

Vesper velvet bentgrass (tested as Pick MVB) is an exciting new product for golf courses and fine turf use. Vesper is a new type of velvet bentgrass that is far superior in heat stress and summer performance to the old varieties of a generation ago.

**DESCRIPTION:**

Velvet bentgrass is described by Dr. James Beard as “one of the finest textured turfs of exquisite beauty for use on close cut greens, tees and other fine textured lawn turfs.” It forms a turf of extremely fine texture with almost needle-like leaves. It has an erect growth habit, and forms a soft velvety turf of very high shoot density and uniformity. The rate of spread by creeping stolons is more aggressive than for colonial bentgrass, but not as vigorous as for creeping bentgrass.

**USAGE:**

Vesper forms a very fine, very dense turf grass cover that can be mowed as low as a turf mower can be set – even down to 1/16”. It is primarily used as a putting green and tee turf cover. It also works perfectly for grass tennis courts, lawn bowling and elite quality lawns. It boasts a bright, medium – darks color. Vesper has excellent wear tolerance and much better shade tolerance than creeping bentgrass.

**QUALITY:**

Vesper is best adapted to the more northern climates. In the northern 9 NTEP trial locations, Vesper was the top ranking bentgrass among all the creeping and velvet bentgrasses entered in the trial. It is quite resistant to most common turf diseases including dollar spot. Vesper is a drought resistant grass and thrives on about half of the nitrogen fertilizer needed by a creeping type bentgrass.



**SEEDING AND MANAGEMENT:**

With about 8 million seeds per pound, Vesper is the smallest seeded turfgrass available. A seeding rate of 1 – 1-1/2 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. Establishment is generally good. Treatment with Apron is very beneficial in ensuring a more rapid and complete establishment. Vesper likes warm soils when seeded. June and August are good establishment months.

**TECHNICAL PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS**

Year of Introduction	2002
Main Uses	Golf tees, greens, tennis courts, lawn bowling
Seed Count	Approx. 8,000,000 / lb.
Normal Days to Germinate	7 – 9, early fall seeding
Normal Days to First Mowing	30 – 35
NTEP Quality Ratings (1999 – 2002 data)	Excellent – 6.2
Genetic Color	Medium dark green – 6.4
Summer Stress Tolerance	Very good
Leaf Texture	Very fine – 7.8
Turf Density	Very dense – 7.1
Shade Tolerance	Good
Sod Strength	Not Tested
pH Range	4.7 – 7.8
Winterhardiness	Excellent
Close Mowing Tolerance	Excellent
Growth Rate	Slow
Mature Plant Height	Very low – 7 – 10 inches
Red Thread Resistance	Excellent
Take All Patch Resistance	Very good – 8.5
Brown Patch Resistance	Excellent – 7.8
Dollar Spot Resistance	Very good – 7.4
Pythium Blight Resistance	Fair / Good – 5.9