

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
TECHNOLOGY: ECOLOGICAL SCIENCES DIVISION
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

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**AND THE
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION**

**AND THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE**

**NOTICE OF
RELEASE OF 'QUICKSTAND' BERMUDAGRASS**

The USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS), Quicksand Plant Materials Center in conjunction with the University of Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station, and the USDA Agricultural Research Service announce the naming and release of 'Quickstand' bermudagrass (*Cynodon dactylon* (L.) Pers.). Quickstand (QS) has been known in field tests as RS-1, Quicksand common bermudagrass, QSC, and accn. 9034348. The permanent plant introduction number for QS is PI-557553. The name 'Quickstand' refers to the Plant Materials Center (PMC) at Quicksand, Kentucky and to the superior rate of spread demonstrated by this plant.

QS was selected from a native stand in field 2 of the Quicksand PMC and has been evaluated by PMC and University of Kentucky personnel since 1980. QS has been evaluated in over 60 field plantings, in replicated university tests (University of Kentucky, University of Florida, Southern Illinois University, University of Georgia, and Oklahoma State University), by the Agricultural Research Service at Beckley, West Virginia and Tifton, Georgia (also, at other sites by ARS) and in the National Bermudagrass Variety Evaluations (conducted in 10 states for turfgrass varieties).

QS is considered near tetraploid ($2n=4x=36$). However, this is inconclusive as chromosome counts of 37 and 38 have been reported. It is a common bermudagrass but produces very few seed. Reproduction will be by sprigs. QS can provide superior summer turf and pasture where winter temperatures may be restrictive for many other varieties. It has been evaluated at 900m (2950') elevation in West Virginia and at temperatures below -29°C (-20°F). Structurally QS is similar to other common bermudagrasses. It is a vigorous, pest resistant, drought and salt tolerant strain. Leaves are medium green, moderately fine textured (3-4cm L, 3-4mm W), and taper to a point. Forage production has been comparable to Coastal bermudagrass in amount and quality in Georgia. Winter-hardiness and yield exceeds that of Midland and other bermudagrasses tested at Beckley, West Virginia. Low growth (12cm) will limit QS's use for hay production.

Few turf varieties of bermudagrass are available for use in plant hardiness zone 6a. QS is adapted to this area. It is comparable in quality to Vamont but is slightly finer in texture and has shown tolerance to closer mowing. QS's rate of spread has been superior to all turf-types in available tests.

