

INTERNATIONAL TURFGRASS GENETIC ASSURANCE PROGRAM STANDARDS (ITGAP)



These standards are to be used when producing turfgrass in the International Turfgrass Genetic Assurance Program. The turfgrass producer is solely responsible for the genetic purity of the grass sold. These standards will assist the producer in marketing high quality genetically pure grass. The Georgia Crop Improvement Association is responsible for the administration of this program, and its only responsibility is to audit producers annually for compliance to the published standards. Producers are encouraged to use these standards as a basis for producing genetically pure grass. These standards should be enhanced by the producer's own initiative.*

* Genetic purity is defined as: The plant population conforms to the phenotypic characteristics of the variety as described in the breeder's description as determined by an ITGAP inspector.

General Standards

- Applications for membership may be obtained by contacting The Georgia Crop Improvement Association ITGAP@gacrop.org. Application for membership must be made prior to planting grass.
- All planting stock will be from previously approved and qualified sources.
 1. The supplier of the approved planting stock will provide the Georgia Crop Improvement Association with a record showing name of producer, date of harvest, kind and variety of grass harvested, quantity shipped, field number and letter from authorizing agency declaring the source as eligible.
 2. Expansion of vegetative varieties will be limited to two expansions. It is recommended that expansions be on fumigated land to ensure meeting future inspection criteria.
 3. Approved planting material will be planted on fumigated land when establishing a nursery for further expansion. Fumigation material and rates to be approved by ITGAP administrator.
 4. Production of ITGAP fields will be limited to five years. At the end of the five year cycle, an intensive inspection of the production field will be made for genetic purity and the time may be extended. The inspectors testing procedure may include DNA & growout tests, etc. ITGAP administrators will make this decision and any decision will be final.

Land Requirements

- A field to be eligible must have been inspected prior to planting and found to be free of contaminating other species. Land prone to flooding will not be eligible. Wind barriers may be required to prevent air borne contamination.
- Wheeled irrigation systems must travel only on program fields and all fields must be the same variety or non-seeded varieties easily distinguished from the program variety.

Field Inspections

- Fields must be grown in a manner that will aid the inspection process.
- Fields must be inspected annually during the growing season by an ITGAP representative.
- The producer will provide documentation of quarterly self inspections.

Field Standards

- Isolation requirements
 1. Fields must be isolated from any other variety and other perennials grasses by an artificial barrier and/or a strip of bare land at least 3 meters wide to prevent mixing during the growing season and harvest operation. Warm season varieties that have the potential for seed production will be separated by a minimum of 20 meters.
- Specific Requirements
 1. During the annual or any other inspection, the field is not eligible for approval if:
 - a. An average of 3 contaminates * is found per Ha.
 - b. Fields exceeding an average of 3 contaminates* per Ha of another variety will require a re-inspection.

* Contaminates shall consist of all other warm season perennial grasses, including other varieties of genus/species being produced. Contaminates, when found, even if they do not exceed the standard, will be treated at the time of the inspection with a herbicide to eradicate. The following are typical, but not inclusive: Bermuda grass (*Cynodon* spp.), seashore paspalum (*Paspalum* spp.), Zoysia grass (*Zoysia* spp.), St. Augustine (*Stenotaphrum* spp.), buffalograss (*Buchloe* spp.), Kikuyugrass (*Pennisetum* spp.) and Centipede.

Dedicated Equipment

- All non-dedicated equipment (mowers, harvesters, sprayers) must be thoroughly washed (including tractor wheels) prior to use. Cleaning of non dedicated equipment must be documented.
- Wash facilities must be available for cleaning equipment. Adequate water volume and pressure must be available
- Mowing or harvesting equipment shall not travel across adjacent fields. Barriers may be required to prevent contamination of field by equipment.
- Irrigation equipment that is mobile or capable of being transported to the program fields must be dedicated to those fields only.

Inspections

- In addition to the production field inspections, an annual inspection of the premises, equipment and protocols will be completed.
- Quarterly inspections of production fields by the owner/manager are required.

Certificates of Assurance

- A turfgrass assurance certificate will accompany each shipment of grass. The certificate will state the kind and variety of grass harvested, the quantity shipped, field number, date of harvest, and the producer's name and address, and the purchaser's name and address. The certificate will bear the signature of the producer's person responsible for the varietal purity of the grass. Certificates are available from the program administrator.

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