



CELEBRATION™ ... a Bermudagrass that Can Do It All!

Offering exceptional performance across a wide spectrum of applications, Celebration™ Bermudagrass is quickly becoming a turfgrass preferred by many Florida turf managers. Equally suited for home athletic fields, golf courses and home lawns, the cultivar has impressed users and researchers alike for its drought resistance, wear tolerance, quick recuperation, shade tolerance, rich color, soft texture and reduced mowing requirements.

A unique introduction to Florida

Originally developed by Rod Riley, the foremost turfgrass breeder in Australia, Celebration is known as 'Riley's Super Sport' in that country, where it has been highly successful for more than 12 years. Released in the U.S. in 1999, the proprietary hybrid cultivar is now sold exclusively through Sod Solutions, Inc., and its licensed producers.

Tobey Wagner, Sod Solutions' president, points out that Celebration's release in Florida was the first-ever joint venture between private industry and the Florida Sod Growers Cooperative (FSGC), the recognized industry representative. "We had a six-month window of time where Celebration was available to any FSGC member through a license fee, and we licensed 16 growers," he explains. "Through the provisions of our joint-release agreement, the FSGC shares the benefits of licensing fees and future royalty payments. So far, those fees and payments have generated more than \$106,000 for the FSGC."

Quality control of the Celebration cultivar is maintained through Florida's Southern Seed Certification agency. "Every acre of Celebration that goes into the ground must be certified," says Wagner. "No other turfgrass in Florida that goes through the FSGC is like that. In fact, all Celebration bermudagrass sold anywhere must be certified through an accredited certification agency."

Celebration's features

The deep, blue-green color of Celebration is perhaps its first most visible and striking attribute. In fact, in independent trials of 42 bermudagrass varieties in the 2004 National Turfgrass

Evaluation Program, Celebration consistently was ranked highest in appearance among the varieties tested in the state.

Underlying that beauty, however, is a tough, durable turfgrass plant that is especially suitable for high-use applications. "Multiple university research studies and NTEP trials have rated Celebration number one for wear, recovery and safety," Wagner points out. "This year, several golf courses in Florida are installing Celebration, and because it recovers so quickly, it's also being used on sports fields, horse-racing turf tracks and recreation-department playing fields.

Celebration's naturally low growth habit means it requires mowing only every seven to fourteen days, about half as often as other bermudagrasses, Wagner says. While it is best mown at 1/2" to 1", it can be maintained as low as 1/4" (in fact, heights of 1/32" have been documented). Reel mowers are recommended for the lower range of cuts, but homeowners can maintain Celebration themselves at 1" with sharp rotary mowers.

A study conducted in 2004 and 2005 by North Carolina State turfgrass researchers evaluated Celebration, TifSport, Tifway, Tifton 10, Navy Blue, GN-1, Patriot and Quickstand for performance differences under athletic foot-traffic simulation. Data found that Celebration retained the lowest surface hardness of any cultivar (excessive surface hardness has been directly correlated to increased player injury). Also, Celebration achieved the greatest recovery (86%) after four weeks post-traffic.

Also, in a research study conducted by the University of Arkansas, 48 bermudagrass varieties were tested for divot-recovery rate. Celebration not only showed the fastest recovery among all vegetatively produced bermudagrasses, but it also out-performed most seeded varieties.

An attribute not normally associated with bermudagrasses is Celebration's tolerance of light-to-moderate shade. A study at Clemson University confirmed that Celebration's shade tolerance is superior to that of Tifton 419 and TifSport, two of the most popular varieties of bermudagrass. The cultivar needs only five hours of direct sunlight daily, which it doesn't have to get all at one time.

For growers, Celebration's rapid expansion rate results in enhanced weed resistance (i.e., lower production costs).

Also, the cultivar's tight runners, sturdy rhizomes and deep roots provide exceptional sod strength. Since the sod doesn't fall apart, installers spend less time patching pieces back together, speeding installation.

Of all the characteristics of Celebration, however, its most significant may be its drought tolerance. Thriving in hot, humid and desert areas (it has been successfully maintained in Arizona), Celebration's deep, highly efficient root system means it can access moisture far down into the ground. It also has excellent salt tolerance, making it ideal in coastal areas.

About Sod Solutions

In addition to Celebration Bermudagrass, Sod Solutions also markets Palmetto St. Augustine, Sapphire St. Augustine (another recent joint release with FSGC), EMPIRE Zoysia and EMPRESS Zoysia.



"Sod Solutions has been in this business for nearly 15 years now," Wagner points out. "We have about 200 licensed producers in the U.S. and about 75 overseas, in Australia, Brazil and South Africa. We work hard to maintain a reputation for being a fair, objective company, and our products stand out on their own." 🌱

See Celebration Here!

In addition to numerous other locations across the country (notably Texas, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Mississippi, Arkansas, Missouri and Arizona), Celebration bermudagrass has been installed at the following Florida locations:

Haile Plantation Golf & Country Club
Gainesville, FL

Mirabay Development
Ruskin, FL

Nautica Isles West (recreation center)
Lantana, FL

Ocean Reef Country Club
Key Largo, FL


Palm Beach Country Club
Palm Beach, FL

Presidential Country Club
North Miami Beach, FL



Royal Palm Polo Club
Boca Raton, FL

Tropical Park Stadium
Miami, FL


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