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Penn A-4 Creeping Bentgrass

Key Points

- Dark green colour
- Aggressive growth habit
- Exceptional heat and cold tolerance
- Fine leaf texture

Characteristics and areas of use

Penn A-4 creeping bentgrass displays a dark green colour along with a fine leaf texture and outstanding heat and cold tolerance. Penn A-4 has high disease resistance and forms a very dense sward due to its aggressive growth habit. It is suited to golf course putting greens as it forms a smooth grainless surface. Penn A-4 is able to compete against weeds and *Poa annua* with great success. Penn A-4 performs best when maintained under a lean fertiliser regime which in turn reduces maintenance requirements.

Breeding history

Penn State University in North America developed and released the first Penn bentgrass, Penncross, back in the 1950s. Over the years, their continued efforts have produced many successful new bentgrass varieties through careful breeding and seed production.

Sowing rate and maintenance

A sowing rate of 6g/m² (60kg/ha) is recommended into a cultivated seedbed. For overseeding of existing turf 2.5-5g/m² (25-50kg/ha) is recommended.

Fertiliser formulations and rates need to be calculated from soil analysis results taken from the site being sown. Fertiliser applications should be kept light and infrequent. This can be achieved either through a fertigation system or use of soluble products. First mowing should take place when the surface has uniform coverage and the sward height is at no more than 12mm. Solid/smooth rollers should be used to minimise surface damage in the establishment phase.

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