# The AMPAC Impact

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## In & Around AMPAC

By Marcy Arbelbide

### AMPAC PERENNIAL RYEGRASS SHOWS WELL IN LATEST NTEP

**Amazing GS**, a Gray Leaf Spot Resistant variety, remains steady in the latest 2006 preliminary data released by NTEP. It ranks top in the Northeast Region where Gray Leaf Spot varieties are desired. **Amazing GS** is an excellent choice for golf course tees, fairways, sports turf, parks, and home lawns in all climate zones due to its overall outstanding turf quality. **Amazing GS** is a stand out variety for the North East and North Central states with means of 6.6 and 6.5 respectively. Ampac will have a good supply of **Amazing GS** Fall of 2007.

**Phenom**, Ampac's first Gray Leaf Spot Resistant variety released Fall of 2006 is available now. **Phenom** is a selection out of the top 10 varieties at Rutgers in 2004. **Phenom** is extremely disease resistant with a dark green color, good density and a uniform growth habit. **Phenom** is a well rounded workhorse variety and has strengths in all geographic areas. It is exceptionally strong in the Transition states of KY and VA with a 7.0 rating.

Rounding out this triple play of new ryegrasses is **Pleasure Supreme**; a strong contender in the current NTEP and rivaling the best NTEP varieties from the previous trials. **Pleasure Supreme** is an upright, vigorous, slower growing perennial ryegrass. **Pleasure Supreme** demonstrates excellent overall disease resistance from Gray Leaf Spot, Snow Mold, Melting Out and Red Thread. **Pleasure Supreme** rated 7.2 in IN and PA, 7.6 in WI and for those of you in the NE area 6.3 which would put **Pleasure Supreme** in the top 2 of commercially available varieties at this time. May have limited supply Fall 2007.

Blending **Amazing GS**, **Phenom** and **Pleasure Plus** ensures a strong turf coverage in areas of Gray Leaf Spot and other disease concerns, as well as guaranteeing the highest quality available in a turf grass blend in all areas.

Don't forget the tried and true varieties in Ampac's product line: Amazing, Pleasure XL, and Nobility. All available alone or in our Pleasure Plus Mixture.

### TALL FESCUE – SOLID LINE UP NOW – NEW VARIETIES ON THE HORIZON

*Cochise III:* A top 10 NTEP variety. Very dark, fine bladed, with a high endophyte level Cochise III has great traffic tolerance and forms a dense turf.

*Cortez II:* A new variety with many of the qualities of Cochise III. Cortez II has excellent disease resistance, a finer blade, is very dense and our darkest green tall fescue available.

*Ninja 2:* This is our low-mow, traffic tolerant, dwarf type with a very dark green color.

*Expedition:* selected for its spreading activity bred for improved heat and drought tolerance.

*Overtime Tall Fescue Blend:* a blend of 3 tall fescues combining strengths for a solid turfgrass stand.

*FUTURE VARIETIES:* Ampac is currently reviewing data on 4 new Turf Type Tall Fescues. We plan to add a new pick from Rutgers, a new dwarf type, a new spreading type and a new semi-dwarf variety. Watch for these Fall of 2008.

## FINE FESCUES – A MUST FOR SHADE AND LOW MAINTENANCE

*Stonehedge Hard Fescue:* One of the best, Stonehedge has excellent heat and drought tolerance, as well as the ability to tolerate frost. Stonehedge is very fine bladed, with improved disease resistance and a medium-dark green color. Great as a mono-stand in low maintenance situations or in blends with Perennial Ryegrass, Kentucky Bluegrass and other fine fescues.

*Gibraltar Creeping Red Fescue:* A strong creeper from Rutgers selected for its disease resistance, low prostrate growth, dark green color and high shoot density. Its high endophyte level allow it to perform better under heat and drought conditions. Recommended in blends with Perennial Ryegrass, Kentucky Bluegrass and other fine fescues.

*DOT MIX:* A blend of Chewings, Hard and Creeping red fescues for low maintenance areas, slopes, roadsides, hard to mow areas, vineyards orchards and golf course roughs. Anywhere an attractive turf is desired with little maintenance requirements. Packed in a branded DOT bag.

*Watch for New Fine Fescues in 2009.*

## INTRODUCING LS-44 CREEPING BENTGRASS

We are pleased to announce the addition of **LS-44 Creeping Bentgrass** to our line up of Golf Course varieties. **LS-44** demonstrates dense tillering and an upright growth habit which helps to crowd out poa annua. With a superior disease resistance less fungicide is required. A fine uniform texture produces a superior putting service without thatch buildup. **LS-44** establishes quickly, shows exceptional traffic and wear tolerance, tolerates low mowing, and adapts well to a broad range of climates with its superb heat, humidity and cold tolerance. **LS-44** is rated #1 on Sand Greens in AZ and Soil Greens in VA. For complete trial data go to www.ntep.org. **LS-44** is available now from Ampac Seed.

Ampac also has the following creeping bentgrass varieties available: New Generation: A-4 and G-6; Tried and true: Penncross, Penneagle Pennlinks, Pennway and Seaside II. Other varieties may be available upon request.

## BLUEGRASS – IN THE MAKING...

There has been a lot of emphasis put on mixing Bluegrass from different categories in the recent years. This practice has validity especially with the many new bluegrass varieties now available. Mixing different types of Bluegrass maximizes the species diversities and makes for a better agronomic stand. Consider the different types when blending to meet your specific needs. Following are Ampac's current varieties and their type:

**Arcadia, Rugby II, Quantum Leap, Midnight** – Midnight Elite Type (very dark green in color, good turf quality, good heat tolerance, longer winter dormancy with late spring green up, very dense, low growing, tolerant to close/low cutting, shade tolerance, good disease resistance, most expensive)

**Baron, Kelly, Merit** – Big Seeded Type (Medium to good turf quality, medium to low growth, medium wide leaves, medium density, fast establishment, economical, good mixers, )

**Rugby** – Early Spring Green Up Type (Fast establishment, Good spring color, Good to excellent turf quality, wear tolerant, low maintenance, good in blends.)

**Alene, Kenblue, Park** – Common type (Good stress tolerance, often survive summer drought in a dormant condition, fast starting, poor turf quality, best used in low end blends)

**Bluemaster Mixture** – packed in a branded bag – is available to customize your bluegrass blend requirements.

**Bluemaster Plus Mixture** – a blend of Elite Bluegrass, ryegrass and fine fescue for the Northern U.S. Show Turf.

Ampac is currently looking at adding new varieties and types to add to our current available bluegrasses. Update to follow.

*Watch for the latest NTEP information coming this Spring at www.NTEP.org*

# Wildlife Perfect

By Scott Rushe

It seems the ole man Winter decided to arrive late in these parts this year and is now refusing to leave! As I write this, the weather guesser's are predicting a foot of snow to fall over the weekend in central PA and let's not even go there about New England! We have seen cold snaps into the southern reaches of Florida and across the mid-West. So how does this affect our food plot plantings? It buys us time! For those of you that have been on the fence about planting food plots and thought it was too late, now is the time to get out there and get your plots established. AMAPAC Seed is in its third season of offering wildlife food plot mixes under the Wildlife Perfect Brand. We have developed four standard mixes that will do very well in most of the country. Wildlife Perfect brand can also be formulated to your specific area as long as there are 50% of improved varieties in the mixture. Below are the stock mixtures we offer in ¼, ½, and 1 acre bags as well as 50# bags.

**Wildlife Grazing Mixture** is a combination of both perennial legumes and chicory formulated to produce high protein content all season long. **Wildlife Grazing Mixture** is formulated to tolerate poorer soils. Plot Enhancer™ Brand Chicory will provide continuous feed in the summer when the legumes are either producing seed heads and are less palatable or during the droughtier times due to its tap root system.

**Wildlife Ultimate Plus Mixture** is made up of 100% improved varieties selected under intense grazing. **Wildlife Ultimate Plus Mixture** is a combination of both perennial legumes and chicory formulated to produce high protein content all season long. Both Starfire Red Clover and Hunt Club™ Brand White Clover were selected for persistence as well as high stolon counts. Plot Enhancer™ Brand Chicory will provide continuous feed in the summer when the legumes are either producing seed heads and are less palatable or during the droughtier times due to its tap root system.

**Wildlife Chicory/Clover Mixture** is made up of 100% improved varieties selected under intense grazing. **Wildlife Chicory/Clover Mixture** is a combination of both perennial legumes and chicory formulated to produce high protein content all season long. Both Starfire Red Clover and Hunt Club™ White Clover were selected for persistence as well as high stolon counts. Plot Enhacer™ Chicory provides continuous feed in the dry summer months due to its tap root system.

**Wildlife Brassica Mixture** is made up of improved Brassicas and Plot Enhancer™ Brand Forage Chicory! Formulated for late season harvest plots since the leafy area will tend to taste bitter until the first or second heavy frost. After the frost, the leafy area becomes sweet in taste and very desirable to the animal. Once the animal finds the Brassicas, they will consume the leafy area, which will stay palatable until early winter, then graze the bulbs of the plants. Brassicas are very high in both protein and carbohydrates, which are the two leading factors for increased body weight and prolonging stamina to help the animal through the rutting season as well as the hard winter months.

**Ampac Seed** and **Wildlife Perfect™** are now Proud Supporters of **Quality Deer Management Association**, endorsed by **The Ruffed Grouse Society**, and a Sponsor of **Just Killn' Time** television series on the Sportsman's Channel. As you can see, we are teaming with the leaders in the industry to help promote our product and make **Wildlife Perfect™** the brand of choice!

If you need more information on the mixtures or would like to receive program details, please don't hesitate to contact AMPAC Seed Company. AMPAC Seed will be introducing an attractive end cap unit to display the seed, banners, field signs, and other incentives to help promote **Wildlife Perfect™** food plot mixtures.

WILDLIFE PERFECT™

*Attract the Wild!*

# Something New to Consider for Summer Grazing

By Jeff Medlin

Here it is the beginning of April and we are already experiencing drought conditions in much of the southeastern United States. Our typical "rainy" season has been extremely dry. While to the north of us, snow continues to fall and cover the ground. While conditions are not exactly "summer like" outside today (we've just experienced the coldest Easter on record in Nashville with temperatures in the mid-20's) summer grazing production should be on our minds. Most southern hay producers have sold out of last years hay crop, and if the dry weather continues, many producers are going to be experiencing a third year of consecutive drought. Our traditional summer pastures are already being grazed very closely, and warm and cool season perennial pastures were actively growing less than 10 days ago (temperatures were in the 80's). Many producers are already looking for alternative grazing options that can help provide quality feed for our livestock.

PRO MAX BRAND

BMR Hybrid Sudangrass

Our goal as producers is to maximize our available forages to produce optimum ADG (average daily gain) per animal. Ampac is pleased to introduce **Pro-Max™** BMR Sudangrass to the market this year to help producers provide that gain for livestock. Using a summer annual such as **Pro-Max™**, with proper management, can increase the potential to reach this goal. **Pro-Max™** is the first BMR (brown mid-rib) Sudangrass to be entered into the market. The BMR gene offers a more palatable and more digestible forage than non-BMR types.

Research has shown that livestock prefer the BMR varieties over non-BMR varieties for grazing. Another thing that makes **Pro-Max™** an exciting forage opportunity is that Dairy, Beef, Sheep, and Goat producers now have a summer annual that can be grazed, but also cut for hay. Studies performed in California have shown that grazing **Pro-Max™** can produce an increased gain for 20% or more in animal production versus a non-BMR Sudangrass.

For dairy cattle, studies have shown that when **Pro-Max™** was included in a Total Mixed Ration (TMR) as part of the diet a 5% increase in feed intake per day and a 12% increase in milk production per head per day was documented. This TMR was comprised of 18% **Pro-Max™**, 18% Alfalfa as the forage component (typical diet for high producing dairy cattle uses 36% alfalfa as the forage component). The TMR ration with **Pro-Max™** was 8% lower in NDF and ADF and 16% lower in lignin compared to the same TMR ration using Piper Sudangrass.

I realize as I write this that many producers have had experience with BMR Sorghum-Sudangrass, but the use of **Pro-Max™** should show advantages in all areas of animal grazing, and hay production, while the BMR Sorghum-Sudangrass will have the advantage for silage production due to increased tonnage.

Seeding rates should be 25-35#/acre and soil temperatures need to be at least 60°F for best germination and seedling vigor. Grazing can start at 20-30" tall and leave 6-8" of stubble for best regrowth. **Pro-Max™** will have similar management necessities for nitrate and prussic acid as other Sudangrasses and Sorghum-Sudangrasses. **Pro-Max™** also has much improved rust resistance.

Ampac also offers an enhanced version of **Pro-Max™** called **Pro-Max™**. This product contains Pasja Hybrid Brassica for additional grazing profitability and quality. **Pro-Max™** can not be baled for hay due to the high moisture levels of the Pasja Hybrid Brassica (provides increase feed value and protein levels).

In summary, as we prepare for another "typical" summer across the United States, the new **Pro-Max™** BMR Sudangrass can provide an alternative to traditional summer pastures. It also can provide producers the next level of improvement in high quality summer forage for direct pasture or hay and more efficient animal gain. DO NOT feed **Pro-Max™**, Sudangrasses, or Sorghum-Sudangrasses to horses!

*Pro-Max BMR Sudangrass*

**Notable Characteristics:**

- First true Sudangrass with the BMR trait
- Reduced lignin content (~20% vs. Piper)
- Improved Fiber Digestibility
- Greater Animal Preference
- Improved Animal Performance
  - 20% greater gain/head/day
  - 20% greater gain per acre
- Improved Digestibility
- Improved Palatability
- BMR 12 trait for top yield and quality!
- 50% less rust compared to non-BMR Sudangrass varieties
- Similar yield to BMR Sorghum-Sudangrass with **less wastage**!
- Additional 2 points Crude Protein over BMR Sorghum-Sudangrass
- Additional 20 points RFV over BMR Sorghum-Sudangrass
- **Can be baled for hay!**
- **Ready to graze approximately 2 weeks before BMR Sorghum-Sudangrass – should get additional harvest/grazing!**

*Pro-Max™ contains the Hy-gest™ BMR trait.*


I'm sure many of you have customers that are concerned about the damaging effects of the wintry weather on their crops. The following is and excellent article relating to dead or damaged alfalfa written by Bruce Anderson, University of Nebraska Forage Extension Specialist.

### University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources

With this week's frigid temperatures, the appearance of alfalfa stands may be causing growers concerns. Regardless of what your alfalfa looks like, wait until you have had a couple days of non-freezing weather to evaluate your crop. Until then, alfalfa plants are not going to begin to recover or regrow.

Alfalfa plant sensitivity will be strongly related to the amount of growth it achieved before the freeze, i.e. 12-inch plants are much more likely to experience significant damage than 3-inch plants.

If the low temperature was above 28°F, I expect little significant impact on alfalfa except for some singed leaf edges. Remember, though, that 28°F at the farmstead may not mean the same temperature in the field; low spots easily could have been 3 to 5 degrees colder for a longer time. To make management decisions, though, ignore the thermometer and watch the plants.

1. **New seedlings.** Generally these plants are tolerant of cold temperatures, partly due to heat arising from the soil and partly due to natural plant tolerance. Seedlings no older than first trifoliolate growth stage probably handle temperatures in the low 20s. As they advance in growth, cold tolerance lessens; seedlings at the fourth or fifth trifoliolate stage may be injured similarly to alfalfa seeded late last summer; however, I doubt that there were many new fields with already emerging seedlings and likely none with seedlings at the fourth or fifth trifoliolate stage.
2. **Well-established stands**. Focus attention on the "growing point." This growing point, also called the apical meristem, is the initial development source of all new leaves, stems, and branches on the aboveg round alfalfa. It is located inside the dense cluster of unfolded leaves at the top of the main stem. Because it is inside a cluster of leaves, the growing point is somewhat protected from cold injury. Exposed leaves and stems all around it can be frozen, wilted, and dying while the growing point cluster survives, waiting for warm weather before continuing to grow.

If external parts of the canopy are the only parts showing freeze damage (wilting) so that the growing point survived, little impact is expected from the freeze. This assumes that the plants straighten back up if they laid over due to the freeze. If they don't stand back up, you probably should remove the existing growth by grazing, haying, or shredding to enable new regrowth to get started rapidly. If the growing point cluster appears healthy, stands straight, and remains green with little or no wilting, plant may be stunned but should start growing again with warm temperatures. Take no action except keep observing; if nothing happens following 10 days of favorable temperatures, harvest or shred the crop.

If the growing point froze and plants are wilting below that cluster, a significant delay in recovery is likely. During the next few warm weather days, watch for:

- **new growth emerging from the tip.** This means the plant is recovering nicely. Take no action.
- **new growth emerging as branches below the tip.** This means the growing point was killed, but the plant is recovering. Plant development will be significantly slower. Take no action.
- **new shoots emerging from crown buds.** This means the growing point was killed and little new growth can be expected from existing shoots. Cut or graze if sufficient growth is available for economical harvest before new shoots get tall enough to be damaged by the harvest. Caution: Cutting or damaging new regrowth shoots will cause severe, sometimes even fatal, damage. Otherwise, just let the new shoots develop and expect to take first cutting much later than normal.
- **nothing happens.** Based on experience during recent springs, this is the most likely reaction. If the growing point cluster froze and has wilted severely, additional growth from the existing plant is highly unlikely. Harvest or shred plants to encourage new shoots from the crown as quickly as possible. Or wait — new shoots will come eventually, but much slower and less dense than if existing plants are removed. In all situations, if plants that laid over by the freeze do not straighten back up, removing injured growth will hasten regrowth significantly.

3. **Last year's planting.** Same as well-established stands except recovery, especially from crown buds, is likely to be much slower due to small root and crown containing low level of nutrient reserves. Might be wise to give plants an extra week to start recovering before taking any cutting, shredding, or grazing action that removes green leaves.
4. **Plants (any age) frozen to ground level.** Remove frozen plants by grazing, shredding, or harvest to hasten initiation of new shoots and remove smothering mulch. Well-established, healthy plants should start regrowing from new shoots emerging from the crown within seven days of favorable temperatures. Old diseased plants and last year's planting will take longer to start regrowing and some may not survive at all. New seedings frozen to ground level are dead — reseed ASAP or plant to another crop.

Any plants damaged beyond singed leaf margins can be expected to become ready for first harvest later than if the freeze had not occurred. Be aware, though, that these plants may not bloom as they normally would. Don't rely strictly on bloom for harvest decisions. Instead, use your usual calendar date or appearance of new crown shoots as a harvest guide. Plan accordingly.

## Haying

Any hay made from this early growth will be extremely rich and susceptible to microbial activity and heating. It needs to be extra dry when baled and/or should have plenty of preservative applied at baling, otherwise mold, heat damage, or even fire may occur. If silage is an option, this would be the best harvest method.

## Grazing

Bloat risk likely remains high until plants have actually dried considerably. Wilting is not enough. In all cases, use animal husbandry practices to minimize bloat risk. For more information see NebGuide G1393, *"Grazing Alfalfa"* available on-line.