# INTERNATIONAL TURFGRASS GENETIC ASSURANCE PROGRAM

(ITGAP)

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# Why Was ITGAP Created?

- Maintain identity of turfgrass varieties
  - University of Georgia varieties
  - Privately released varieties
- Establish production protocols to assure purity and quality
  - contamination
  - other crop
  - weeds

# Past Experience

- Tifway
- Tifdwarf

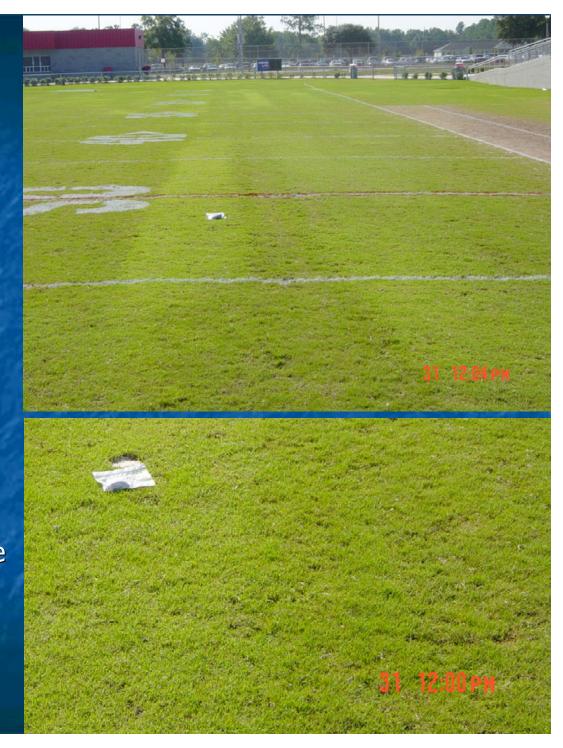
- THERE ARE A LARGE NUMBER OF TURFGRASS CULTIVARS AVAILABLE TO THE INDUSTRY.
  - MORE OPORTUNITY FOR MISIDENTIFICATION OF VARIETIES
  - MORE OPORTUNITY FOR CONTAMINATION OF VARIETIES
- MODERN DAY TURFGRASS VARIETIES ARE CHOSEN AND PLANTED FOR SPECIFIC CHARACTERISTICS THAT THEY POSSESS.

#### Desirable characteristics

- Density
- Temperature tolerances + -
- Susceptibility to chemical injury
- Traffic tolerance
- Spring emergence
- Mowing frequency
- Disease and insect resistance
- Uniformity
- Etc.

# CONTAMINATION= NONUNIFORMITY

- Compromises desirable characteristics
  - Color
  - Cold tolerance
  - Chemical injury
  - Traffic tolerance
  - Rate of growth
  - Spring emergence
  - Salt tolerance
  - Disease & insect resistance





# WHY DO YOU "THE PRODUCER" NEED TO BE IN ITGAP?



- MARKETING
  - **EXPECTATIONS OF DEVELOPERS**
  - PRODUCT QUALITY
  - **REPEAT CUSTOMERS**

#### ALLOWS YOU TO ELEVATE YOUR FARM ABOVE THE REST

- Quality management system
- Third party inspections
- Promote varietal purity

# INTERNATIONAL TURFGRASS GENETIC ASSURANCE PROGRAM

**ITGAP** 

#### ITGAP PROTOCOLS

Application for membership and inspection To:

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# LAND REQUIRMENTS

- Production fields must be inspected prior to planting
  - Free of contaminating other species
  - Fields prone to flooding not acceptable
  - Wind/traffic barriers may be required

## DEDICATED EQUIPMENT

- Mowing equipment must be dedicated for each variety produced under the ITGAP program.
- Non-dedicated equipment (tractors, fertilizer equipment, spray equipment) must be thoroughly washed prior to entering ITGAP fields.
  - Wash facilities must be available for cleaning equipment.

# DEDICATED EQUIPMENT

At no time should non dedicated equipment (mowers, harvesters, tractors) be allowed to travel from non program fields across ITGAP fields

Barriers may be required

WHY???????

# DEDICATED EQUIPMENT

- Wheeled (center pivot) irrigation systems must travel on program fields of the same variety only.
- Irrigation equipment that is mobile must be dedicated and not moved from field. why????

## FIELD REQUIREMENTS

- Isolation from any other varieties
  - 20 meters if source of possible contamination produces seed or pollen
  - 3 meters from non-seed or pollen producing varieties
    - Bare land
    - Artificial barrier

#### PLANTING STOCK

- Sources must be approved prior to planting
- ITGAP must have documentation of planting stock:
  - Producer
  - Date of harvest
  - Kind and variety
  - Quantity

#### EXPANSION OF FIELDS

- Foundation planting material when establishing a farm nursery will be planted on fumigated land.
- Fumigation material and rates to be approved by ITGAP Administrator

#### LIFE OF PRODUCTION FIELD

- Five year limit
  - Fields can be extended beyond five years upon successful completion of intensive inspections
  - ITGAP may require grow out test, DNA test, etc.

## FIELD INSPECTIONS

- Fields must be inspected annually by an ITGAP representative
- Quarterly inspections by producer is required and must be documented
- Fields must be grown using good practices
  - Adequate water
  - Fertility
  - Pest control
  - Mowing

### FIELD STANDARDS

- Annual or quarterly inspections
  - Maximum of an average of 3 plants of another variety per ha.
    - Bermuda in Paspalum
    - Zoysia in Bermuda
    - ETC.

#### **RE-INSPECTIONS**

Fields exceeding an average of 3 plants per Ha of another variety must be reinspected

#### CERTIFICATES OF ASSURANCE

- ITGAP certificates will accompany each shipment of grass.
- Available from program administrator
- The certificate will display:
  - Kind and variety
  - Quantity shipped
  - Field number
  - Date of harvest
  - Producer's name
  - Signature