

Invasiveness

Although 'Tufcote' establishes rapidly in prepared beds, once established it has a relatively slower and less aggressive rate of spread compared to common forms of Bermudagrass. Based on recent observation at Beltsville, MD, 'Tufcote' does not appear to invade adjacent established turf or gravel driveways as rapidly as the common strains of Bermudagrass are known to do. 'Tufcote' should only be used in areas where it will not eventually threaten natural areas.

Caution: Bermudagrass is considered noxious in several states and invasive by several sources. Please check the Noxious and Invasive portion of PLANTS for additional information. Please consult with your local resource specialist prior to using.

Availability of Plant Materials

'Tufcote' Bermudagrass is being maintained by the USDA-NRCS National Plant Materials Center in Beltsville, MD. Sprigs are available to interested parties for research and increase purposes.

To request plant stock or further information, contact:

USDA-NRCS
National Plant Materials Center
Building 509, BARC-East
Beaver Dam Road
Beltsville, MD 20705
Phone: (301) 504-8175
Fax: (301) 504-8741

For information on-line:

Visit the Plant Materials Program or NRCS websites to learn more about using plants to address conservation problems.

<http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov>
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>



'Tufcote' Bermudagrass *Cynodon dactylon*



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Released by
**National
Plant Materials Center
Beltsville, Maryland**

'Tufcote' Bermudagrass

'Tufcote' Bermudagrass (*Cynodon dactylon* (L.) Pers.) was released in 1962 by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the University of Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station and the Crops Research Division of the USDA, Agricultural Research Service. 'Tufcote' has been assigned PI number 477004.

Description

'Tufcote' is a medium-leaved, medium dark-green Bermudagrass. There has been a recent renewed interest in 'Tufcote' for its durability under extreme conditions of very heavy traffic. It has a good rate of spread and its low growth habit forms a dense sod which is drought tolerant and salt tolerant. 'Tufcote' has a good degree of winter hardiness and some tolerance to leaf diseases. 'Tufcote' holds its green better in the fall than common Bermudagrass and turns straw color during the winter months. 'Tufcote' must be propagated vegetatively. 'Tufcote' produces seed heads but has not produced viable seed in the Beltsville area.

Collection Site Information

'Tufcote' Bermudagrass was collected by General Jan Smuts from Pretoria South Africa in 1942.

Method of Selection

'Tufcote' Bermudagrass is a variety developed from a single seedling. During this first winter in the U.S., the several

strains introduced by General Smuts were subjected to natural winter temperatures of -17°F at the National Plant Materials Center (NPMC), Beltsville, Maryland. This was the only plant to survive and was selected by Franklin J. Crider at the NPMC for further increase and testing. 'Tufcote' was evaluated at plots at the USDA Plant Industry Station and in the Byrd Stadium at the University of Maryland. After its release 'Tufcote' was evaluated across the U.S. and in several other countries in the 1960's.

Anticipated Conservation Use

Erosion control: Critical area planting including channels, pond banks, grassed waterways, vegetated flumes and road banks.

Turf: Lawns, golf courses and public areas, and is recommended for problem soils and heavy traffic areas with half to full-day sun.

Propagation and Establishment

'Tufcote' Bermudagrass is established through the planting of springs, plugs or sod. Keep new plantings moist until active growth has occurred.

Sprigs can be planted from early spring while it is still dormant until mid summer. Sprigs should be fresh and not dry or wilted. Sprigs can be planted with a sprig planter, disk punched, or covered with 1 to 2 inches of soil followed by irrigation. For fully established stands in one growing season use 15 to 20 bushels per acre for early plantings

or in warmer climates, and 25 to 30 bushels per acre for later plantings or in colder climates.

For critical sites, it is preferred to use sod or plugs cut from sod. Three inch plugs planted on 15 to 18 inch centers will ordinarily establish complete cover in one growing season with adequate fertilizer, moisture and sun.

Management

'Tufcote' Bermudagrass is a low-growing, sod-forming grass. High quality turf will require frequent low mowing, and ample fertilizer, and water for vigorous growth. Good to fair quality turf can be maintained with low water and low fertilizer schedules and higher mowing heights, thereby reducing mowing frequency.

Anticipated Area of Adaptation

'Tufcote' has demonstrated excellent growth and winter survival into the transition zone of temperate climates and is well adapted to tropical and sub-tropical climates where Bermudagrass is commonly grown.

