

Buffalograss Evaluation Trial

- A four year study of ten buffalograss cultivars to determine adaptation and potential use as water conserving turfgrass in Utah.
- One of nine locations throughout the western half of the U.S.
- Each year cultivars were evaluated for turfgrass quality and color (Figure 1).
- Summaries of national results are available at www.ntep.org. Local summaries can be found on the following [USU Horticulture webpage](#).

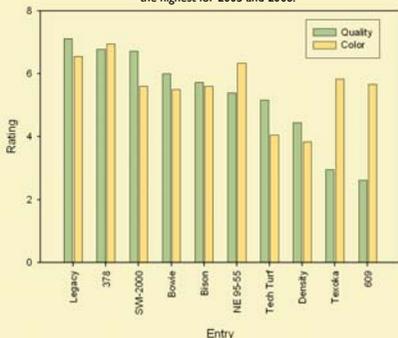


Buffalograss plots at the UBC in Kaysville, Utah. Buffalograss, a warm-season grass, thrives in the heat of the summer.



Buffalograss is dormant in fall (October) through early spring (March-April) and has a golden brown color.

Figure 1. Turf quality and color ratings on a 1-9 scale with 9 being the highest for 2005 and 2006.



Why Buffalograss?

- A warm season grass that requires less water during the summer—often half of Kentucky bluegrass.
- Can be mowed as low as 1", but can be un-mowed for an informal or naturalized look.
- Unique gray-green color.
- Native to North America.
- Available as seed, plugs, or sod.



'Bison' was the overall top variety during the four year trial.



'Legacy' had the highest quality ranking in 2006.

Sod Production of Native and Adapted Turf Species for the Intermountain West

- Native and adapted turf grasses are able to thrive in the arid climate of the IMW with little water.
- These grasses may serve low water and low maintenance turfgrass application areas.
- However, most of these species are not available to consumers as sod.
- This research is exploring how to produce a marketable sod of these alternative grasses.



Blue grama and wheatgrass as mixtures have shown promise as alternative sods.



In low maintenance areas the turf can be left un-mowed for a naturalized look such as blue grama (left) and wheatgrass (right).

Methods

- In 2006 eighteen combinations of native and adapted grasses were planted and established at the UBC in Kaysville and at Biograss Sod Farms near Draper.
- Turf species included buffalograss, blue grama, western wheatgrass, streambank wheatgrass, crested wheatgrass, sheep fescue and a native bluegrass.
- These species and mixtures will be planted with and without sod netting.
- Sod will be evaluated for visual quality, establishment, weeds, etc.
- The sod will be harvested at three different times during 2007-2008 and evaluated for sod strength and re-growth after planting.
- Kentucky bluegrass was used as a standard for comparison.