

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 MISIDENTIFICAION 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?

- ACCESS TO NEWER VARIETIES
- 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

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ITGAP

ITGAP PROTOCOLS

- Application for membership and inspection
To:

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 re-inspected

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