



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON NEW DROUGHT RESISTANT TURFGRASSES

What is Aqua Wise?

Aqua Wise is a brand that identifies turfgrasses that exhibit superior drought tolerance. These are newly developed and introduced grasses that have been subjected to a science-based method that qualifies cultivars for drought tolerance and other characteristics related to water conservation.

How are grasses tested?

“Aqua Wise” brand products have been bred and tested to withstand longer periods of drought stress. The testing involves the establishment of the turf grass under optimal conditions allowing the full expression of above-ground and below ground growth followed by the imposition of a long term water deficit stress. During the development of drought stress, turf grass plots are monitored for their ability to maintain green cover, a process which identifies those cultivars with either low water use or extensive root systems. Cultivars or selections that maintain green cover for longer periods can reduce overall water needs.

Studies are conducted in approved structures that restrict natural rainfall on the plot area during the drought stress period. Planting rates for each species reflect industry standards. Following establishment, each species is maintained appropriately and fertilized according to standard practices. Plots are maintained for a single growing season prior to initiating drought stress. Drought stress is replicated for two years in one location, or one year at multiple locations. The response of entries to drought stress is evaluated two times weekly using digital image analysis techniques to quantify the percent of green turf cover for each plot as drought becomes more severe. When all plots fall below a 25% green turf cover, the experimental area is saturated to initiate drought recovery. Thereafter, the experimental area is irrigated weekly and recovery of entries from drought evaluated weekly using digital image analysis until plots reach 100% green cover.

Drought tests are conducted by the Turf Grass Water Conservation Alliance (TWCA). This non-profit organization has established a science-based method for qualifying cultivars for drought tolerance and other characteristics related to water conservation of grass seeds at low cost. Stover Seed is a supporting member of TWCA.

What grasses are available?

Stover Seed is currently marketing two Aqua Wise products:

PERENNIAL RYEGRASS: MANHATTAN 5 GLR
TALL FESCUE BLEND: TRIPLE CROWN EXTREME

For more information on Aqua Wise products visit:

www.stoverseed.com

www.tgwca.org

www.aquawise.org



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