WASHINGTON II

KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS

Washington II is an improved vibrant bright green winter hardy variety of Kentucky bluegrass with excellent seedling vigor and early spring greenup. Washington II is categorized as a high shoot density variety with a moderately aggressive rhizome system. Washington II is tolerant to low mowing and has the ability to maintain high quality turf under traffic stress in the north central region. These qualities make Washington II an excellent choice for athletic fields, parks, home lawns, golf course fairways, tees and roughs. At 1,500,000 seeds per pound, Washington II is considered to be a high seed count variety.

Washington II is an excellent component in bluegrass blends for genetic diversity and in seed mixtures that contain improved varieties of perennial ryegrass, fine fescues and tall fescue.

KEY POINTS

- **Quality Proven - 2006-2010 Kentucky Bluegrass NTEP**
- **Excellent turf quality under traffic stress - North Central Region**
- **Excellent resistance to necrotic ring spot and pink snow mold**
- **High Seed Count - 1,500,000 seeds per pound**
- **Excellent seedling vigor and spring green up**
- **Excellent resistance to billbugs**
- **Winter hardy**

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BACKGROUND & APPLICATION

Washington II was tested in the 2005 Kentucky bluegrass NTEP under the experimental code RAD-343. In the 2006-2010 final report, Washington II showed excellent seedling vigor, early spring greenup and maintained very high turf quality under traffic stress in the North Central Region. Superb spring, summer and fall density are primary reasons why Washington II ranked at the top for least amount of Poa annua contamination.

At 1,500,000 seeds per pound, Washington II has a high seed count compared to many other varieties. Having a high seed count in combination with excellent seedling vigor allows turf professionals and homeowners alike the ability to rapidly establish dense turf with less seed. The combination of these traits makes Washington II an excellent component in bluegrass blends for genetic diversity or in seed mixtures that contain improved varieties of perennial ryegrass, fine fescues and tall fescue.

ESTABLISHMENT & MAINTENANCE

SEEDING RATES

2-4 lbs per 1,000 sq.ft. is recommended, but seeding rates as low as 1-2 lbs per 1,000 sq.ft. can be used when speed of establishment is not important or overseeding existing turf.

SOIL PREPARATION & PLANTING

Prepare a smooth firm seedbed free of foreign debris such as sticks, vegetative matter and large clods. Seed should be sown at a planting depth of ¼-½ inch. It is important that the seed be in contact with the soil. The soil should be kept moist but not to the point where there is standing water.

FERTILITY

Kentucky bluegrass is affected by variations in soil pH. A pH of 7.0 is ideal for maintaining high quality turf. A soil test is recommended in order to determine the best pre-plant NPK formulation. Depending on your region, 5-7 lbs of N/yr is the normal range.

IRRIGATION

Kentucky bluegrass is considered a medium user of water with an ET rate of 7-8 mm/day. The approach to watering should be to ensure that plants are properly hydrated but not overwatered. Deep infrequent irrigation is desired to encourage deeper root penetration and is recognized as the best way to conserve water over the course of a growing season.

MOWING

Under ideal conditions, Washington II can be maintained at ½ inch. The normal range is ¾-2 inches as would be the case for most Kentucky bluegrass varieties. Desired mowing frequency is once a week when turf is actively growing. Rule of thumb is to never remove more than one third of the total plant height.

The following tables are from the 2005 Kentucky Bluegrass National Turfgrass Evaluation Program Final Report 2006-2010 data

Table 1. Mean Turfgrass Quality using Schedule A

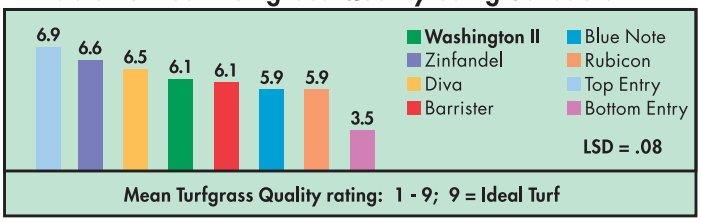

Table 10. Turfgrass Quality under Traffic Stress (MI)

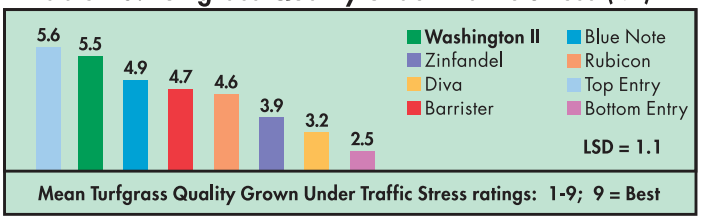

Table 22. Percent Living Cover (Spring)

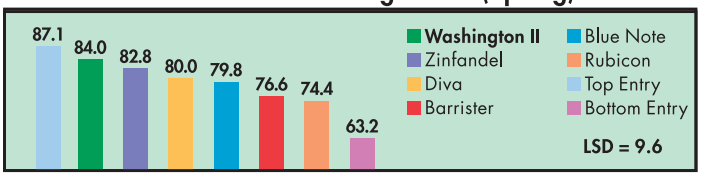

Table 24. Percent Living Cover (Fall)

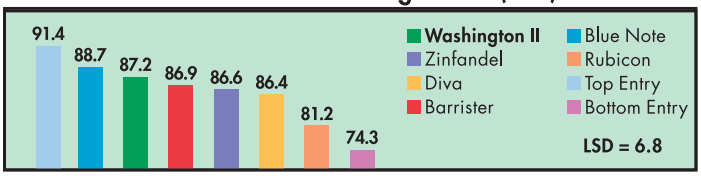

Table 20. Summer Density

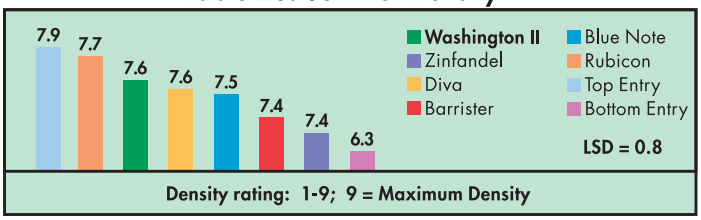

Table 36. Pink Snow Mold