**MICHIGAN PERENNIAL GRASS FORAGE VARIETY TRIALS, 2022**

# 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 2022. The trials are intensively managed for high yield under high fertility, utilizing all factors to maximize yield under natural rainfall.

1. Locations for 2022:
   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.

1. 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.
2. 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.
   * Seed is a blend.
3. Entry Fee. $600.00 per variety per test location entered.

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

Joe Paling, 4450 Beaumont Rd, PSM Agronomy Farm, Michigan State University, Lansing, Michigan 48910.

Deadline for Entry. Applications must be received by Joe Paling by **April 7, 2022**. Seed must be in the possession of Joe Paling by **April 21, 2022**.

1. 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, contact us for instructions before sending seed.

1. 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/.](about:blank)
2. For assistance, contact Joe Paling at [paling@msu.edu](about:blank), cell 517-242-4155, or Dr. Kim Cassida at [cassida@msu.edu](about:blank), 517-353-0278.

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Submit one form for each variety or entry and send to the address below by April 7, 2022. Seed of the following amounts (per location) should be received by April 21, 2022.

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.

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

1. Address

City State Zip

Phone ( ) Fax ( )

1. Name or number of entry

(Please indicate name desired when data are reported)

1. Brief description

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

1. Maturity (circle one)

Early Medium Medium-late Late

6. Ploidy level, Perennial Ryegrass

7. Rust Resistance (Ryegrass and Orchardgrass) Yes No

Germination % **Locations**

Date of test East Lansing $600.00

Purity Chatham $600.00

Number of locations \* $600.00 =

Payable to **Michigan State University**: ATTN: Joe Paling, 4450 Beaumont Rd, PSM Agronomy Farm, Michigan State University, Lansing, MI 48910. Email: [paling@msu.edu](about:blank), Cell: 517-242-4155.