

How does an experienced grass seed breeder combine exceptional seedling vigor with a finer leaf texture and a darker green color? After years of targeted research through thousands of poa trivialis plants, the answer was developed by crossing very dark green selections of poa trivialis with very fast starting types. The end result was Pickseed's advanced synthetic cultivar, Darkhorse (tested as PTGH).

USAGE:

Representing the leading edge of developmental technology, Darkhorse presents a dark green color, disease resistance, rapid establishment, good seed yield and superior turf performance. All Darkhorse seed is grown in Oregon and Washington. It grows low, and has excellent overseeding turf quality. Darkhorse also gives you improved dollar spot resistance over older cultivars. It has excellent cold hardiness and shade adaptation is very good. Foreign produced seed is blown away by Darkhorse's much superior quality.

DISEASE RESISTANCE:

Darkhorse has shown good resistance to stripe rust, leaf spot and dollar spot. It has excellent seedling vigor, too. Long-lived perennial Darkhorse offers hardiness in low temperatures and its color retention is excellent. Well adapted to wet, imperfectly drained, fine textured soils, Darkhorse grows best in fertile soils having a pH of 6 – 7. Though cool natured, it can form a very dense and uniform turf, and has been extremely successful in winter overseeding programs of dormant warm season turfs in the southern United States.

MANAGEMENT:

Darkhorse is exceptionally well suited for use as an overseeded tee and putting green grass on dormant bermudagrass. It can be used alone or mixed with bentgrass, chewings fescue or perennial ryegrass. True to its feisty breed, Darkhorse yields about 2.1 million high quality seeds per pound.

In trials to date, Darkhorse combines good seedling vigor with a very dark green color, a finer leaf texture, a lower growth habit and overall disease resistance. The spring transition characteristics remain good, in late spring overseeded bermudagrass, Darkhorse will transition out evenly as the bermudagrass begins vigorous growth. Like all improved varieties, Darkhorse has excellent shade tolerance and excellent color retention during cold periods.

DARKHORSE

POA TRIVIALIS

SEEDING:

Darkhorse generally requires 0.5 – 1.0 pound of N per 1000 sq. ft. per growing month. To maintain a dense turf, Darkhorse should be mowed to a height of ¼ - 1-1/2 inches. On overseeded putting greens, Darkhorse performs beautifully at standard green mowing heights. When mixed with creeping bentgrasses such as MacKenzie and Ninety-Six Two, it has been cut as low as 1/8 inch, resulting in very fast greens.

TECHNICAL PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS

Year of Introduction	1992
Main Uses	Southern golf course overseeding on tees and greens, shady areas in the north
Seed Count	2,150,000 seeds / lb.
Normal Days to Germinate	4 – 6 days (fall)
Normal Days to First Mowing	14 – 18 days
Overseeding quality ratings	Very Good – 7.0 average in FL, MS and AZ
Genetic Color	Dark green – 6.8
Summer Stress Tolerance	Low
Leaf Texture	Very fine – 8.0
Turf Density	Dense – 7.7
Shade Tolerance	Excellent
pH Range	5.0 – 8.0
Mature Plant Height	Low – approx. 15"
Close Mowing Tolerance	Excellent – 0.125" minimum
Growth Rate	Medium slow
Powdery Mildew Resistance	Very good
Leaf Spot Resistance	Good
Spring Transition	Very good – 8.5
Seedling Vigor	Very good – 7.0
Dollar Spot Resistance	Good
Wear Tolerance	Medium