

Stop #3: Evaluation of Seeded and Vegetative Buffalograss Under Simulated Traffic and Nitrogen Fertility

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In this experiment, we sought to compare establishment rates, traffic tolerance, and other turf quality characteristics of UC Verde, a vegetatively-propagated cultivar, and three experimental seed-propagated lines of buffalograss from the University of Nebraska. These experimental lines were developed from parental materials that exhibited improved turfgrass performance, heat tolerance, and greater seed yield.

- Plugs and Seed Established:** 9 July 2010
- Seeding Rate:** 2 lbs/1000 ft²
- Plug Spacing:** 18-inch spacing of UC Verde plugs
- Fertility:** Once fully established in August 2011, plots were split by 2 and 4 lbs N/1000 ft²/Yr
- Traffic:** Two passes twice/week using Brinkman Traffic Simulator beginning in August 2011 and June 2012 for a total of 11+ weeks each year

Preliminary Results:

- ✓ UC Verde retained its color much longer in the fall compared to the seeded types; however, the opposite was true for spring green up.
- ✓ In general, UC Verde provides a denser turf compared to the seeded types. Thus far, we have not seen a lot of separation in turf performance and quality among the seeded types.
- ✓ Higher nitrogen levels increased quality of both trafficked and non-trafficked buffalograss, and traffic was less detrimental to more mature buffalograss turf in 2012.

Notes:

- ✓ NEBFG 07-03 is now 'Sundancer' seeded buffalograss.