

A Conservation Plant Released by The Natural Resources Conservation Service Norman A. Berg National Plant Materials Center, Beltsville, MD

'QUICKSTAND'

Bermudagrass

Cynodon dactylon (L.) Pers.

'Quickstand' bermudagrass is a cultivar released in 1992 in cooperation with the University of Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station and the USDA Agricultural Research Service.

Description

Quickstand is a low growing, spreading perennial grass that was introduced in the Americas. The leaves are medium green, about 1.2-3.2 in (3-8cm) long and 0.04-0.16 in (1-4 mm) wide, tapering to a point. Since stands grow less than 5 in.(12cm) high, it has limited use for hay production, although it is palatable to livestock.

Source

Quickstand was selected from a field at the Quicksand Kentucky Plant Materials Center (PMC). PMC staff thought it may have been introduced there during logging operations in the 1920s & 30s, or in hay during that period.

Conservation Uses

Quickstand can survive temperatures below -20°F, and is drought tolerant, salt tolerant and tolerant of low mowing (to ¼ inch high). Conservation uses include conservation cover for critical areas, including high traffic areas, areas with restrictive soil conditions, mine reclamation, and filter strips for wastewater treatment. It may also be used on golf courses or athletic fields.

Area of Adaptation and Use

Quickstand has been evaluated from Florida to Michigan, including Kansas and West Virginia. It requires at least 30 inches of annual rainfall, and minimum temperatures higher than -30°F.

Establishment and Management for Conservation Plantings

Quickstand produces very few seeds (in Kentucky, it produced no seed at all) and should be planted by sprigs. It can spread 11-13 inches per month during the growing season, through underground rhizomes or aboveground stolons that root at the nodes.

Bermudagrass doesn't compete well with established weeds, so it is important to establish a weed-free seed bed prior to planting. It also is sensitive to low nutrient availability, so test the soil prior to planting and address deficiencies. Sprigs should be planted at a rate of 40 to 100 bushels per acre, at a depth of 1-3 inches, and can be hand-planted or planted with a manure spreader then covered with soil. After planting, the soil should be firmed with a cultipacker, roller, or tractor tires, and the soil should be watered.

Dormant sprigs should be planted from March to early April in the mid-Atlantic. Keep the sprigs moist at planting and during the first 2 weeks as they establish their root systems. Actively growing sprigs will need more water but can be planted April to June or later if ample water is available. New plantings should be mowed or grazed to 1 - 2 inches as soon as the sprigs are rooted and are not easily pulled out of the soil by grazing livestock. After establishment mowing or grazing to 2 - 4 inches is recommended to maintain health and vigor of the bermudagrass by reducing shading by weeds like crabgrass. Weed management may be necessary to maintain a dense stand of bermudagrass.



Quickstand bermudagrass with detail of undeveloped seeds and rooting at the node.

Ecological Considerations

As a bermudagrass, this plant is considered a noxious weed in Arkansas, and the seed is restricted in NJ.

Seed and Plant Production

The plant does not reproduce from seeds; use springs instead to propagate plants.

Availability

This plant is available for conservation use or for plant increase from the Norman A. Berg National Plant Materials Center.

For More Information

Contact the Norman A. Berg National Plant Materials Center at 8791 Beaver Dam Rd in Beltsville MD.
(<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/plant-materials/mdpmmc>).

Citation

Release Brochure for Quickstand bermudagrass (*Cynodon dactylon*). 2026. USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Norman A Berg National Plant Materials Center, Beltsville MD.

For additional information about this and other plants, please contact your local USDA Service Center, NRCS field office, or Conservation District <<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>>, and visit the PLANTS Web site <<http://plants.usda.gov>> or the Plant Materials Program Web site <<http://www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov>>

Keeping Working Lands in Working Hands

USDA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER, EMPLOYER AND LENDER