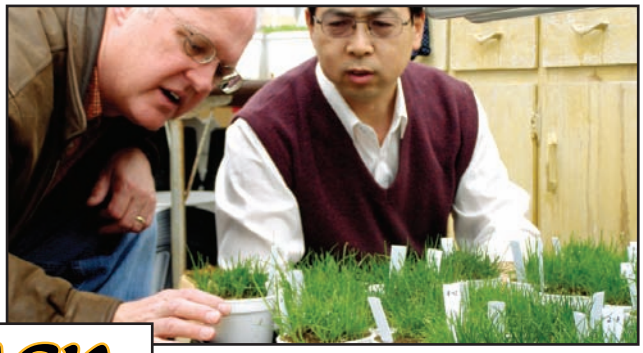
Tall Fescue Variety	2007 Ave TQ	Color	Texture	Density
Dakota*	**7.6**	**7.7**	**6.8**	**7.0**
Justice	7.0	7.2	7.8	7.8
Inferno	6.6	6.2	6.5	6.6
Rebel 4	6.4	6.3	6.6	6.7
Falcon 4	6.2	5.8	6.3	6.3
Rebel Exceda	6.2	5.8	6.4	6.5
Bonsai	6.1	5.8	7.5	7.3
Tar Heel	5.6	5.3	4.3	4.5
Shortstop	5.4	4.3	5.2	5.3
Crewcut	4.8	4.2	5.2	4.6
Silverado	4.8	4.5	4.3	4.8
Mini Mustang	4.3	5.0	4.5	3.8
Rebel II	4.0	3.3	3.3	3.8
Rebel Jr	3.5	3.2	2.2	2.7
Bonanza	3.4	2.0	3.5	3.7
Labarinth	**3.2**	**1.8**	**5.0**	**1.8**
K 31	2.4	2.0	1.3	1.7
Grand Average	5.1	4.7	5.1	5.0

* **The Dakota Tall Fescue is part of the Black Beauty Sod Mixture along with Taos and Tombstone Tall Fescues, and elite Kentucky Bluegrasses.**

Average: Data is the average of 3 replicated plots.

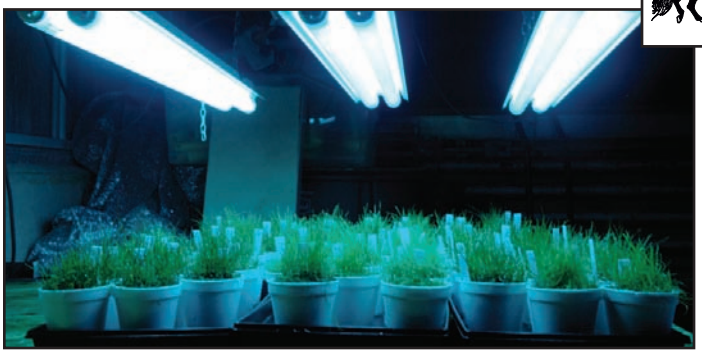
SEEK • FIND • VERIFY

The Field Chlorophyll Fluorometer was developed by Dr. Zhang to perform the Photo Chemical Efficiency Test.

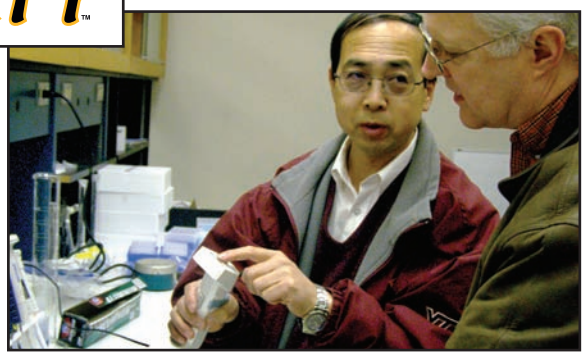


The grass samples were grown in calcite clay for even fertilizer and water distribution.

BLACK BEAUTY™



The grasses were exposed to punishing, pure Ultra Violet light, 24/7 for 10 straight days.



Dr. Xunzhong Zhang evaluated the antioxidant content to determine disease resistance in turf grasses.

Black Beauty - The invisible waxy coating, like that on an apple, wards off disease mycelia.

The Dakota - "Black Beauty" - Tall Fescue (left) has slower vertical growth than the Labarinth - "RTF™" Tall Fescue (right) when measured against this 8 inch stake.

The Dakota - "Black Beauty" - Tall Fescue (left) grows a denser and more uniform turf than the Labarinth - "RTF™" Tall Fescue (right).

SOD GROWER:

Based upon the data we have reviewed, we believe that Black Beauty™ is certainly equal to or better than RTF™.