



Manhattan 5GLR Perennial Rye grass: Fast-establishing & drought-resistant

The University of Southern California (USC) is well-known for its athletics, including football, baseball, soccer, lacrosse, golf, and field and track. Its sports fields see use on a daily basis.

USC recently reached out to Stover Seed’s Sales Manager Don Lewis to find an improved solution for growing grass on its sports fields –seed that could reliably maintain the fields during a time of serious drought conditions.

After studying the situation with the Stover team, Don recommended Manhattan 5GLR Perennial rye grass, a certified perennial especially suited for California turf, i.e. golf courses, sports fields, and residential lawns. Not only does

Manhattan 5GLR boast very rapid establishment, a rich dark blue-green color with a fine texture and an attractive, uniform appearance that tolerates heavy wear and tear, it also exhibits improved drought tolerance. It requires less mowing, less use of fertilizer and chemicals and is highly resistant to disease and above-ground insects.

It’s been developed and tested by the independent Turf grass Water Conservation Alliance. TWCA (www.tgwca.org/) tests seed varieties for drought resistance. For seeds to qualify, TWCA demands scientifically repeatable drought stresses and high statistical scores. Their program helps groundskeepers everywhere deal with drought. www.tgwca.org/



Gaining management's approval to remove the old grass and plant new grass in the middle of a drought only makes financial sense if the new grass establishes quickly and will save water and money. Manhattan 5GLR under optimal conditions establishes in an astonishing 5 - 7 days, is ready for the first mowing in 14 - 15 days and for a sports team to play on in 3 weeks. The grass' ability to recover is a big advantage, making Manhattan 5GLR a prudent way to save money.

Groundskeepers will be impressed to find they can water Manhattan 5GLR at 80% of the already

optimized "ET" rates. The evapotranspiration (ET) system calculates water lost from the soil surface by evaporation and the moisture lost from the plants by transpiration. A highly precise system, it calculates irrigation schedules to replenish only the water that is actually needed for plant and soil conditions, resulting in a dramatic savings in water, healthier root zones and longer plant life.

USC has been very happy with the outcome. Restricted watering has not been an issue; the fields look lush and inviting. If you'd like to visit the USC fields, set up a visit through Stover Seed.



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