

**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
SPECIFICATIONS FOR STANDARD AND NON-STANDARD SEED
Green Tag Program**

PROCEDURES AND RATIONAL

August 2025

Justification:

To provide an unbiased and scientific basis for selection of seed used by Virginia Department of Transportation [VDOT] on construction and roadside maintenance projects.

VDOT Approved Species and Cultivars

Previously VDOT and Virginia Tech conducted field trials to review new cultivars under Virginia roadside conditions before the cultivars were placed on the ***VDOT Roadside Vegetation Management Approved Species & Cultivars*** list which was known as the RD-4 list. Since VDOT and Virginia Tech have suspended the field trials it has been determined that the ***VDOT Roadside Vegetation Management Approved Species & Cultivars*** list will be developed by merging the RD-4 List revised, August 2007 with the current ***Virginia Turfgrass Variety Recommendation*** and the three previous published ***Virginia Turfgrass Variety Recommendation***. The Virginia Crop Improvement Association will revise the ***VDOT Roadside Vegetation Management Approved Species & Cultivars*** list each time a new ***Virginia Turfgrass Variety Recommendation*** is published.

The ***Virginia Turfgrass Variety Recommendation*** is developed by the Maryland-Virginia Turfgrass Variety Recommendation Work Group meets each Spring to consider the previous year's data from Virginia and Maryland National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) trials and to formulate these recommendations. Virginia and Maryland variety recommendations are essentially identical except for specialized grasses and research situations that differ due to adaptation and state regulation. To qualify for this recommended list turfgrass varieties: 1) must be available as certified seed or, in the case of vegetative varieties, as certified sprigs or sod; 2) must be tested at sites in both Virginia and Maryland; 3) must perform well, relative to other varieties, for a minimum of two years to make the list as a "promising" variety and for three years to make the "recommended" category. All test locations in Virginia and Maryland are considered in making these recommendations.

Single Species Seeding with Base Seed with Nurse Crop and Additive Species

When permanent seeding recommendation is to be completed by adding a base turf seed of a single common species or cultivar, nurse crop and additive species individually to the hydro seeder all common species and cultivars must be selected from the ***VDOT Roadside Vegetation Management Approved Species & Cultivars*** list. All seed must be green tagged.

Blends

A blend is achieved when more three or more cultivar of a species of grass such as tall fescue* is combined. A tall fescue blend*, fine fescue blend* or bluegrass blend* for example could be presented for Green Tag consideration. When a blend is presented for green tag consideration a minimum of 65% by weight of the cultivars included in the blend must be from ***VDOT Roadside Vegetation Management Approved Species & Cultivars*** list.

When permanent seeding recommendation is to be completed by adding a blended species is added to a specified nurse crop and additive species in the hydro seeder application all seed must be green tagged.

Mixtures

A mixture is achieved when more two or more species of grass such as tall fescue* and bluegrass* are combined. A mixture could be tall fescue blend* or fine fescue blend* to which supplemental species such as bluegrass* or other species has been added could be presented for Green Tag consideration. When a blend is presented for green tag consideration a minimum of 65% by weight of the cultivars included in the blend must be from ***VDOT Roadside Vegetation Management Approved Species & Cultivars*** list. The supplemental species should not be more than 10% of the total mixture by weight.

Mixture	Crop / Percent	Crop/ Percent	Crop / Percent
Tall Fescue/Bluegrass	Tall Fescue 90%	Bluegrass 10%	
Tall Fescue/Fine Fescue	Tall Fescue 50%	Fine Fescue 50%	
Orchardgrass/Bluegrass	Orchardgrass 50%	Bluegrass 50%	
TF/Bluegrass/A. Ryegrass	Tall Fescue 85%	Bluegrass 10%	Annual Ryegrass 5%

When permanent seeding recommendation is to be completed when a mixture of species is added to a specified nurse crop and additive species in a hydro seeder application all seed must be green tagged.

The Virginia Crop Improvement Association (VCIA) will accept the turfgrass blends or mixtures for Green Tag consideration in accordance with established VCIA procedures and protocol.

Temporary Seeding

The Temporary seeding recommendation can be met by a contractor's mixture of VNS fescue and a nurse crop or by a fescue cultivar selected from the ***VDOT Roadside Vegetation Management Approved Species & Cultivars*** list an approved blend or mixture and a selected nurse crop.

If the Contractor's mixture is selected then 70% by weight must be the VNS fescue. All seed must be green tagged.

VDOT Seed Standards

Kind and Cultivars	Min. Pure Seed %	Min. Germ. %	Pure Live Seed Min. %	Min. Germ. Plus Hard Seed %	Weed Seed Not to Exceed %	<u>LIMITATIONS</u>
*Tall Fescue Cultivars:	98	90	88.20%	--	0.25	<u>RES. NOX.</u>
*Kentucky Bluegrass	98	85	83.30%	--	0.25	<u>WEEDSEEDS</u>
*Fine Hard Fescue	98	85	83.30%	--	0.25	Same As VA Seed Law
*Fine Creeping Red Fescue	98	85	83.30%	--	0.25	
*Fine Chewings Fescue	98	85	83.30%	--	0.25	
*Fine Sheep Fescue	98	85	83.30%	--	0.25	<u>PROH. NOX.</u>
Bermudagrass:	98	85	83.30%	--	0.25	<u>WEEDSEEDS</u>
Zoysiagrass:	98	85	83.30%	--	0.25	Same As VA Seed Law
Common bermudagrass (2)	98	85	83.30%			
Foxtail Millet (German)	98	85	83.30%	--	0.25	
Annual Ryegrass	98	90	88.20%	--	0.25	<u>LAWN & TURF</u>
Rye (Winter Rye) Cultivars:	98	85	83.30%	--	0.25	<u>REST. NOX</u>
Triticum aestivum Wheat	98	85	83.30%	--	0.25	10 Per ounce or 160 Per Pound
Hordeum vulgare (Barley)	98	85	83.30%	--	0.25	
Weeping Love Grass	98	80	78.40%	--	0.25	
Orchardgrass(1)	90	85	76.50%	--	0.5	
Crownvetch Cultivars: (3)	98	36	69.58%	71	0.25	
Flat Pea (3)	99	38	74.25%	75	0.25	
White Dutch Clover (3)	99	80	89.10%	90	0.25	
Birdfoots Trefoil Cultivars: (3)	98	55	78.40%	80	0.5	

***Certified Seed Required
For These**

- (1) Virginia origin or approved cultivars.
 - (2) Spring-Hulled, Fall-Unhulled [note hulled = hulls are removed]
 - (3) Seed must be inoculated with the appropriate strain and rate of bacteria.
- For hydroseeding, use a minimum of five times the dry seeding rate of inoculant.

Tall Fescue^{1*}

2nd Millennium	Falcon Supreme	Michelangelo	Spyder LS
3rd Millennium SRP	Falcon V	Monument	SR8650
4th Millennium SRP	Fantasia	Monument	SR8700
Amity	Fastlane	Moondance	Standout
Annapolis	Fayette	Moondance GLX	Stealth
AST 5112	Fesnova	Motif	Summer
AST 7002	Finelawn Supreme	Mustang 4	Sunset Gold
AST 7003	Firebird	Naturally Green	Supersonic
AST 8218LM	Firebird 2	Nightcrawler	Swagger
AST 9002	Firecracker SLS	Okeefe	Tango
AST 9003	Firehawk SLT	Oriole	Tank
Avenger	Fireza II	Padre 3	Teacher
Avenger II	Firewall	Paramount	Technique
Avenger III	Foxhound	Penn RK4	Temple
Barrington	Galactic	Persuasion	Terrano
Barvado	Gallardo	Pro Gold	Thor
Battle Hawk	Gazelle II	Providence	Titan GLX
Bentley	GLX Revive	Raceway	Titan Max
Birmingham	Golconda	Rain Dance	Titan Rx
Black Tail	Gold Medallion	Raptor III	Titan Ultra
Bladerunner 2	Grande 3	Raptor LS	Titanium
Bladerunner 3	GRO PRO	Rebel Exeda	Titanium 2LS
Bloodhound	GTO	Rebel IV	Titanium G-LS
Bonfire	Guardian 41	Rebel V	Tough
Bravo	Hellcat GLR	Rebel XLR	Traverse II SRP
Bullseye	Hemi	Rebounder	Trending
Bullseye LTZ	Hot Rod	Reflection	Triad
Caesar	Houndog 5	Regenerate	Trinity
Captian	Houndog 8	Rendition RX	Tttanium 2LS
Catalyst	Houndog 9	Rhambler 2 SRP	Turbo
Clash	Hover	Rhizing Moon	Turbo RZ
Crossfire 4	Hudson	Rockwell	Turfway
Dakota	Inferno	Rowdier	Valkyrie LS
Daybreak	Integrity	Rowdy	Valsetz
Diablo	Jaguar 4G	Saltillo	VanGogh
Doubletake	Justice	Screamer LS	Vasetz
Dynamite G-LS	Kingdom	Serenade	Venture
Embrace	Kizzle	Shenandoah Elite	Vert
Endgame	Lafayette	Shenandoah III	WATKINS
Essential	Leonardo	Sidewinder	Wichita
Estrena	Lifeguard	Six Point	Xanadu
Expanse	Maestro	South Fork	Xtender
Extravaganza	Magellan	Southside	Xtremegreen
Fairfield	Matisse	Speedway	Zion
Falcon IV	Meridian	Spyder 2LS	

^{1*} Requires minimum plot coverage of 70% or greater over a three year evaluation period to be included on the VDOT Approved Species and Cultivar list.

Fine Fescue^{1*}

Chewings Fescue

Ambrose	Intrigue 2	Radar	Treasure II
Brittany 2	Jamestown VII	Radar II	Wrigley 2
Cascade	Longfellow 3	Resonance	Zodiac
Compass II	Longfellow II	Shadow 2	
Fairmont	Momentum	Tiffany	

Red Fescue^{*}

Bye	Hype	Navigator II	Seamist
Chantilly	Jasper 2	Navigator III	Wendy Jean
Harbor MR	Navigator	Razor	

Hard Fescue^{*}

Aurora Gold	Brigade	Minimus	SR3100
Beacon	Chariot	Predator	Sword
Beacon II	Gladiator	Reliant IV	Sword II
Berkshire	Gotham	Resolute	Tenacious
Bighorn GT	Jetty	Spartan II	

Sheeps Fescue

Azure Blue ⁽⁵⁾	Bighorn ⁽⁵⁾	Quatro ⁽⁵⁾	
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Perennial Ryegrass^{1*}

Applaud	Elecktra GLR	Ignition	Slugger 3GL
All Star 3	Elevate	Infusion	Soprano
All Star Fore	Evolve	Infusion	SP 4660ST
Alloy	Exceed	Integra Supreme	Spike GLS
Alpha Centauri	Fastball 3GL	Intense	SR 4650
Apple 3GL	Fastball 4GL	JetFire	SR 4700
Apple 4SGL	Fiesta 4	Karma	Stamina
Apple GL	Fiesta Cinco	Legacy 2	Stellar 3 GL
Apple SGL	Flightline	Line Drive GLS	Stellar 4GL
ASAP	Goalkeeper	Monsieur	Stinger
Aspiration	Grand Slam GLD	Octane	Sundown
Aspire	Grandslap	Palmer V	Superstar GL
Authentic	Gray Eagle SLT	Pirouette	Thrive
Bandalore	Gray Fox	Pizzazz	TransGlobal
Banfield	Gray Wolf	Rio Vista	Ultra Sport
Benchmark	Greenback	Seabiscuit	Umpqua
Big League	Greenland	Shield	Vortex SRT
Black Pearl	High Octane	Sidways	Wicked
Brightstar SLT	Homerun	Signet	Wicked Cool
Dark Matter	Homerun G-LS	Siletz	Xcelerator
Dilligent	Homerun LS	Silver Spot	

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Kentucky Bluegrass^{1*}

Apollo H2O	Cabernet	Kenblue	Shannon
Acoustic	Cloud	Legend	Skye
After Midnight	Conquistador	Mazama	Solar Eclipse
Amaze	Courtyard	Mercury	Sombrero
Aramintha	Crest	Merlot	SPF30
Aries	Dauntless	Midnight	Starr
Babe	Deja Blue	Mystee H2O	Sudden Impact
Baron	Delta Blue	New Moon	Syrah
Barserati	Diva	NiGlade	Tejas
Barvette	Electric	Noble	Thermal Blue
Barvette HGT	Endurance	NuChicago	Tirem
Beyond	Everglade	Nurish	Touché
Blue Bank	Finish Line	Oasis	Twilight
Blue Coat	Full Back	Orion	United
Blue Devil	Granite	Pivot	Volt
Blue Gem	Hampton	Quantum Leap	Wildhorse
Blue Magic	Heidi	Raven	Yellowstone
Blue Note	Impact	Ridgeline	
Bolt	Jersey	Selway	
Bombay	Keeneland	Shadow Hawk	

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Bermudagrass¹

Bermudagrass – Varietal differences in texture and winter hardiness are important considerations. If no notation follows the variety name this indicates it has performed in the top statistical category at both Blacksburg and HRAREC in Virginia Beach. Varieties with the notation # are only recommended in Virginia's warmest regions due to cold tolerance concerns. No guarantees can be made regarding any bermudagrass cultivar's winter survival in the transition zone, as damage to any cultivar is possible in an extreme winter.

Category I – Recommended vegetatively propagated bermudagrass varieties: Celebration, Latitude 36, Northbridge, Patriot, Premier Pro brand (variety name is Premier), Tahoma 31, TifTuf (DT-1), and Tifway.

Category II – Promising vegetatively propagated bermudagrass varieties: Iron Cutter, Celebration Hybrid.

Category III - Recommended seeded bermudagrass varieties: Princess-77, Riviera, and Yukon.

Category IV – Promising seeded bermudagrass varieties: Astro, Arden 15, Monaco, Rio, Sunqueen, and SWI-1070.

Coastal Plain Region only:

Del Sol

Piedmont Region only:

Sahara

Savannah

Yukon

Zoysiagrass¹

Zoysiagrass – (Varietal differences in texture and winter hardiness are important considerations.)

Category I – Recommended vegetatively propagated zoysiagrass varieties: Meyer and Zeon

Category II – Recommended seeded zoysiagrass varieties: Zenith

Coastal Plain Region only:

Cathay

Zen 300

Zenith

Blue Grama¹

Hachita

Weeping Lovegrass

Common

Miscellaneous Grasses

Tufted Hairgrass¹

Barcampsia

Colonial bentgrass¹

SR7100

Idaho bentgrass¹

Golfstar

Crested Hairgrass/Prairie Junegrass¹ (*Koeleria cristata*)

Barkoel

Barleria

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Orchardgrass¹

Potomac

Takena

Legumes

Birdsfoot Trefoil

AuDewey

Empire

Norecen

Crownvetch

Chemung

Emerald

Penngift

Flat Pea

Common

Sweet Pea

Common

White Dutch Clover

Common

Companion or Temporary Species

Annual Ryegrass

Common

Barley

Common

Cereal Rye

Abruzzi

Balboa

German/Foxtail Millet

Common