

SEED RESEARCH REPORTS

The logo for SR9554 features the letters 'SR' in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The 'S' is positioned above the 'R'. To the right of the 'SR' is the number '9554' in a large, brown, outlined font. The '9' is a stylized, rounded shape. Below the 'SR' and '9554' are several horizontal lines of varying lengths, suggesting a stylized grass or seed structure.

SR9554 Turf-Type Seeded Bermudagrass is a multi-purpose bermudagrass variety suitable for use on golf course tees, fairways and roughs, municipal parks, lawns, sports fields, cemeteries and roadsides wherever bermudagrass is adapted worldwide. On many turf sites, **SR9554** is a replacement for other seeded varieties, as well as offering an alternative for some vegetative hybrid bermudagrass varieties.

Turf-Type Seeded Bermudagrass

SR9554 is also suitable for use as an overseed into thin stands of existing hybrid and seeded bermudagrass turf in order to improve overall turf quality, health and performance, or even to aid in transition from winter overseeded ryegrass.

SR9554 seeded bermudagrass is an advanced generation synthetic variety, developed from the progeny of six clones, tracing back to plants initially collected from Germany and the Pacific Northwest of the United States, plus a selection from Cheyenne bermudagrass. The clones and their progeny went through several cycles of evaluation, crossing and further selection for turf and seed yield attributes. After several years, six superior plants were selected based on visual uniformity, dark green color, high turf density, finer texture, high seed yield and reduced plant height. Seed from these six clones was used to plant several turf evaluation trials, while the mother plants were vegetatively increased into an isolated polycross seed production block. The seed harvested from this block was used to plant a Pre-Breeder seed production field in Arizona. During the establishment and grow-in of this field, the plant breeder rogued the field heavily to remove any off-type plants, lacking the desired turf characteristics. The Breeder seed from this block was used to plant the initial stock seed production field. Current certified seed production fields are being increased under state seed certification and O.E.C.D. rules to preserve the high quality of the **SR9554** variety into the commercial seed stage and to produce an adequate seed supply for expected market demand.

PLANT & TURF CHARACTERISTICS

SR9554 Turf-Type Bermudagrass plants show good reproductive fertility and flowering to ensure good seed production, with adequate seed yields. The variety exhibits short plant height, a distinguishing characteristic among available seed-propagated bermudagrass varieties. **SR9554** Bermuda is noted for good stolon length for rapid cover and fill-in on planting sites, important for earlier opening and use of planted projects. Stolon internode length for **SR9554** is noticeably shorter than 'common' bermuda, and a number of commercially available seeded varieties. These short internodes are consistent with the other dwarf growth characteristics of this variety. Longer stolons, with shorter internodes, along with overall shorter plant height are important factors for higher turf density and better turf quality on a project site.

TURF TRIALS AND EVALUATIONS

During the development of **SR9554**, the breeder concentrated on superior density, short plant height and a finer texture to produce a seeded bermudagrass variety with high turf quality, and cycled the variety through several selections for winter survival. Turfgrass trials planted in several areas of the United States, rated **SR9554** Bermudagrass significantly superior for turf quality, finer texture and higher density compared to the check varieties - NuMex Sahara and Arizona Common, as well as other commercially available varieties in the same trials - Yuma, C-2 and Sonesta. In winter survival evaluations for transition zone adaptation, **SR9554** Bermuda was rated significantly better than 'common' and other commercial seeded varieties.

SR9554 Turf-Type seeded Bermudagrass

Data and Evaluations from Trials

Poolsville, MD - Turf Quality Trial planted 1994 - data measured in 1995 (9=best)

	Quality	Texture	Density
SR9554	5.0	7.0	7.0
NuMex Sahara	4.0	5.7	5.2

Poolsville, MD - Winter Survival ratings after first winter - data Spring 1995

	% Living Ground Cover/Plants Surviving Winter Kill
SR9554	30%
NuMex Sahara	28%
'common'	0%

Post Falls, ID - Turf Quality Trial planted 1996 - data measured in 1996 (9=best)

	Quality	Texture	Density	Color
SR9554	6.3	6.0	7.0	6.3
NuMex Sahara	6.1	5.3	6.3	6.0

Plant Morphological Characteristics - measurements and comparisons

Stolon Length (longer stolons equate to faster fill-in and cover)

SR9554	477 mm
Sundevil II	381 mm

Stolon Internode Length (shorter internodes equate to dwarf, more dense growth)

SR9554	34.3 mm
'common'	53.6 mm

Plant Height at Maturity (shorter plant height equates to dwarfness of variety)

SR9554	16.5 cm
Jackpot	25.0 cm