
PICKSEED®

good things growing...

Technical Turf News



For the extraordinary endurance of *Spartan*, Pickseed chose a name in tribute to the hardiness of ancient warriors of Sparta, who thrived while enduring hardships their rivals could not endure.

Description:

The epic warriors of Sparta were tough, rigorous and hardy. Performance of Pickseed's advanced generation synthetic cultivar at the National Fine Fescue Trial provides these same traits today. The trials proved Pickseed's *Spartan* to have excellent cold tolerance, good drought tolerance, improved summer performance and excellent shade tolerance...all the while requiring the barest minimum (or none at all) supplemental fertilization or irrigation. A *Spartan* is still rugged, still tough, still hardy.

Disease and Insect Resistance:

An advanced generation synthetic cultivar, *Spartan* was selected from the progenies of 142 superior parent clones. A principal goal in its intense, 17-year cooperative breeding effort between Pickseed and Rutgers University was to breed in improved disease resistance. The research worked beautifully. *Spartan* has good to excellent resistance to Corticium Red Thread, Helminthosporium Leaf Spot, and Net Blotch. This advanced variety also provides very good resistance to Collectotrichum Anthracnose and Powdery Mildew incited by Erysiphe Graminis. *Spartan* is a fighter.

Usage:

Darker colored, fine textured *Spartan* can be blended with improved, fine-leaved perennial ryegrasses or bluegrasses. For most effective fine turf blending, *Spartan* should comprise 20-40% of the mix by weight. For use in low-maintenance areas, you can rely on *Spartan* alone or mix it with other fine fescues—creeping, chewing or sheeps fescue, for example—or with Kentucky or Canada bluegrass. *Spartan* can stand alone or work with others.

Seeding:

Compared to other hard fescue varieties, *Spartan* exhibits seedling vigor and fast establishment. It has about 530,000 seeds per pound and should be seeded at 4-5 pounds per 1000 square feet (150-200 lbs. per acre). Fastest establishment—7 to 10 days—occurs at soil temperatures over 65°F. At cooler temperatures, establishment will be slower.

Maintenance:

Fertility needs of *Spartan* are considerably less than either bluegrass or ryegrass, generally requiring only half the nitrogen fertilizer of ryegrass or bluegrass, and much less water. Best fertilized in the fall, only 1-3 lbs. of N per 1000 sq. ft. per year is adequate. Balanced fertilizer with a 2:1:1 ratio of NPK is recommended. As a fine turf, *Spartan* will remain green and continue growth with 30-50% lower water application than either ryegrass or bluegrass. For best health in your *Spartan* turf, it should generally be mowed between one and three inches. In areas mowed but once yearly, a late spring mowing is best to remove seed heads. Once established, *Spartan* is tolerant to most turf herbicides used for broad-leaved and pre-emergence weed control. *Spartan* takes care of itself.

Technical Product Specifications

Year of Introduction	1985
Main Uses	Shade, golf, lawns, low maintenance, parks
Seed Count	515,000 seeds/lb.
Normal Days to Germinate	8-10 days (fall)
Normal Days to First Mowing	40-50 days
NTEP Quality Ratings (1994-97 Data)	Very Good—5.2
Genetic Color	Dark Green—6.3
Summer Stress Tolerance	Good
Leaf Texture	Fine—7.4
Turf Density	Very Dense—5.1
Shade Tolerance	Excellent
Sod Strength	Not tested
pH Range	4.5—7.7
Winterhardiness	Excellent
Close Mowing Tolerance	Good
Growth Rate	Slow
Mature Plant Height	Low
Leaf Spot Resistance	Very Good—6.6
Summer Patch Resistance	Very Good
Brown Patch Resistance	Excellent—6.6, Best in Test
Dollar Spot Resistance	Good—5.8
Pythium Blight Resistance	Excellent—9.0

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