

# SEED RESEARCH OF OREGON

*The germination of ideas*

## FEATURES

- Excellent shear strength
- Very good summer stress tolerance
- Medium dark green genetic color
- Excellent shade tolerance
- Excellent Summer Patch and Rust resistance
- Good Leaf Spot, Dollar Spot, and Red Thread resistance
- Uses: Ideal for sod, athletic fields, playgrounds, parks, and lawns

## BENEFITS

- Above average seedling vigor and establishment
- Dormant seeding works well in more northern areas
- Tolerant of extremely close mowing heights as low as 1/2 inch
- High summer turf density

## SEEDING RATES

- Seeds/lb: 1,350,000
- New Turf  
2 - 4 lbs/1,000 ft<sup>2</sup>

## ESTABLISHMENT

- Germination: 6 - 12 days under normal conditions



**A-LIST Approved**

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**Mercury Kentucky Bluegrass** (*Poa pratensis*) has the high shear strength needed for sports fields and sod production from its father, P-105, combined with the shade and drought tolerance from its Compact America type mother. Fast germination and quick establishment makes it the perfect bluegrass for new stands or overseeding.

Mercury is a dark green, medium textured variety with exceptional uniformity. It has medium density and, while it performs very well in the shade, it is also a good summer performer with very good heat and drought tolerance. Mercury has a large seed and above average seedling vigor and establishment. It establishes quickly and produces a tough turf with excellent sod shear strength.

Mercury's overall disease resistance is excellent. It has demonstrated excellent resistance to Leaf and Stem Rust, Stripe Smut, and Powdery Mildew. It has very good resistance to Dollar Spot, Summer Patch, Brown Patch, Leaf Spot, and Melting Out.



## Adaptaion and Use

Mercury is recommended for use as a high quality component in turfgrass blends and mixtures for sod production, sports fields, playgrounds, parks, and for home and industrial lawns. It can tolerate a low cutting height, down to 1/2", and has a slower than normal vertical growth rate which is desirable as it requires less mowing.

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**Seedling Vigor Ratings of Kentucky Bluegrass Cultivars  
(2001-2005 NTEP Data)**

Seedling Vigor Ratings 1 - 9; 9 = Maximum Vigor							
<i>Cultivar</i>	<i>Vigor</i>	<i>Cultivar</i>	<i>Vigor</i>	<i>Cultivar</i>	<i>Vigor</i>	<i>Cultivar</i>	<i>Vigor</i>
Kenblue	6.8	Shamrock	5.6	Mallard	5.4	Lakeshore	5.2
Baronie	6.0	Blue Velvet	5.6	Julia	5.4	Cabernet	4.9
<b>Mercury</b>	<b>5.9</b>	Opollo	5.6	Freedom III	5.3	Diva	4.7
Eagleton	5.9	Baron	5.5	Midnight	5.3	Chateau	4.4
Avalanche	5.7	Princeton 105	5.5	Brooklawn	5.2	<i>LSD Value</i>	<i>0.4</i>

**Shear Strength Ratings of Kentucky Bluegrass Cultivars  
Grown in MA (2002-2003 NTEP Data)**

Measured in Newton Meters							
<i>Cultivar</i>	<i>Shear</i>	<i>Cultivar</i>	<i>Shear</i>	<i>Cultivar</i>	<i>Shear</i>	<i>Cultivar</i>	<i>Shear</i>
Champlain	57.2	Sorbonne	55.5	Eagleton	53.8	Shamrock	52.8
<b>Mercury</b>	<b>56.8</b>	Moonshadow	55.3	Rampart	54.0	Midnight	49.0
Avalanche	56.2	Blue Sapphire	55.2	Bariris	53.8		
Cabernet	55.8	Baritone	55.0	Limousine	53.3		
Bartitia	55.7	Baron	54.8	Julia	52.8	<i>LSD Value</i>	<i>9.0</i>

*To determine whether a cultivar's performance is different from another, subtract one entry's mean from another entry's mean. If this value is larger than the LSD value, the observed difference in cultivar performance is significant and did not happen by chance. Complete tables are available upon request.*