

# SEED RESEARCH REPORTS

## Chewings Fescue

SR 5100 Chewings fescue is an improved, lower-growing fine fescue. Its unique characteristics allow its use in both high and low maintenance turf. SR 5100's improved stress tolerance makes it possible to use it in many sites, in both sun and shade, where older Chewings fescues would not survive. The lower growth habit enables SR 5100 to be cut short for golf course use, and to grow shorter and more slowly for low maintenance situations.

SR 5100 is an ideal component for many turfgrass mixtures with perennial ryegrasses, other fine fescues, Kentucky bluegrasses and bentgrasses. It contains high levels of viable endophyte which provides natural insect resistance, and the ability to survive under adverse environmental conditions. SR 5100 is ideal for environmentally sensitive sites.

### HIGH OR LOW MAINTENANCE

SR 5100 Chewings fescue is the culmination of a long-term program aimed at improving powdery mildew resistance, turf performance and stress tolerance under close mowing, and selecting an attractive lower-growing plant type. Additional selection was performed for a reduced leaf length; higher seed yield; freedom from choke that can be caused by the endophyte; and a bright, dark green color. The improved summer performance enables SR 5100 to be used in warmer areas than other Chewings fescues. It can be used in much lower maintenance conditions throughout this zone with low growth and stress tolerance.

Under medium or high maintenance conditions SR 5100 forms a fine, dense, low-growing turf that tolerates close mowing. The quick germination and establishment allow it to be used in overseeding situations. SR 5100 is ideally suited for golf courses where the dense, fine, upright growth supports a ball well for the golfer. Its insect and disease resistance and stress tolerance, even with reduced nitrogen, make SR 5100 easy to manage. Its dense growth habit helps reduce weed invasion.

### DISEASE RESISTANCE

SR 5100 has shown good resistance to leaf spot which can significantly damage turf. The improved powdery mildew resistance allows it to be used in shady or protected sites where older varieties would be lost. This improved resistance may contribute to improved summer performance since infection with powdery mildew has been shown to increase transpiration. High endophyte levels contribute to SR 5100's excellent dollar spot resistance, especially at lower nitrogen levels.

### ENDOPHYTE-ENHANCED

SR 5100 contains high levels of an Acremonium-type endophyte that enhances resistance to a number of turf insects. High endophyte levels have also been shown to improve summer survival, enhance fall recovery, and reduce dollar spot and weed invasion in Chewings fescue. Endophyte levels can only be maintained through proper storage of breeder, foundation, and certified seed. Endophyte viability can be lost in normal storage conditions within two years, so it is important to use fresh seed.

## **OUTSTANDING TURF QUALITY**

- Improved summer performance
- Bright, dark green color
- Dense, fine, attractive turf
- Low and high maintenance
- Improved shade tolerance
- Excellent component of high quality lawn mixtures
- Good for overseeding
- Quick establishment