

SEED RESEARCH REPORTS

Providence

(1019)

Creeping Bentgrass

ORIGIN

Providence was developed in cooperation with Dr. Richard Skogley, emeritus professor of the University of Rhode Island. Dr. Skogley spent over twenty-five years as a professor and turf extension specialist and is recognized throughout the world for his work. During that time, he was also collecting and evaluating hundreds of bentgrasses.

Since 1965, in tests conducted under putting green management, five of his selections stood out as being unique and superior to Penncross in turf quality, disease resistance, and early spring green-up. These five clones are the parents of Providence.

The five parental clones and their progeny are very uniform in color, leaf texture, aggressiveness, growth habit, seedling vigor, and maturity. Providence is the result of many years of collection, breeding, and testing. This long-term program gives you the confidence Providence will perform long-term on your course.

Providence has consistently rated at the top of the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) Bentgrass Putting Green and Fairway Test, with its high ratings in the last year, 1993, of the 1989 Trials demonstrating its long-term performance. It has continued to rate highly in the 1993 NTEP Trials, especially in critical areas such as disease resistance and ground cover, and in trials throughout the world including Australia, Great Britain, Japan, France, Austria, and Italy. Although these trials can be valuable as an initial tool in evaluating creeping bentgrass varieties the most important tests are those at golf courses across the world, where it continues to look superior.

PROVEN

Many creeping bentgrasses currently being developed and marketed have only been evaluated for a few years in experimental trials, with little or no testing on actual golf courses. Since long-term performance is critical in maintaining a golf course green, tee or fairway, utilizing a variety from a long-term improvement program gives you the confidence it will perform on your course. Since 1987 on actual golf courses, Providence has been proven to form a golf surface with finer texture, more upright growth, improved color, and better resistance to many major diseases including dollar spot, brown patch, fusarium patch, and leaf spot. These qualities make it an ideal choice not only for greens, but also for tees and fairways, with less reliance on pesticides. In many areas of the country it has been successfully combined on greens, tees, and fairways with SR 1020 creeping bentgrass in the Dominant blend. This blend gives you the added strengths and genetic diversity of SR 1020, without sacrificing uniformity or performance.

MAINTENANCE

Providence does not need the same type of maintenance as Penncross. Forty years of work led to the development of a whole set of machines and management regimes aimed at improving the growth form of Penncross. Many of these are not necessary for the new bentgrasses, and may actually damage them. With the upright growth of Providence you can obtain fast true putts without constant verticutting and extremely short cutting heights which means your greens can be healthier. Complete grow-in and management guidelines developed by superintendents are available on Providence, SR 1020, and Dominant enabling them to be used with confidence.

PVP

IMPROVEMENT THRU RESEARCH

Kevin Pryseski, Cattail Creek Country Club, Glenwood, Maryland —

"In less than a full growing season, Cattail's Seed Research turf had the appearance and playability of a mature and seasoned stand. Members and guests alike rave about the color and consistency of Cattail's Providence greens."

Gordon Witteveen, Board of Trade, Toronto, Canada —

"Providence is the most outstanding bentgrass in our nursery testing plots! Therefore, we are using it to overseed tees and greens. Providence is also the key ingredient in our divot mix."