

SOFT BLADE

TURF-TYPE TALL FESCUE (CDF-13S)

- The softest to-the-touch tall fescue grass plant available today
- Vastly improved tillering for better turf density
- The first of a new elite generation of Black Beauty Tall Fescue Varieties
- Mixes great with Blue Panther Bluegrasses
- Beautiful, rich, dark-green color
- Superior disease resistance and drought tolerance

Breeding History of CDF-13S Tall Fescue

Sources of Germplasm Used to Breed CDF-13S Tall fescue

The germplasm used to develop CDF-13S was selected from germplasm that traces to the following varieties: Integrity (18%), Compete (11%), Corona (19%), Horizon (21%), R&R Gold (16%) and Copious (15%).

Breeding Chronology

2007 – In the spring, sixty-two plants were selected out of spaced plant nurseries near Verboort, Oregon. Selections trace back to the following varieties: Integrity (11 plants), Compete (7 plants), Corona (12 plants), Horizon (13 plants), R&R Gold (10 plants) and Copious (9 plants). These plants were transplanted to an isolated crossing block and allowed to inter-pollinate. Seed of each plant in the cross was harvested individually and used to establish turf plots in Verboort, Oregon and Pipersville, Pennsylvania. The plots were evaluated two seasons and rated for turf quality, genetic color, density and texture.

2009 – In August, thirty-four of the 62 half-sib lines exhibited good turf quality, resistance to heat stress, brown patch, pythium, and resistance to drought in the turf plots planted at Pipersville, Pennsylvania. Tillers were dug from the 34 superior turf plots and utilized to establish an isolated spaced plant nursery with 100 plants from each plot in Verboort, Oregon that fall.

2010 – Spaced plants were rogued for uniformity, color, resistance to rust, and abundance of seed heads before pollination removing 60% of the plants. Seed of the 34 half-sib rows were harvested individually and bulked supplying seed for turf plots planted in the fall at Verboort and Pipersville.

2011 - 2013 – Turf plots were evaluated 3 years for turf quality, color, density, texture and disease at Verboort and Pipersville. Tillers were dug from 7 of the 34 half-sib plots which exhibited the best turf performance. The tillers were spaced planted (500 plants each) in an isolated nursery at Verboort in the fall.

SEEDING RATES:

Overseeding:
 3 – 5 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft.

Bare Soil:
 5 – 7 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft.



SOFT BLADE Tall Fescue production field in Silverton, OR.



is a



*Turf-Type
 Tall Fescue Variety*

2014 – Spaced plants were rogued for uniformity, dark green color, abundant heading and resistance to crown rust removing 16% of the population. The remaining plants were allowed to inter-pollinate and following seed ripening were bulk harvested. This seed was the first breeder seed of the variety.

Turf Performance of: CDF-13S Soft Blade Tall Fescue

Turf trials were established in late August 2014 at Verboort, Oregon and September 2014 at Pipersville, Pennsylvania. Experimental design was randomized complete block with three replications for both locations. Cutting height at both locations was 1.5 inches. Both trials received 6 pounds of actual Nitrogen from the fall of 2014 through the summer of 2015. Irrigation was applied to prevent stress. The total number of entries at each trial location was 68. The turf performance data is from 2015. Ratings were made using a 1-9 scale for each trait as follows: Turfgrass quality where 9 = ideal turf, Color where 9 = darkest green, Density where 9 = most dense and Leaf texture where 9 = very fine.

The grass characteristic which is quite unique to Soft Blade Tall Fescue is the reduced saw-tooth edge on the grass blades. This makes this tall fescue exceptionally soft to the touch. Much more like Kentucky Bluegrass than any other tall fescues that have previously been available. Soft Blade will be a particularly good Black Beauty variety to mix with Kentucky Bluegrasses for growing sod of the very best uniformity of leaf texture, soft touch and beautiful dark-green appearance.

Variety	Turf Quality		Genetic Color		Leaf Density		Leaf Texture	
	OR	PA	OR	PA	OR	PA	OR	PA
SOFT BLADE	7.4	7.1	7.3	7.4	7.2	7.2	8.2	8.0
Integrity	6.8	6.7	6.8	6.7	6.4	6.3	6.7	6.5
Mustang 4	5.8	5.4	5.7	5.0	6.9	5.9	6.3	6.1
Crossfire3	5.0	4.9	4.7	4.2	4.9	4.2	5.4	4.6
Bonsai	5.8	4.8	5.3	4.6	5.6	4.5	6.2	4.6
Rebel II	4.3	4.2	3.7	3.8	4.0	4.3	4.1	4.2
Silverado	4.9	4.1	4.2	3.6	3.8	3.7	4.1	4.0
Bonanza	4.1	3.8	5.1	3.5	3.9	3.4	4.0	3.5
Ky-31	2.3	2.4	2.0	1.9	1.7	2.2	1.7	2.6
Grand Mean	6.6	6.4	6.5	6.2	6.4	6.0	6.5	6.2
Highest Rated	7.9	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.9	7.6	8.2	8.0
Lowest Rated	2.3	2.4	2.0	1.9	1.7	2.2	1.7	2.6
LSD @ 0.05	0.8	0.7	0.7	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.1	1.0
CV (%)	7.7	7.1	7.6	9.7	9.8	12.0	10.2	10.1

Averaged Ratings for CDF-13S at Verboort OR & Pipersville PA 2015 - 2018



SOFT BLADE has improved turf density.



SOFT BLADE exhibits a dark-green color.