

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 ft ²
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 ft ² /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.