

'Newport' KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS

Scientific Name: *Poa pratensis*

Common Name: Kentucky Bluegrass

Cultivar Name: 'Newport'

Selected By: Pullman PMC, USDA-NRCS

Release Cooperators: USDA-SCS, Washington State University Agricultural Experiment Station, Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station

Release Date: 1958

ORIGIN: 'Newport' was part of the maritime race collection from the coastal bluffs at Newport, Lincoln County, OR by W.E. Lawrence. It was then propagated at Carnegie Institution of Washington.

DESCRIPTION: 'Newport' is dark green in color, perennial, sod-forming with smooth soft, flat, or folded leaves, usually not more than ½ inch wide and 2-10 inches long, with boat shaped tips. The flower head is pyramid shaped and open with several tiers of branches. The spikelets are three to five flowered and are located at the ends of the branches. Seeds are small, also keeled like a boat and have a cobwebby hairy base. Plant stems grow 12 inches to 36 inches tall and are usually numerous in a tuft. Plants bloom in late May to early June and seed matures early to mid-July.

DISEASE AND INSECT PROBLEMS: No significant problems have been noted.

SEED PRODUCTION: Establishment is slow, and weeds must be controlled. It takes two years to reach full production. When kept free of weeds a field may produce 5 or more annual seed crops. Up to 300 lbs of seed per acre can be produced.

SEEDING RECOMMENDATIONS: A weed-free, firm, well-shaped, and drained smooth seedbed is required. Fertilizers and amendments should be applied as indicated by soil tests. Seed can be drilled or broadcast. Because they are small they should be covered with not more than ¼ to ½ inch of soil or mulch. Where less than 18 inches of annual rainfall occurs, sprinkler irrigation is needed to keep the soil moist until grass is well established..

CONSERVATION USES: 'Newport' is used for multiple practices these include; Beautification, Erosion Control, Pasture, Recreation and Wildlife.

AVAILABILITY: For additional information contact: Wayne Crowder, Soil Conservationist, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Pullman Plant Materials Center (509) 335-7376 or email crowder@wsu.edu.