

AST9003 TALL FESCUE

Description:

AST9003 is a new, elite turf-type tall fescue variety developed to stand up to the environmental stresses that plague tall fescue varieties while providing the ultimate in turf quality. Superior turf quality is a key characteristic of AST9003 and it is a top performer in turf trials conducted by NTEP. AST9003 demonstrates superior drought tolerance and has a very aggressive tillering growth habit which allows the plant to recover quickly from damage. AST9003 has the ability to grow and persist under low light conditions which allows it to be grown in denser shade than other tall fescue varieties. AST9003 is a medium-fine textured, dense tall fescue with an outstanding dark green color.

Uses:

Commercial/Residential lawns • Athletic fields • Recreation areas • Parks/Cemeteries • Golf course roughs • Sod production • Roadsides/Low maintenance turf

Management:

- Planting Rate (new): 6-8 lbs/1000 square feet
(existing): 3-4 lbs/1000 square feet
- Planting Dates (spring): March-May
(fall): August-September
- Soil pH: 5.5-8.0
- Mowing Height: 2-4 inches; increased heights should be utilized during summer months to reduce stress to the plant
- Fertility: 4-7 lbs N/year (refer to soil test for exact amounts needed);
Minimum N should be applied during summer months to reduce disease activity.

DROUGHT STUDY RATINGS

NTEP 2008 Progress Report
Tall Fescue Cultivar Ratings
Brookings, SD
Ratings 1-9 9=Best

Justice	5.8
AST9003	5.6
Wolfpack II	5.5
Shenandoah III	5.2
Falcon NG	5.0
3rd Millennium SRP	4.9
LSD	0.7

MEAN TURFGRASS QUALITY

NTEP 2008 Progress Report
Tall Fescue Cultivar Ratings
Blacksburg, VA
Ratings 1-9 9=Best

AST9003	6.0
3rd Millennium SRP	5.9
Gazelle II	5.8
Biltmore	5.7
Mustang 4	5.4
Tahoe II	5.3
LSD	0.5

SHADE TOLERANCE RATINGS

NTEP 2008 Progress Report
Tall Fescue Cultivar Ratings
Carbondale, IL
Ratings 1-9 9=Best

AST9003	7.1
Aggressor	6.9
Monet	6.8
Falcon V	6.5
Finelawn Xpress	6.4
Cochise IV	6.0
LSD	1.4

GENETIC COLOR RATINGS

NTEP 2008 Progress Report
Tall Fescue Cultivar Ratings
20 Locations
Ratings 1-9 9=Ideal Turf

AST9003	7.3
Hunter	7.2
Mustang	6.9
Shenandoah Elite	6.8
Magellan	6.6
Titanium LS	6.5
LSD	0.2

MEAN TURFGRASS QUALITY

NTEP 2008 Progress Report
Tall Fescue Cultivar Ratings
Knoxville, TN
Ratings 1-9 9=Best

AST9003	7.8
Spyder LS	7.5
Falcon NG	7.6
Hudson	7.4
3rd Millennium SRP	7.3
Ninja 3	7.1
LSD	0.5

MEAN TURFGRASS QUALITY

NTEP 2008 Progress Report
Tall Fescue Cultivar Ratings
Madison, WI
Ratings 1-9 9=Best

AST9003	8.3
Crossfire 3	8.0
Falcon V	7.6
Speedway	7.3
Falcon NG	6.6
Gazelle II	6.4
LSD	1.5