

COLONIAL BENTGRASS

Agrostis capillaris



ORIGIN AND DESCRIPTION

Introduced from Europe, widely naturalized in U.S. Cool-season, stoloniferous grass, 6 to 16" tall. Densely-tufted, short stolons, dense sod-forming. Fine-textured, short, green to dark leaves, mostly basal. Inflorescence an open panicle, pyramid or cone-shaped. Abundant short stolons. No rhizomes.

GROWTH HABITS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PREFERENCES

Thrives in moist, cool, temperate climates, fertile sandy to clayey alluvial soils high in organic matter. Survives, but low growth on sands, dense clays and thin soils. Weak tolerance of

acid and wet soils. Well adapted to northeastern region and northern Pacific Coast. Some varieties have good cold tolerance, but generally used most in south and southeastern U.S.

CULTURE

Drill no deeper than 1/4" on heavier soils and 1/2" on lighter textured soils. Often broadcasted and rolled or cultipacked to press seed into surface soil. Supplemental mulch improves stand establishment. Seeding about 1 to 2 lbs. PLS per acre for erosion control or 1 to 2 lbs. seed per 1,000-sq. ft. for turf. Weak seedling vigor; need to keep moist. Consider sod transplanting where early cover is needed.

Plant in August to September for humid lowland elevations, or in early spring, especially when a legume is included in mixture. Commonly seeded alone or in mixtures with blue grasses (*Poa* spp.) and clovers (*Trifolium* spp.) and other turf grasses.

USE AND MANAGEMENT

Used for lawns, golf course fairways, landscaping, and erosion control. Good with other turf grasses and clovers for grasslands or landscaping around industrial sites; also used in mountain, northern Great Plains, and cornbelt waterways. Tolerates moderate winter flooding, high water tables, or poor drainage.

IMPROVED VARIETIES

Six strains or cultivars are listed in the 1994 Grass Varieties of the United States,

USDA SCS Handbook 170. Turf type varieties are also available. Consult with state or local plant materials specialists for varieties best adapted to specific sites and purposes.

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