

# LAWN LIFE

AUGUST 2017 UPDATE

## NATURAL KNIT HIGHLIGHTS

- 100% Spreading
- 3x Denser Than Competitors
- Can Be Seeded at Half the Rate of Other Perennial Ryegrasses
- Extremely Fine Texture
- #1 In Poa annua Suppression over 4 Year Study
- Self-Repairs
- Can Be Mowed Below 0.5"



Figure 1 - Natural Knit® creeping perennial ryegrass “regenerating” to fill in a golf course divot.

## LATE AUGUST IS THE BEST TIME TO OVERSEED

As we enter the last couple weeks of summer, it's time to start thinking about overseeding lawns and sports turf. Mid-August is the perfect time to start this process because soil temperatures are still warm, yet air temperatures are more moderate and we typically see more precipitation and heavier dew in the mornings. All of which is conducive to seed germination. The question then becomes, which grass type should I use to overseed?

## ADVANCEMENTS IN BREEDING ARE A GAME CHANGER

Over the years the breeding of grass seed has come a long way and some of the traditional characteristics associated with grass types has changed. For example, perennial ryegrasses have historically had a bunch type growth habit, Kentucky bluegrasses were historically slow to germinate and tall fescues had extremely coarse leaf texture. Fortunately, due to advancements in plant genetics and breeding, all of these historical limitations no longer apply, which has opened the door for new uses of these grasses.

## PERENNIAL RYEGRASS THAT IS 100% SPREADING

Perennial ryegrass, which has historically been limited by its bunch type growth habit, now has a cultivar that is 100% spreading! This makes it a much more desirable species thanks to its newfound density and wear tolerance.

Indeed, Natural Knit® creeping perennial ryegrass develops a tightly intertwined layer of "pseudo-stolons" that will root at each node as they elongate and branch to form more tillers. This allows for a much lower seeding rate than most perennial ryegrasses, which saves money. In addition, Natural Knit® creeping perennial ryegrass can be mowed below a half of an inch and has a very fine leaf texture, making it a desirable choice for a wide range of turf applications.

## 5 DAY GERMINATING KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS

While Kentucky bluegrass is a favourite grass species for home lawns and sports turf in the Northeast, the biggest limitation has always been how long it takes to germinate. Recent advancements have allowed for a 5 day germinating Kentucky bluegrass! Jump Start Kentucky bluegrass is proven to germinate in just 5 days, which increases the likelihood of a successful “catch” no matter what the situation.

This is an excellent fit for active sports fields that need damaged areas to repair quickly. Our Sports Turf Elite grass seed includes 55% Jump Start Kentucky bluegrass and 45% Natural Knit® creeping perennial ryegrass (by seed count),



Figure 2 – Sports Turf Elite, containing Jump Start Kentucky bluegrass, Germinating in just 6 Days!

## Contact Us

### Lawn Life

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which is a perfect blend of quick germination and rapid spreading, which makes for a dense, durable stand of turf.

## STOLONIFEROUS TURF-TYPE TALL FESCUE

While tall fescue is attractive due to its low maintenance characteristics, its use in sport fields and lawns has always been limited due to its coarse texture and bunch type growth habit.

We now have a tall fescue species that features a stoloniferous growth habit AND is extremely fine textured. Natural Knit® tall fescue offers all the benefits of a traditional turf-type tall fescue (drought tolerant, low fertility requirements etc.), but offers a very dense, finely textured stand of turf as well!

So as you make your fall seeding plans please keep in mind that advancements in grass plant genetics have opened the door for brand new uses of some traditional grass varieties we use here in the Northeast.

Lawn Life has you covered no matter what your seeding needs are this fall and we have even placed some of our grass seed products on sale so please contact us today for more information.

We also encourage you to keep us in mind for white grub applications this fall. *Steinernema scarabaei*, the active ingredient in our Grub Patrol product, has shown 75% control on third instar grubs in the field. This is great news for those who are behind on grub applications or for those who have already seen damage on their turf.

