

MICHIGAN PERENNIAL GRASS FORAGE VARIETY TRIALS, 2019

Dr. Kim Cassida & Joe Paling
Dept. of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences, Michigan State University
1066 Bogue St Rm A286, East Lansing, MI 48824

The Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station will accept proprietary varieties and experimental strains of perennial forage grasses for evaluation at two locations in 2019. The trials are intensively managed for high yield under high fertility, utilizing all factors to maximize yield under natural rainfall.

1. Locations for 2019:

- (1) MSU Research Farm at **East Lansing**. Trials are managed using a three-cut system from late May through October.
- (2) MSU Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center at **Chatham**, approximately 300 miles north of East Lansing. Chatham has cold winters with deep snow cover. Winter-hardiness and persistence are important at Chatham. Chatham grass trials are managed for two cuttings from June to October.

2. Description of Trials: Trials are seeded with six-inch row spacing in plots 5 feet wide and at least 18 feet long (generally 20-23 feet). The center 3 feet will be harvested for yield with a Carter self-propelled forage flail harvester. A minimum of four replications will be used. Grasses are managed for maximum yield under rainfed conditions with fertility and pest control according to MSU recommendations.

Standard procedures for determining dry matter yield are used. Plots will be harvested for at least three years after the seeding year unless stands are injured by uncontrollable causes. Preferably, grasses will be seeded in the spring and harvested at least once in the seeding year. Seeding may be delayed until late July or early August to achieve best results in stand establishment, in which case no seeding year harvests will be taken. Grass heading dates are recorded as the date when 50% of reproductive tillers have fully emerged heads.

Michigan State University will conduct the trials in a professional manner, but assumes no financial liability for failure to obtain stands or loss of stands due to uncontrollable conditions.

2. Eligibility of Entrants. Any entity may enter varieties or experimental strains in the test provided they have legal permission to do so for protected varieties. This includes private or public developers, dealers, distributors or merchandisers of grass varieties, other Agricultural Experiment Stations, non-profit groups, farmer cooperatives, or individuals.
3. Rejection. Any entry may be rejected if:
 - The trial is cancelled. A minimum of 10 paid entries (excluding check varieties) will be required to hold a test at a location. If 10 entries are not received, payment will be returned.
 - There is misrepresentation.
 - Seed arrives too late for planting.
 - Adequate seed is not available.
 - Exact genetic proportions are not disclosed for blends and mixtures.

4. Entry Fee. \$600.00 per variety per test location entered.

Make checks payable to Michigan State University and send with applications to:

Joe Paling, 1066 Bogue Street Rm A286, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan 48824

Deadline for Entry. Applications and payment must be received by Joe Paling by **April 2, 2019**. Seed must be in the possession of Joe Paling by **April 16, 2019**.

5. Seed Required. Seed for released varieties is to be from a commercial source. Arrangements may be made with MSU to deliver commercial seed through local dealers, distributors, or other sources. If germination rates are above 90%, the following seed weights per trial apply:

Fescues – 200 g seed

Orchardgrass – 200 g seed

Perennial Ryegrass – 200 g seed

Festulolium – 300 g seed

Bromegrasses – 300 g seed

Timothy – 100 g seed

Kentucky bluegrass – 100 g seed

For other species or mixtures, contact us for instructions before sending seed.

6. Publication. Each entrant will receive a yearly summary of the data in November, including all released and experimental varieties. The yearly summaries will be published in the *Michigan Farm News* in February. Complete test results will be published by Michigan State University Extension and will be posted on the MSU Forage Connection website <http://forage.msu.edu/>.
7. For assistance, contact Joe Paling at paling@msu.edu, cell 517-242-4155, or Dr. Kim Cassida at cassida@msu.edu, 517-353-0278.

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Submit one form for each variety or entry and send to the address below by April 2, 2019. Seed of the following amounts (per location) should be received by April 16, 2019.

Fescues – 200 g seed
Perennial Ryegrass – 200 g seed
Bromegrasses – 300 g seed
Bluegrass – 100 g seed
Orchardgrass – 200 g seed
Festulolium – 300 g seed
Timothy – 100 g seed Kentucky
For other species or mixtures, contact us for instructions before sending seed.

1. Name of applicant _____

Contact Person _____ E-mail _____
Would you like a paper copy of the results, in addition to the Excel file that is sent via email? Yes No

2. Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____ Fax () _____

3. Name or number of entry _____

(Please indicate name desired when data are reported)

4. Brief description _____

Is this a released variety? Yes No If, Yes: Marketer in Michigan _____

5. Maturity (circle one) _____

Early Medium Medium-late Late

6. Ploidy level, Perennial Ryegrass _____

7. Rust Resistance (Ryegrass and Orchardgrass) Yes No

TEST

Date of Test _____ East Lansing \$600.00

Purity _____ Chatham \$600.00

Germination _____

Total _____

Payable to **Michigan State University**: ATTN: Joe Paling, 1066 Bogue Street Rm A286,
Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824. Email: paling@msu.edu, Cell: 517-242-4155.