



RPR STADIUM

FOUR TRAITS SHAPING THE FUTURE OF STADIA PITCHES



RPR STADIUM

THE FAB FOUR

Mixture delivers on four key traits needed

- Exceptional wear tolerance
- Unparalleled recovery from wear (thanks to RPR)
- Darker, camera friendly colour
- Better *Drechslera* leaf spot disease tolerance

STADIA ENVIRONMENTS

Outstanding RPR STADIUM is designed to solve groundsmen's four biggest challenges on stadium pitches. This top-performing and innovative 100% perennial ryegrass blend makes use of Barenbrug-bred technology and is ideal for use on winter sports pitches.

QUALITY CULTIVARS, DELIVERING RESULTS

- New and improved RPR cultivar *Barlibro* offers a more aggressive spreading growth habit with increased stolon numbers and speed of production in UK tests compared to previous RPR variety
- *Barcristalla* and *Barorlando* offer a combination of performance (wear tolerance) and genetic colour that is unparalleled amongst their rivals. They are ranked #6 and #7, respectively, for performance in Turfgrass Seed 2017 and #1 and #2 for dark colour among the top 50 performance varieties
- *Barlibro* is ranked in the top 15 for winter sports on the official French List, which encompasses 12 different testing sites across six European countries including the UK
- *Barorlando* and *Barlibro* have proven *Drechslera* leaf spot tolerance in the French List (leaf spot is not assessed in the UK testing system for Turfgrass Seed)



IN THE BAG

- 50% **BARORLANDO**
Perennial ryegrass
- 30% **BARCRISTALLA**
Perennial ryegrass
- 20% **BARLIBRO**
RPR Perennial ryegrass

HOW TO USE IT

- Sowing rate 30-50g per m²
- Sowing depth 12-15mm
- Oversowing rate 15-30g per m²
- Mowing height down to 18mm



RPR STADIUM DELIVERS ON FOUR KEY TRAITS

Ultimate wear tolerance

The mixture and its component parts have been extensively trialled under intense wear pressure at our Cropvale research station in the UK. Objective data recording over two years conclusively proves the blend's performance with regard to wear tolerance.

Camera-friendly colour

The innovative new mixture delivers darker, camera friendly colour far superior to any other premium mixture on the market with excellent colour in autumn and winter.

Disease tolerance

Drechslera leaf spot is the biggest disease issue in the UK stadium environment. Reliable independent data from the French Turfgrass List show that RPR STADIUM offers superior tolerance compared to competitors' mixtures.

Fast recovery

Regenerating Perennial Ryegrass (RPR) breeding is focussed predominantly on recovery or "regeneration" during wear pressure. RPRs possess an unparalleled capacity to recover in that they can produce determinate stolons and entirely new plants to counteract the effect of intense wear or other turf damage.

The new variety *Barlibro* in RPR STADIUM is the next generation of these distinct cultivars, offering superior performance, with respect to the speed and aggression of its stoloniferous growth.

HOW OUR TRIALS WILL INFLUENCE YOUR PITCHES

Detailed research and development into winter sports perennial ryegrasses and a focus on four key traits vital to a stadium environment has resulted in the launch of RPR STADIUM.

Two years of dedicated wear trials at Cropvale, close analysis and comparison of BSPB Turfgrass Seed and the official French list and data from our breeding stations across the globe has delivered a blend that has it all – wear tolerance, dark genetic colour, disease tolerance and recovery.

No other grass seed mixture offers grounds managers this level of research in one package.

RPR STADIUM – the future of grass seed for a stadium environment.



SEEDS OF SUCCESS: DERBY COUNTY IS A CUT ABOVE THE COMPETITION WITH RPR STADIUM

Working as a groundsman since he left school at 16, Nathan Scarff knows a thing or three about top-notch turf. In just two years as head groundsman at Pride Park Stadium he's turned Derby County's pitch into a playing surface that's been recognised as the best in the division by the Football League – and made more than £3,500 in cost savings per year in the process.

"I wasn't happy with the seed I'd inherited and I instinctively knew RPR Stadium was the best choice for us," says Nathan, who was named Groundsman of the Season in 2015/16 for his work at the Derby County pitch. "I'd trialled several grass seeds while I was at Ipswich Town FC and Barenbrug's seed always came out on top for wear, winter colour and disease resistance. While other competitor grass seeds performed well in certain areas Barenbrug was an all-round high performer in all categories and my gut instinct told me it was the right one for Pride Park."

Indeed, despite an increase in the number of games played each season, from 32 in 2014/15 to 40 in 2016/17, the RPR Stadium has continued to perform, showing impressive disease resistance and looking camera ready even after wear and tear – helping secure a 'Highly Commended' in the Groundsman of the Season competition this year.

The grass is always greener

Nathan says RPR Stadium's most impressive features have been the man power and money saved since its introduction.

Rather than a monthly fungicide spray for leaf spot, Nathan's team now only treats the turf three times a year – saving them around £600 per annum.

"Its disease resistance is fantastic," says Nathan. "We also spotted some fusarium recently and thought we'd have to treat it, but the next day when we came back to look at it, it had gone. All I can say is that the grass sorted itself out!"

Liquid fertilizers were also applied to the Pride Park Pitch every month at a cost of around £3,000 per year, but since the introduction of RPR Stadium these have been completely halted.

"I've always felt these artificial fertilisers forced the plant along and that it's much better to look at other things to get the plants in balance," says Nathan. "The grass grows so well, we don't need to feed it like we did."

And, despite heavier usage over the last year, the grass has maintained its fresh appearance and colour without the need for additional 'greening up'.

Greater flexibility

Aside from the cost savings, Nathan says the improved grass seed has given them greater flexibility.

"Because we don't have to spray on a regular basis our time has been freed up for other more important tasks, and it's saved enormously on man hours," he says. "It's also had a big impact on the playing side. Players have more confidence because they know that what's under their feet will allow the ball to run true, and they can turn and pass like the want to without slipping. And the managers are happier, of course, because there's less risk of injury."

Despite his success, Nathan is not letting the grass grow under his feet.

"My advice to other groundsman is to do trials – it's the only way you can find the best seed for your pitch, and if you sit still the competition will overtake you," he says. "I like to find small improvements each year, even if it's just one or two per cent. It adds up to a lot over the year."



DEVELOPMENT OF RPR STADIUM

RESEARCH

FOUR KEY TRAITS HAVE BEEN TRIED TO DEVELOP THE BEST MIXTURE FOR STADIA ENVIRONMENTS.

Tested and proven

Our Cropvale Research Site near Evesham in Worcestershire is home to the extensive winter sports testing programme.

The aim of the project is to assess new breeding material from Holland and France in the UK environment and develop improved mixture synergy of the premium ryegrass blends developed for winter sports applications, with respect to key traits, WEAR TOLERANCE, COLOUR, RECOVERY and DISEASE (*Drechslera* leaf spot) TOLERANCE.

The wear trials have now run for two seasons (2013/14 and 2014/15), providing robust data that you can rely on.

The trial method

The protocol for the annual wear trial correlates with a football or rugby season, and is summarised in Table 1.

The plots are maintained at 25mm height of cut and fertilised with high quality granular

April	Plots sown @ 35g/m ² ; minimum 3 replications per treatment
May - August	Establishment phase (no wear); plots mown at 25mm
September - April	Wear machine applied; mowing as necessary at 25mm
May - June	Recovery phase (no wear); plots mown at 25mm

Table 1: Annual protocol for winter sports wear trial.

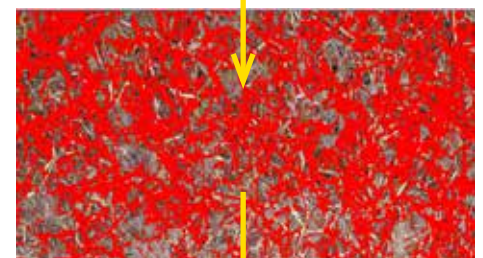
products as and when required, and in accordance with good practice.

The plots are analysed and scored on a monthly basis for "Live Ground Cover" and "Visual Merit". The "Mean Performance" of a cultivar or mixture is determined as the average of these two criteria.

The method to assess "Live Ground Cover" is an OBJECTIVE measurement, and differs from the protocol used by STRI. A camera mounted on an illuminated enclosed box is used to take digital images of the turf plots, which are scanned using a software programme to give a percentage figure for live ground cover.

This "Digital Image Analysis" (DIA) method was pioneered by Richardson, Karcher and Purcell at the University of Arkansas in 2001, and is shown in Figure 1.

Karcher and Richardson (2003) also proposed a method to use the DIA system to objectively measure genetic colour of turfgrasses. The colour components of each image (red, green and blue) are converted into hue, saturation and brightness (more reliable indicators of how humans perceive colour), which are used to formulate a very accurate "Dark Green Colour Index" (DGCI) score. Figure 2 shows examples of this technique.



A	B	C	D
IMAGE	TOTAL PIXELS	SELECTED PIXELS	%COVER
U:\Trials 8	15925248	10027905	62.9686

Figure 1: Digital image Analysis (DIA) process.



Barolympic image, Oct 2013. DGCI = 0.4313



Barlennium image, Oct 2013. DGCI = 0.4971

Figure 2: DIA images showing Barolympic and Barlennium and respective DGCI scores in October 2013.

WEAR TOLERANCE

DELIVERING ACCURATE WEAR DATA

RESEARCH

Wear tolerance is clearly a vital component of a seed mixture formulated for intensive winter sports use. Accurate analysis and consideration to the effects of other pressures such as disease and nutrient input is a vital part of this project.

2013/14 trial

The first wear trial based on the protocol described was sown in 2013. 18 treatments were sown with five replications of each. The 18 treatments featured four ryegrass blends, five "RPR" cultivars and nine normal perennial ryegrasses.

A good spread of data was evident in the trial, with results from individual cultivars exhibiting a strong correlation with the BSPB Turfgrass Seed booklet. The likes of *Barorlando* and *Barcristalla* were among the very best performers, with cultivars such as *Bardorado* and *Barlennium* further down the list. *Barrage*, bred in the 1970s was predictably (and reassuringly) the worst treatment of the trial.

Of the five RPR varieties, *Barlibro* performed best, and was present at 25% in the two best mixtures RPRn1 and RPRn2. Another new RPR variety, *Bartrace*, also showed excellent results, with existing RPR cultivar, *Barclay II*, providing good individual performance. *Baralpha* and *Barbeta*, bred in the USA, did not offer benefits in UK conditions.

The general concept that mixtures perform better than the sum of their parts held true in the trial; the results of "future" blends RPRn1 and RPRn2 were even better than anticipated.

2014/15 trial

The 2014/15 trial based on the same protocol contained 24 treatments with four replications of each. There were six ryegrass blends, six regenerating perennial ryegrass "RPR" cultivars and twelve normal perennial ryegrasses.

The 2014/15 trial results showed good correlation with the first data set. The performance of the top three cultivars from the first trial (*Barlibro*, *Barorlando* and *Barcristalla*) and the mixtures RPRn1 and RPRn2 were again very strong, reaffirming their suitability for wider use.

A new mixture RPRn3 (35% *Barorlando*, 35% *Barlibro*, 30% *Barcristalla*), formulated as a result of the 2013/14 trial, also showed high wear tolerance, and the new varieties 14RA7L, 14RA41 and 13ER718 looked particularly encouraging.

Conclusion

Digital Image Analysis provided a very good method to assess wear tolerance objectively.

Combining this method with visual merit scores yielded a data set that showed good correlation with BSPB Turfgrass Seed, which enables the trial protocol to be used to assess mixture performance with confidence.

The combined data from both trials can be seen in Table 2.

All trials combined	Performance
14RA41*	7.79
14RA7L*	7.59
Barlibro	7.56
Barorlando	7.54
RPRn1	7.47
Barcristalla	7.47
RPRn3*	7.45
13ER718*	7.44
RPRn2	7.43
Bartrace	7.35
RPRn4*	7.27
BAR 7 RPR 2013*	7.24
Barolympic	7.19
BAR 7 2013*	7.18
12RA5B*	7.16
Barlicum	7.14
BAR 7 RPR 2014*	7.14
13RA20*	7.12
13ER728*	7.12
RPRn5*	7.09
Barclay II	7.03
Variety C*	7.02
Variety S*	6.95
LpS9*	6.80
Bardorado*	6.75
Bareuro	6.73
Barbeta*	6.67
Barlennium	6.63
Bartwingo*	6.49
Baralpha*	6.17
Barrage*	5.97

Table 2: Mean calibrated performance and colour of all treatments in wear trials to date.
 RPRn1 = 25% Barlibro, 25% Barorlando, 25% Bareuro, 25% Barcristalla
 RPRn2 = 25% Barclay II, 25% Barorlando, 25% Barlibro, 25% Barcristalla
 RPRn3 = 35% Barorlando, 35% Barlibro, 30% Barcristalla
 RPRn4 = 25% Bartrace, 25% Barorlando, 25% Barlibro, 25% Barcristalla
 RPRn5 = 25% Barlibro, 25% Barorlando, 25% Barcristalla, 25% Variety C

RECOVERY

BARENBRUG BREEDING

RESEARCH



BARLIBRO - RPR Perennial Ryegrass

LATEST RPR TECHNOLOGY

Latest RPR cultivar, *Barlibro* is even better than *Barclay II*. Great grass with excellent wear tolerance, leaf spot tolerance and colour.

Even ignoring its RPR benefits, *Barlibro*, in its own right is one of the most outstanding perennial ryegrasses we have ever bred.

This photo shows part of a *Barlibro* RPR plant after only 10 months growth.

Determinate stolons and new plants with roots are clearly evident at this time.

"Recovery" is a difficult trait to quantify, typically being recorded in the context of a wear trial AFTER wear treatments have ceased, and therefore (particularly in a scenario of full pitch renovation) of little real-life relevance.

The Barenbrug RPR breeding programme is focussed predominantly on recovery or "regeneration" DURING wear pressure.

RPRs possess an unparalleled capacity to recover in that they can produce determinate stolons and entirely new plants to counteract the effect of intense wear or other turf damage.

New RPR cultivars have been extensively tested at our Cropvale research site, as part of the above wear trial, but also to determine the speed and extent of their stolon production.

The new variety *Barlibro* offers superior performance, with respect to wear tolerance, speed and aggressive spreading via stoloniferous growth.

The pictures below show part of a *Barlibro* RPR plant exhibiting stolon growth at six months after a spring sowing.

The fact that RPR can produce stolons and regenerate so quickly has clear benefits when applied to a winter sports mixture.

The ability of *Barlibro* to recover during wear pressure has a positive effect on its performance in wear trials. At Cropvale, it has been the best performing single cultivar assessed in both trials, with only the next generation of RPR's (14RA41) and (14RA7L) yielding better results.

It is currently in trial at STRI for Turfgrass Seed but is already ranked #14 for winter sport performance in the official French Turfgrass List 2014, which uses 12 trial locations across Northern Europe (France, UK, Holland, Germany, Spain and Norway) and as a result provides very robust data on how varieties perform in a number of different climates that we see here in the UK.

Put simply, *Barlibro* is one of the most exciting ryegrasses we have ever bred – superb wear tolerance with an added dimension for mid-season recovery.



"The general concept that mixtures perform better than the sum of their parts held true in the trial."



Wear machine in action

COLOUR

DELIVERING CAMERA-FRIENDLY COLOUR

RESEARCH

Delivering a camera-friendly colour in stadia environments is vitally important - that's why it's one of our key trial traits.

The modern era of winter sport has resulted in two factors which dictate that dark genetic colour of turfgrass is a desirable trait in premium seed blends:

- It is typical to remove the surface every year on many professional pitches, resulting in a dramatic reduction in annual meadowgrass, which can stand out or dilute the colour of a dark green pitch
- Presentation and aesthetics of pitches for televised sport are in high demand.

2013/14 trial

DIA and DGCI provide an excellent template to accurately measure genetic colour of turfgrasses. The most interesting results from the trials came in autumn; the results from October 2013 can be seen in Table 3.

The spread of data at this crucial time of a winter sports season was astonishing, with eight levels of statistical significance evident within the 18 treatments.

Predictably, the darkest green treatment was the USA-bred *Barlennium*, with very pale "bright-green" types *Barolympic*, *Bareuro* and *Barlicum* bottom of the list.

Genetic colour, although a desirable trait, has to be considered in context with wear tolerance. *Barlennium* for instance possesses excellent colour, but is relatively poor in turf performance (see Table 2). With this in mind, *Barorlando* and *Barcristalla* appear to be fantastic options for UK winter sport – exceptional performance with superb colour.

The BSPB Turfgrass Seed booklet offers some information on colour relating to winter sport, but only simple visual colour scores recorded in late summer and winter.

Only the "dark-type" varieties maintain strong colour in winter, but present too much

of a compromise in their wear tolerance to be considered viable choices for premium blends.

A combined BSPB winter and summer score ("mean colour index") shows good correlation with the October 2013 results here, and perhaps provides a platform for better interpretation of the BSPB data (see Table 4).

Cultivar	DGCI	BSPB mean colour index
Barlennium	0.4953	7.65
Barorlando	0.4787	6.50
Barcristalla	0.4777	6.79
Bardorado	0.4588	5.16
Bareuro	0.4366	5.41
Barolympic	0.4362	4.71

Table 4: A comparison of colour scores between DGCI and BSPB Turfgrass Seed 2015 data.

Treatment	DGCI October 2013	Significance
Barlennium	0.4953	a
Barorlando	0.4787	b
Barcristalla	0.4777	b
RPRn2	0.4733	c
11RACR5	0.4720	cd
Barbeta	0.4693	de
BAR 7	0.4671	e
Barrage	0.4669	e
RPRn1	0.4666	e
Barlibro	0.4661	e
Barclay II	0.4618	f
BAR 7 RPR 2013	0.4612	f
Bardorado	0.4588	f
Baralpha	0.4488	g
Bartwingo*	0.4488	g
Bareuro	0.4366	h
Barlicum	0.4365	h
Barolympic	0.4362	h
LSD 0.05	0.0035	

Table 3: Mean DGCI of all treatments in October 2013, with LSD significance indicators.

RPRn1 = 25% Barlibro, 25% Barorlando, 25% Bareuro, 25% Barcristalla
 RPRn2 = 25% Barclay II, 25% Barorlando, 25% Barlibro, 25% Barcristalla

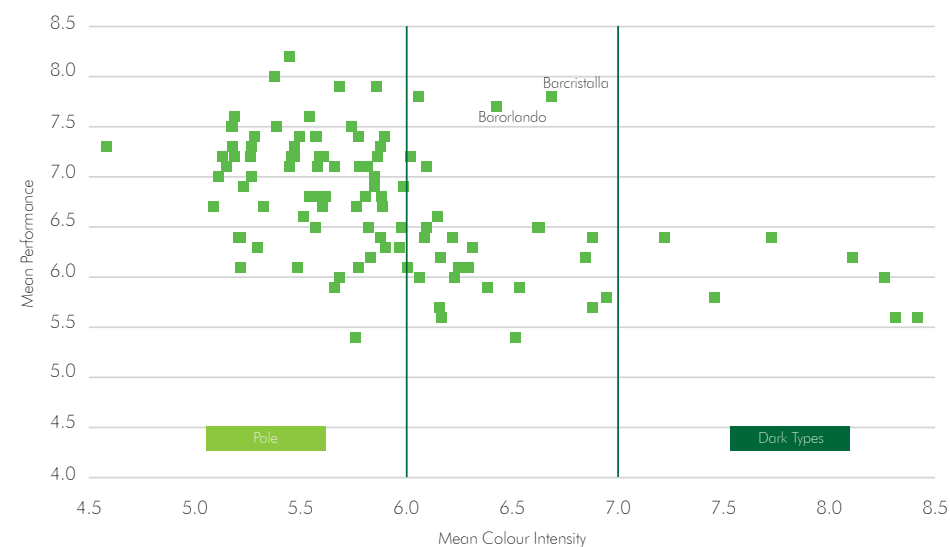


Figure 3: Graph showing mean performance and mean colour of all cultivars listed in Table S1 of BSPB Turfgrass Seed 2017. Barorlando and Barcristalla offer the best combination of performance and colour, with only dark-types and a few other weak performing varieties with higher colour intensity.

All trials combined	DGCI
Barlennium	0.4915
Barcristalla	0.4754
RPRn5*	0.4749
RPRn3*	0.4729
RPRn2	0.4728
Barorlando	0.4720
13RA20*	0.4709
Barbeta*	0.4693
Bartrace	0.4684
BAR 7 RPR 2014*	0.4678
BAR 7 2013*	0.4671
RPRn1	0.4671
Barrage*	0.4669
Barclay II	0.4652
BAR 7 RPR 2013*	0.4612
12RA5B*	0.4609
Barlibro	0.4608
14RA41*	0.4597
Bardorado*	0.4588
Variety C*	0.4587
RPRn4*	0.4582
13ER728*	0.4575
13ER718*	0.4567
Variety S*	0.4541
LpS9*	0.4526
Baralpha*	0.4488
Bartwingo*	0.4488
Bareuro	0.4451
Barlicum	0.4429
Barolympic	0.4397
14RA7L*	0.4372

*Single trial

Table 5: Mean DGCI (colour) of all treatments in wear trials to date.

RPRn1 = 25% Barlibro, 25% Barorlando, 25% Bareuro, 25% Barcristalla
 RPRn2 = 25% Barclay II, 25% Barorlando, 25% Barlibro, 25% Barcristalla
 RPRn3 = 35% Barorlando, 35% Barlibro, 30% Barcristalla
 RPRn4 = 25% Bartrace, 25% Barorlando, 25% Barlibro, 25% Barcristalla
 RPRn5 = 25% Barlibro, 25% Barorlando, 25% Barcristalla, 25% Variety C

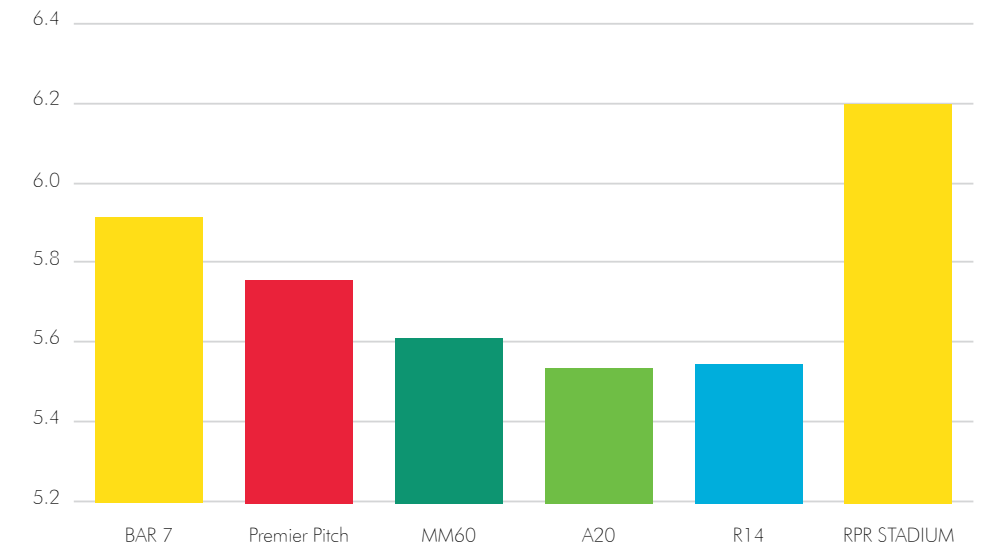


Figure 4: Graph showing hypothetical colour scores of all premium winter sports mixtures, based on Table S1 of Turfgrass Seed 2017 mean colour of component cultivars.

2014/15 trial

As previously, the results in autumn (October 2014) provided the best opportunity to analyse differences between treatments. In general the DGCI scores were lower than the previous year, due to fertiliser timings.

The relative rankings remained consistent though, proving the point that genetic colour of cultivars is what underpins the desired turf aesthetics inside a stadium.

The combined data from both trials can be seen in Table 5.

Conclusion

The DIA and DGCI method provided an excellent insight into genetic colour, potentially enabling significant benefits in solving the problem of winter sports pitches losing colour in late autumn/winter.

It is unusual for perennial ryegrasses to be both wear tolerant in the UK and dark in colour.

Figure 3 shows performance data versus mean colour for every variety listed in Turfgrass Seed 2017; the conclusion is clear – *Barorlando* and *Barcristalla* exhibit the best combination of these two traits on the market.

The DGCI method allows analysis of colour to be applied to grass mixtures, not just individual varieties. Interestingly, the mixtures show remarkable correlation in colour, relative to their component parts.

Extrapolation in Figure 4 hence shows the hypothetical results for all 2017 premium-brand winter sports mixtures on the UK market, compared to that of RPR STADIUM.

The positive effect of the inclusion of *Barcristalla* and *Barorlando* in the mixture is clearly evident.

DISEASE

LEAF SPOT IS THE BIGGEST DISEASE ISSUE IN A STADIUM PITCH.

RESEARCH

Disease tolerance is a large focus of our international breeding programmes, with any susceptible lines removed as a matter of course for a whole range of pathogens.

Drechslera leaf spot is a particularly damaging disease for a winter sports pitch, and is of such relevance to the UK premium ryegrass market, that it requires further examination.

It is a very difficult disease to assay under laboratory conditions, as its interaction with other factors, such as wear, light etc. are virtually impossible to recreate.

The best option is therefore to rely on breeders' data from various sites over several years to build a picture of which varieties are most tolerant to the disease.

A good independent source of this information is the official French Turfgrass List, available online at

<http://turfgrass-list.org/>,

which is formulated by combining data from twelve different sites in six countries (including the UK) over a three-year period.

Unfortunately, not all cultivars of prominence in the UK market are on the French list, but of those found in the premium-brand mixtures (Johnson's Premier Pitch, Rigby Taylor R14, Limagrain MM60, Germinal A20 and RPR STADIUM), *Barorlando* has the highest score for *Drechslera* tolerance.

Barlibro also has good leaf spot tolerance, and it is expected *Barcristalla* will yield excellent data, based on Barenbrug trial sites across Europe.

In conclusion, RPR STADIUM offers grounds managers security in the knowledge that it has superior leaf spot tolerance, according to the best available independent data.



Drechslera Leaf Spot



"No other grass seed mixture offers grounds managers this level of research in one package."

WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOU. HOW OUR TRIALS WILL INFLUENCE YOUR PITCHES.

Detailed research and development into winter sports perennial ryegrasses and a focus on four key traits vital to a stadium environment has resulted in the launch of RPR STADIUM as part of the BAR Range grass seed mixtures for the UK and Ireland.

Two years of dedicated wear trials at Cropvale, close analysis and comparison of BSPB Turfgrass Seed and the official French list and data from our breeding stations across the globe has delivered a blend that has it all – wear tolerance, dark genetic colour, disease tolerance and recovery.

No other grass seed mixture offers grounds managers this level of research in one package.

Key conclusions from the project so far:

- The DIA and DGCI systems have enabled objective analysis of winter sports ryegrass performance under wear in the UK.
- Cropvale trials and analysis of BSPB Turfgrass Seed data proves that *Barorlando* and *Barcristalla* offer an unparalleled combination of performance (wear tolerance) and dark genetic colour.
- At Cropvale, the top three performance varieties assessed in both trials are *Barlibro*, *Barorlando* and *Barcristalla*. The blend RPRn3, which is a combination of these cultivars, offers the best combination of wear tolerance and colour tested thus far.
- *Barorlando* and *Barlibro* have superior leaf

spot tolerance when assessed independently as part of the French turfgrass list.

- *Barlibro* offers increased stolon production over previous RPR varieties.

- As a result, RPRn3 is launched to market as RPR STADIUM

The process does not stop there either. The 2016/17 trial is in progress, with exciting new cultivars 14RA41, 14RA7L, 13ER718 and 13ER728 under further investigation. Five new mixture formulations are also being trialled and compared to existing blends and control varieties such as *Barlibro*, *Barcristalla*, *Barorlando*, and *Barlennium*.

RPR STADIUM – the future of grass seed for a stadium environment.

Croke Park is the third-largest stadium in Europe, with a capacity of 82,300, and serves both as the principal stadium and headquarters of the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA).

Stuart Wilson the Pitch Manager at Croke Park Stadium, Dublin, comments, "I started to use Barenbrug based on how impressed I was with the dedicated research for the winter sports market in the UK and Ireland that Barenbrug are currently undertaking. They are looking at things that really matter in a stadium environment – wear tolerance obviously, but also other aspects like colour and leaf spot tolerance.

"Based on this research, I opted for a special mixture of three perennial ryegrass cultivars that offered the best performance combination for a stadium. Overseeding is a huge part of pitch maintenance in Croke Park with over 90 events per year on the pitch so the seed blend which includes the new RPR variety *Barlibro*, helps recovery after high usage and severe wear.

"I have not been disappointed with my decision to use Barenbrug. The grass has stood up very well to a hectic season of concerts and play. At Croke Park, we never get the chance for a full-scale renovation like most other major stadia. Weekends of intense play come thick and fast, and we need grass to germinate quickly and handle wear early in its establishment.

"The attached photos show the pitch ready for matches 4 days after it was covered for 5 1/2 days for Ed Sheeran concerts. I have been particularly impressed by the way the sward has "stood up" after severe wear, and there have been no issues with disease at all. It was great to learn that the Croke Park "special mix" is being launched as RPR STADIUM at SALTEX 2015, and I look forward to using it in the future."



Our Cropvale (Worcestershire) Research Site

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