

INTRODUCTION TO SCANTURF AND SCANGREEN VARIETY LISTS 2012

The three spreadsheets in this folder contains results from testing of turf grass varieties by

1. The SCANTURF programme since 2005 and the former national testing programmes in Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Norway from 1980 to 2005
2. The SCANGREEN programme: Testing on golf greens in the southern (mostly coastal) part of Scandinavia since 2003
3. The SCANGREEN programme: Testing on golf greens in the northern (mostly continental) part of Scandinavia since 2003

How the lists were compiled

Amalgamation of results from various trials/programmes has been possible thanks to the fact that control varieties within each species / subspecies have mostly been the same. Thus, it has been possible to produce ranking lists based on performance relative to controls. Mean values have been presented in the case of conflicting results among various trials/programmes. Varieties that have been withdrawn by the owner or are no longer on the market have been excluded from the lists.

Locations / test zones

The SCANTURF list contains information about variety performance in (ornamental) lawn including all mowing heights, short-cut lawn (10-20 mm), and wear tolerance on football pitches and other areas exposed to heavy wear (recreational lawn). For these areas of use, only one list per species or subspecies is presented for the whole Nordic region. This is in accordance with decision in the SCANTURF network and reflects that most seed companies regard the Nordic turf grass market as too small to split into various climatic zones. This is different from the SCANGREEN programme which is mostly funded by the Scandinavian Turfgrass and Environment Research Foundation (STERF) and therefore allows for more test sites and a delineation of the Nordic counties into two climatic zones. Thus, SCANGREEN results are presented in two spreadsheets, one for the southern zone (Denmark, Skåne, coastal areas in Southern Sweden and Southern Norway) and one for the northern zone (Finland, Iceland and remaining parts of Sweden and Norway).

Characters and ranking

The turf grass characters presented are as follows:

- General impression. General impression is a summary of all other characters and reflects the overall visual merit of the variety in lawns not particularly exposed to wear. In the SCANTURF lists general impression is presented both as an overall mean for all trials using mowing heights in the range 10-40 mm, and as a mean for trials practicing mowing heights from 10 to 20 mm (short-cut lawn). The ranking scale is always 1-9, where 9 is the best turf.
- Wear tolerance reflects turf grass ground coverage and overall appearance after intense use of football-type wear machines. The ranking scale is 1-9, where 9 is the most wear-tolerant turf.
- Density reflects the number of tillers per area unit. The ranking scale is 1-9, where 9 is the densest turf (highest tiller number).
- Leaf fineness reflects leaf width, in other words the coarseness of the turf. The ranking scale is 1-9, where 9 is the finest leaves.

- Colour (genetic colour) indicates the darkness of the green colour for unstressed and undiseased turf during the growing season. The ranking scale is 1-9, where 9 is the darkest turf.
- Winter colour (dormancy colour) describes freshness (greenness) vs. fadedness (brownness) of the turf when it is not growing, i.e. during the winter season. The ranking scale is 1-9, where 9 most freshly green and 1 is completely brown / wilted.
- Winter hardiness includes tolerance to all kinds of winter damage whether caused by freezing temperature, prolonged snow cover, desiccation, water, ice, or winter diseases. The ranking scale is 1-9, where 9 is the most winter-hardy turf.
- Relative growth rate is based on measurements of turf grass height or rate of leaf extension, thus reflecting mowing requirements. Growth rate is presented as a number relative to a control variety which was set to 100.
- Resistance to specific diseases. The SCANGREEN lists include an overall ranking of resistance to all diseases occurring during the growing season (resistance to snow moulds are part of the winter hardiness character). The SCANTURF lists specifies three of the most common disease on turfgrasses in the Nordic countries, i.e. Microdochium patch, red thread and (for *Poa pratensis*) rusts. The ranking scale is always 1-9, where 9 is the most resistant turf.

Most lists contain several open spots, reflecting that all characters have not been assessed in all testing programmes.

By default, varieties are ranked from the best to the poorest general impression. However readers are welcome to download the spreadsheets and rank varieties for whatever character they find most important using ordinary spreadsheet sorting procedures

Future revisions

Based on on-going trials it is the intention of the SCANTURF and SCANGREEN programmes to update the variety lists annually in December. Varieties are always evaluated in the sowing year and the three following years, but when updating the lists, there will be a section in each table for preliminary results from not yet completed trials.

Acknowledgement

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Any comments or suggestions for improvements in the presentation of lists shall be appreciated.

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