

Spartacus perennial ryegrass

Features

- **Speed of establishment**
- **Medium dark green**
- **Contains endophyte**
- **Excellent year round colour**
- **Absence of browning**



SPARTACUS



Contact us

NEW ZEALAND

03 372 8719 or 09 570 2570
info@pggwrightsonurf.co.nz
pggwrightsonurf.co.nz

AUSTRALIA

1800 DURATURF
info@pggwrightsonurf.com.au
pggwrightsonurf.com.au

 facebook.com/pggwrightsonurf

Spartacus is the latest perennial ryegrass cultivar from PGG Wrightson Turf that is available now.

Spartacus is a medium dark green, dense cultivar with exceptional fineness. An improved Centurion type suitable for sports fields, lawns, cricket pitches or blending with winter sports grass for a slightly darker colour. Spartacus was bred with wild type endophyte for improved persistence and resistance to insect attack. A low rate of browning is a key feature of Spartacus and could be in relation to some plants in the breeding lines exhibiting the stay-green trait.

Whilst Spartacus is not a true winter active type like Colosseum, it grows well in winter, not far behind the winter active sportsfield types. Winter growth is measured by a combination of visual growth scores and rising disc grass height measurements. Spartacus has a rapid establishment rate which is extremely beneficial in most sportsturf situations.

Spartacus represents a new standard for melting out disease resistance being a top performer against melting out in two Auckland trials. Spartacus performs outstandingly well in our Auckland trials for quality and density, indicating good adaptation to both heat and humidity.

*Melting out is caused by several fungi including pathogen *Dreschlera poae*, in the family Dematiaceae. It is a common problem on turfgrass and affects many different species. The disease infects all parts of the plant most commonly on golf course roughs, sports fields, and home lawns throughout New Zealand.*

Spartacus has been used successfully on cricket pitches at Hagley Oval in Christchurch, New Zealand where its rapid establishment and attractive colour have provided excellent results.

Spartacus was bred by plant breeders Louise Carpenter and Dr Alan Stewart from Kimihia Research Centre. It was bred by crossing winter active perennial ryegrass from Algeria and Spain with dark fine perennial ryegrass from USA and Europe. It has undergone four cycles of selection in New Zealand and one to survive heat in Queensland, Australia.

Rupert Bool - Turf Manager, Hagley Oval, Christchurch

"At Hagley Oval we trialed Spartacus perennial ryegrass back in 2016 on a single wicket for the South Africa vs Black Caps one day international. The grass proved to be everything we wanted for our cricket pitch preparation and in Autumn 2017 we re-sowed the entire block in Spartacus. The grass itself has established well, holds its colour year round and has proven to be resistant to the disease pressure we experience here in Christchurch. Overall we are extremely happy with the performance of Spartacus!"



Windross Farm GC perennial ryegrass trial 2016

Ground cover %	
Tukey HSD All-Pairwise Comparisons Test	
CULTIVAR	MEAN
Spartacus	91.3
Competitor 1	89.7
Competitor 2	88.3
Competitor 3	87.5
CT1196-C1 AR95	83.3
CT1151-C2	81.7
CT1170-C3	81.7
CT1183-C4	81.7

Quality	
Tukey HSD All-Pairwise Comparisons Test of qual by cultivar	
CULTIVAR	MEAN
Competitor 4	6.3
Spartacus	6.3
CT1181-C4	6.0
CT1173-C2	5.7
Competitor 2	5.3
Competitor 1	5.3
CT1151-C2	5.0
Competitor 5	5.0
CT1170-C3	4.7
CT1190-C1	4.7

Windross Farm GC perennial ryegrass trial disease scorings 2016

CULTIVAR	DISEASE
Spartacus	9
Competitor 3	9
CT1170-C3	8
CT1191-C1	8
CT1194-C1	8
CT1195-C1	8
CT1160-C1	7
CT1190-C1	7
CT1196-C1 AR94	7
Competitor 6	7
CT1175-C1	6
CT1196-C1 AR94	5

9= No disease
1= Severe disease

Spreading ryegrass 2014 Kimihia Trial

Diameter of 50 mm plugs after 6 months	
LSD All-Pairwise Comparisons Test	
CULTIVAR	MEAN
CT1168	123.3
Spartacus	121.7
CT1175	120.0
CT1138-C2	120.0
CT1165-C3	117.5
CT1184-C2	117.5
Competitor 7	117.5
Soprano	117.5

Diameter of 50 mm plugs after 1 year	
LSD All-Pairwise Comparisons Test	
CULTIVAR	MEAN
CT1138-C2	191.7
CT1168	185.0
CT1151-C1	183.3
Competitor 5	183.3
Competitor 7	181.7
Spartacus	180.0
Colosseum AR95	180.0
Competitor 8	180.0
CT1183-C3	180.0
CT1186-C1	180.0

Out of the 78 cultivars trialed in the 2014 Kimihia trial, Spartacus had the second highest rate of sideways spread.