

# AmpacImpact

October 2004

A Quarterly News Publication

## Harvest 2004

Wow! Where does the time go! It seems like only yesterday we were experiencing one of our worst weeks of winter weather in Oregon. Dave Robison and his wife were bringing a new baby into this world and we were anxiously awaiting to see who was going to be AMPAC's new Sales Rep. Since then Oregon has experienced the usual in weather, the exact opposite of what is predicted. Dave and his wife have a beautiful 9-month-old baby boy, and Scott Rushe has been doing a phenomenal job for AMPAC. Speaking of phenomenal jobs! Thanks to all of AMPAC's growers for their hard work this harvest season.

No matter how much we look forward to each harvest it is always a great feeling to combine the last windrow. As we look back over the 2004 harvest in the Willamette Valley we can say it was a little less than average for most species. Fall movement has been better than anticipated so look for most markets to remain firm this spring. The fall rains have begun early this year as we have had one of the wettest Augusts on record. Going into winter most of the crops look better than they have the past few years. Thankfully we have had a week or

two of dry weather again to conclude our fall plantings in a timely manor.

We are thankful for your business so far this fall and wish you all the best for the remainder of the season. If any of you get a chance to visit Oregon this fall or upcoming year, please don't hesitate to call me and I would be glad to act as your tour guide. Until then, here a few pictures from around Oregon.



Hacita Head Light House, Oregon Coast



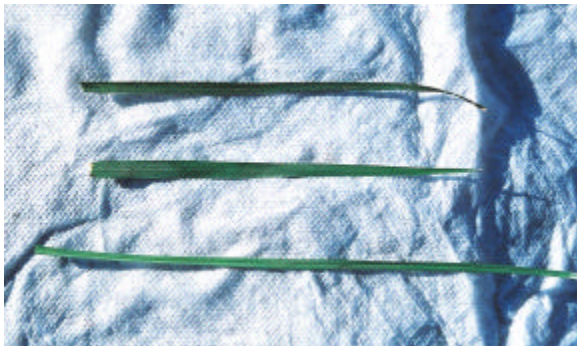
Sisters Wilderness Area, Sisters Oregon

## AMPAC'S TURFGRASS UPDATE FOR FALL 2004

### PERENNIAL RYEGRASS

**PHENOM GLR** Perennial Ryegrass is topping the charts for Gray Leaf Spot Resistance in the Performance Trials at Rutgers University. **PHENOM GLR** ranked 7.5 out of 9, with the top named performer ranking 7.8 and the lowest 1.2 (LSD 1.2). **PHENOM GLR** also is ranked second in the trials for Turf Quality, ranking at 7.5 out of 9 in the 2003 Average data. The highest named variety having a ranking of 7.9 and lowest of 1.0 (LSD 1.2). **PHENOM GLR** exhibits extremely dark green color and density. Will be available Fall 2006.

The leaf blade on top is Delaware XL, the one in the middle is Amazing, and bottom is Delaware Dwarf



**DELAWARE XL** Perennial Ryegrass is leading the way in the perennial Ryegrass market. **DELAWARE XL** has maintained a consistent high ranking in Turf Quality with a ranking of 5.6 out of 9 in the 2003 Average Turf Quality Performance Trials at Adelphia, NJ. The highest named variety with a ranking of 5.7 and the lowest of 2.1 (LSD 0.8). **DELAWARE XL** is a fine

textured Perennial Ryegrass that has excellent color, disease resistance, and shows improved Gray Leaf Spot resistance. **DELAWARE XL** is available for Fall 2004 shipment and will make an excellent addition to your turfgrass line up!

**AMAZING** Perennial Ryegrass setting the standards for dark green color in the market. **AMAZING** has excellent winter color and genetic color coupled with an excellent disease resistance package to make it one of the most attractive varieties on the market. **AMAZING** has a high Turf Quality ranking from the 2000 – 2003 Schedule B Average Trials with a rank of 6.2 out of 9. The highest being 6.9 and the lowest with a rank of 3.3 (LSD 0.3). **AMAZING** is an excellent variety for all your seeding needs.

**PLEASURE XL, NOBILITY, and DELAWARE DWARF** Perennial Ryegrass are also available. All three of these varieties exhibit good turf quality and disease resistance. They are very consistent varieties that will make excellent turfgrass stands, as well as quick transitions for the overseeding market.

### TURF TYPE TALL FESCUE

**COCHISE III** Turf Type Tall Fescue is the Chief among the tribe of tall fescues! **COCHISE III** remains at the top of Turf Quality ratings in the 2003 Progress report released by NTEP. **COCHISE III** is one of only five tall fescue varieties entered into the latest NTEP to finish in the top

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statistical group in all eight regions: #1 named variety in the Mid Atlantic with a rating of 6.2 out of 9 (highest 6.3, lowest 2.3, LSD 0.5) and Transition Zoned; #3 in the Mid West; and #4 in the Semi Arid Zone as well as in the North East. **COCHISE III** exhibits excellent Brown Patch Resistance with a NTEP mean ranking of 6.9 out of 9 taken from the 2003 Progress Report (the highest 7.4, lowest 4.8, LSD 0.7) that ranks it #4 in the nation.

**EXPEDITION** Turf Type Tall Fescue is a well-refined variety that will make an excellent turf stand in rugged, hard to grow conditions to the high maintenance lawns and sports fields. **EXPEDITION** also shows "SPREADING" capabilities to help knit the turf stand for better traffic tolerance and reduced erosion. This close-up photo of **EXPEDITION's** root system shows the spreading characteristics of **EXPEDITION**.



**EXPEDITION** has the highest rankings from the NTEP 2003 Turf Quality Under Traffic Stress Progress Report taken from 3 locations with a ranking of 5.3 out of 9 (5.3

highest, 3.6 lowest, LSD 0.6).

**EXPEDITION** also exhibits improved drought tolerance and disease resistance, dark green color, and high endophyte.

**NINJA II** Turf Type Tall Fescue sneaks away from the pack to become one of the best varieties for high traffic areas. **NINJA II** ranks very high in research conducted both by NTEP and Rutgers University in Low Mow Traffic Tolerant conditions. **NINJA II** has the second highest rankings from the NTEP 2003 Turf Quality Under Traffic Stress Progress Report taken from 3 locations with a ranking of 5.2 out of 9 (5.3 highest, 3.6 lowest, LSD 0.6) only to be out shadowed by **EXPEDITION**. **NINJA II** will have a narrower leaf texture and a dense stand of turf, which will make it an excellent choice for sports fields and other high traffic areas that require lower mowing heights.

**CORTEZ II** Turf Type Tall Fescue promises to be a warrior in performance trials in the heat of battle! **CORTEZ II** has the highest ranking from Advanta Seed Research conducted in Fayetteville, NC trials for Turf Quality with a ranking of 6.4 out of 9 (lowest 4.9, LSD .68). **CORTEZ II** also performed well in trials conducted in Albany, Oregon by Advanta with a Turf Quality rating of 6.4 (highest 7.3, lowest 5.2, LSD 0.26) and Winter Color of 6.67, which was the highest ranking. Performance Trials at Rutgers University reported in 2003 that **CORTEZ II** had a Turf Quality Average ranking of 5.5 out of 9 (highest 6.6, lowest 1.0, LSD 0.5) which translates into being in the top 15% of all varieties reported. **CORTEZ II** will be available in limited supplies for Fall 2005.

**COCHISE II**, and **CORTEZ** Turf Type Tall Fescue varieties are excellent choices for all turf stands. They exhibit good disease resistance, fine leaf texture, and very good Turf Quality.

### **FINE FESCUE**

**GIBALTAR** Strong Creeping Red Fescue is as strong as a rock in performance trials reported out of Rutgers University where it has been released. **GIBALTAR** exhibits high endophyte levels to allow it to perform better under natural stresses like heat and drought. **GIBALTAR** ranked #4 out of 32 varieties for Turf Quality in testing completed by the University. It also has improved disease resistance, low prostrate growth habit and aggressive tillering and is very dark for a creeping red fescue. **GIBALTAR** is recommended to be a component in mixtures with other species and varieties.

**STONEHENGE** Hard Fescue stands tall and mighty over other hard fescues. **STONEHENGE** has the highest-ranking Under Shade trials conducted by NTEP, which is reported in the 1999 – 2002 Data (lowest 4.3, LSD 1.1). **STONEHENGE** has a ranking of 5.3 out of 9 in 1999 – 2002 Turf Quality Medium Input reported by NTEP (highest 5.8, lowest 4.6, LSD 0.3) and also has an equal rankings in both High and Low Input studies conducted by NTEP. **STONEHENGE** can be used in a mono-stand where an aesthetic look is desired, for erosion control on slopes or as a component in a variety of turfgrass mixtures.

AMPAC Seed Company is proud of our new varieties as well as our existing ones. Please take a look at our web site: [www.ampacseed.com](http://www.ampacseed.com) or look at [www.ntep.org](http://www.ntep.org) for more data. If you would like to discuss any of the varieties, please don't hesitate to give one of us a call! Feel confident when using AMPAC varieties in your mixtures and know that you can offer some of the best quality seeds that are grown.

## **Patience is a Virtue**

They say good things come to those who wait. Well, it looks like everyone who is expecting to see creeping bentgrass that is resistant to Roundup will have to wait. It seems that pollen from the genetically modified bentgrass travels farther than researchers had previously designated. According to the Capital Press (a northwest agriculture publication), "scientists with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency found that genetically modified creeping bentgrass pollinated test plants of the same species 13 miles downwind." These test plants are now carrying the herbicide-resistant gene.

This new information was published in the National Academy of Sciences and will no doubt give critics the vigor they need to make the release of these varieties very difficult, if at all possible.

As for now, the USDA has put a hold on the release of these varieties.

## Dave's Corner

**“May I have your ‘Attention’ please?”** I hope all of you hear that soon; from hay producers! Attention with StandFast™ traits is quickly becoming THE product of choice in many areas of the country...*and why not?* Producers are seeing the same characteristics that I have been reporting on the past two writings of the “Ampac Impact”. From South Dakota to Pennsylvania and nearly every state in between Attention is gaining lots of attention! *Read the article by Meyer from North Dakota State University to see why producers are happy with Attention; they aren't losing much if any tonnage anymore!*

Jay De Long has farmers in the Clinton, WI area coming up to him at football games asking, “what kind of alfalfa is that”. They have seen his field of Attention give him four (that's right, four) excellent cuttings in southern WI. No one could believe how well it stood or how fast it recovered after harvest! Cliff Schuette in Illinois has had tremendous success with Attention in Clinton County IL, the top dairy county in the state. Stan Friesen from Kaup Seed Company in NE has received reports from SD producers that Attention is performing very, very well. And my Amish friend, Kenny Bontrager from Shipshewana, IN, continues to see the benefits of Attention alfalfa on his farm.

Kenny took four cuttings off his Attention this year and admits that if he managed better he would have easily taken five or six (he was gone to a wedding for a week, took a vacation for a week, and cut corn silage first). Kenny is just like many other producers; finding that living life sometimes gets a higher priority than cutting his alfalfa! Kenny left his Attention to “cut later” because he knew it would be standing for him when “he got around to it.” He had to manage other varieties on his farm more frequently because he knew they would be down and he'd lose yield and quality. Obviously, I'd rather tell you that

Kenny is pushing to get his sixth cutting and that all cuttings were standing well...but real life on the farm doesn't always allow for “dramatic testimonies”. But what was right about Kenny's planning is that he knew that his Attention would be standing there for him, and it was, with excellent quality all four times.

**Pasja is “unbelievable,”** that's what producers that planted Pasja this spring and summer are saying! **“I didn't believe you when you said it would grow so fast,”** is another comment that we also are hearing! Some producers took up to six grazings off of their Pasja this summer! And many producers are seeing the benefits of adding 3-5#/acre of Pasja with BMR Sorghum Sudangrass or Pearl Millet to increase tonnage, forage quality, and animal performance. David Fleig, manager of the Cove Mountain Farm in south central PA has seen tremendous milk production off of his mix of Pasja and BMR Sorghum Sudangrass. When dry weather hit the area both products performed exceedingly well when many of the pastures were slowing down.

Pasja is also more palatable than competitive products according to Craig Newland from Newland Seed and Supply in Michigan. Craig is a dairy grazer and he put out a palatability study/observation plot on his farm this past spring. “The cows ate the Pasja first and Appin second” according to Craig. There were other turnip and hybrid brassica varieties in the plot but the cows ate Pasja and Appin the best each grazing.

These are exciting days! We have lots of products performing exceptionally well. This should give your sales people plenty to talk about as they are out selling this fall and winter.

## STUBBLE HEIGHT EFFECTS IN ALFALFA

By Dwain Meyer

North Dakota State University

Leaving 3 to 5-inch stubble heights during harvest are very common because of rocks, pocket gophers, or crop lodging, but what is the impact of stubble height on the yield and quality of alfalfa? Obviously, increasing the stubble height will reduce forage yield, but it is surprising by how much.

Two experiments evaluating stubble height effects were conducted at Fargo (dryland) and Carrington (irrigated), North Dakota during 1999-2001. Forage yield averaged across three varieties, three years, two cutting systems (3 and 4 annual cuts), and two locations was reduced 0.95 tons/acre for each 2 inches of stubble left in the field (see accompanying table). That's a 15% reduction in forage yield for 2 inches of stubble left in the field or 30% for leaving a 5-inch stubble.

Harvesting at a 5-inch stubble height increases the forage quality of the hay compared to lower stubble heights (see accompanying table). Relative feed value (RFV) of the hay was increased 31, 30, 26, and 23 units in the first, second, third, and fourth harvests, respectively, when harvested at 5 compared with 1-inch stubble heights. Likewise, crude protein (CP) was increased 2.2, 2.6, 1.4, and 3.2% in the first, second, third, and fourth harvests, respectively. Obviously, the lower stem (lowest 4 inches) is very poor in forage quality averaging only 10.1% CP, 51.3% acid detergent fiber (ADF), 61.5% neutral detergent fiber (NDF), and a RFV of 71 in the fourth harvest while the hay averaged 17.0% CP, 30.5% ADF, 38.5% NDF, and 159 RFV.

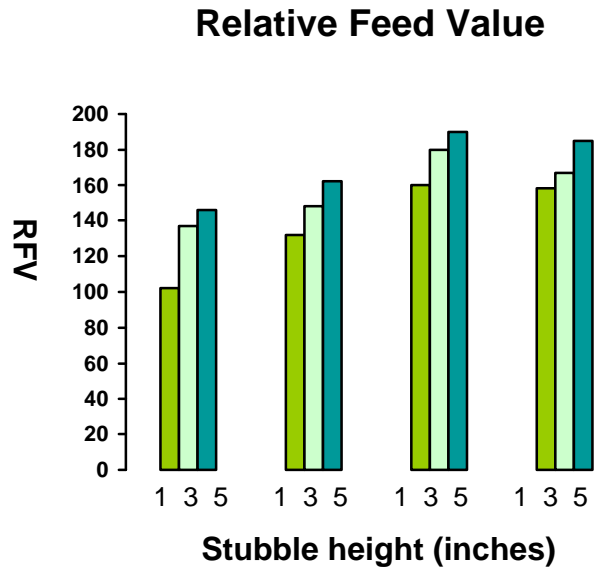
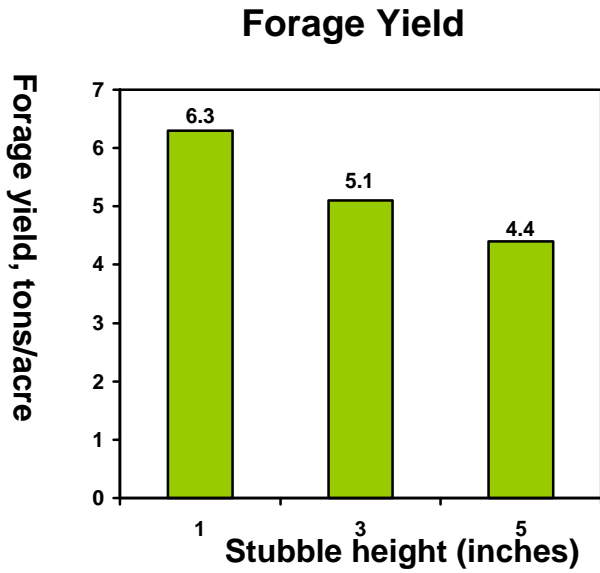
Each producer must weigh the advantages of yield, forage quality, harvesting efficiency, Overwintering ability, and economics when deciding at what stubble height to harvest the alfalfa. Cash hay and dairy producers receive a premium for high quality so leaving some stubble in the field to increase quality might be justified if harvest is delayed by rain. But I believe it is better to harvest at a maturity that the lowest stubble height will produce prime hay rather than sacrifice the yield potential. In many cases, the premium price received will not offset the 30% reduction in yield. Beef cow producers should always harvest as low as possible since forage quality of alfalfa is greater than that needed by cow.

Regrowth rate following harvest was not affected by the stubble height. Height of the canopy before harvest was similar among stubble heights, but the percentage of stems originating for remaining residue increased with increasing stubble height. Overwintering of the four-cut system was slightly better in the 5-inch than 1-inch stands in 2000-01 winter when injury was noted, but forage yields were still higher at the 1- than 5- inch stubble. Harvesting at the 1-inch stubble height will increase the ash content of the forage from soil contamination, especially with some of the flail-type harvesters.

Stubble height at which alfalfa is harvested has a greater impact on forage yield and quality than what you might anticipate, and it should be considered in your management package. More effort on pocket gopher control is warranted.

Removal of rocks prior to seeding or rolling to push rocks back into the ground in established stands is also warranted.

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Jeff O'Leary and Jay Delong of the Delong Company standing in a field of Attention Alfalfa.