

DEVELOPING SALT, DROUGHT AND HEAT RESISTANT TURFGRASSES  
FOR MINIMAL MAINTENANCE

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
El Paso, Texas

Dr. Gerald L. Horst  
Principal Investigator

1989 Research Grant: \$15,000  
[sixth year of support]

RESEARCH ACCOMPLISHED

Initial zoysiagrass evaluation was completed as of fall, 1988, where [29] entries were evaluated in four tests.

Zoysiagrass appears to have medium potential for salt resistance in the limited germplasm base that was tested. This plant material base was from the Texas collection.

Some zoysiagrass selections appear to have good salt resistance. The selections could be useful in cultivar improvement work and in saline environments without additional selection pressure.

Bentgrass germplasm [25 entries] from the improvement program under the direction of Dr. M. C. Engelke was received at the end of 1988. The material is currently being evaluated for salt resistance.

The advanced long term study is underway, and the first trial of bentgrass is going to take place in the course of this year.

CURRENT RESEARCH

The initial bentgrass germplasm base is being evaluated for salt resistance.

Promising bentgrasses will be evaluated in our new advanced salt resistance study set up.

RESEARCH PLANNED 1989/90

Continue bentgrass evaluation tests.

Begin to proto-type advance salt resistance studies as an option, or support of our current aeroponic tank system.

Begin evaluation of the Nebraska buffalograss germplasm base for salt resistance.