

# Characteristics of Kentucky Bluegrass Cultivars

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Type	Disease/Insect	Wear tolerance	Characteristics	Cultivars
Compact-Midnight*	-Very susceptible to powdery mildew -Variable resistance to summer patch -Resistant to necrotic ring spot	Fair	Very dark green color, Late spring green-up, Good heat tolerance Note: Most of cultivars have similar growth and performance characteristics to the cultivar Midnight	Arcadia, Rugby II, Award, Impact, Midnight, Total Eclipse, Liberator, Quantum Leap, Odyssey, Absolute, NuGlade, Alexa, Midnight II, Ginney, Rambo, Courtyard, Tsunami, Awesome, Freedom II, Beyond, Perfection, Chicago II, Excursion, Barrister
Compact-America*	-Resistant to summer patch, leaf spot and powdery mildew	Fair	Bright dark green color, ½ inch cutting height, Low compact growth, Good in shade, Finer leaf, Higher density	Showcase, Apollo, SR 2284, Brilliant, SRX 2394, Langara, America, Unique, Boutique, Bluemax, Bedazzle, Avalanche, Glenmont, Arrow, Blue Ridge, Royale, Goldstar, Mallard
Aggressive		Excellent	Aggressive lateral growth, High shoot density, Very wear tolerant, Quickly knitting sod and repair, Variable in other characteristics	SRX 26351, P-104, Northstar, A-34, Mystic, Limousine
Bellevue	-Resistant to leaf spot and stripe smut	N/A	Medium growth and shoot density, Medium wide leaves, Excellent winter color, Early spring green-up, Stemmy in spring, Moderate recovery from summer	Parade, Freedom, Bellevue, Dawn, Suffolk, Trenton, Georgetown, Banff, Classic, Haga
Mid-Atlantic	-Susceptible to leaf spot except SR 2000 and Preakness	Fair-to-Good	Deep, extensive roots and rhizomes, Vigorous turf and medium-high density, High summer stress tolerance, Early spring green-up, Good winter performance	SR 2000, Livingston, Monopoly, Bel-21, Preakness, Plush, Eagleton, Wabash

Type	Disease/Insect	Wear tolerance	Characteristics	Cultivars
CELA (Challenger, Eclipse, Liberty, Adelphi)	-Resistant to stripe smut and leaf spot	Good	Better spring green-up than compact, Less stemmy than Bellevue, Good turf quality, Variable winter performance	Challenger, Adelphi, Eclipse, Jefferson, Liberty
BVMG* (Baron, Victa, Merit, Gnome)	-Resistant to necrotic ring spot -Susceptible to stripe smut and billbug	Good	High seed yields, medium-good turf, Medium low growth, Medium wide leaves, Very stemmy in spring, Poor winter performance	Baron, Nassau, Victa, Raven, Merit, Marquis, Gnome, BlueChip, Dragon, Fortuna, Abbey, Goldrush, BlueStar, Envicta, Baronette, Clearwater, Crest, Cannon
Shamrock	-Resistant to leaf spot -Susceptible to billbug	Good	Moderate winter color, Good turf quality and sod strength, High seed yields, Less stemmy than BVMG type, Variable summer performance	SR 2100, Shamrock, Champagne, Parkland, Atlantis
Cheri	-Resistant to stripe smut -Moderate resistant to leaf spot	Fair	Good turf quality, Medium low growth, density and leaf width, Good sod strength, High seed yields, Less stemmy than BVMG, Moderate winter dormancy	SRX QG245, Cheri, Sydsport, Cobalt, Serene
Julia	-Resistant to leaf spot and stripe smut -Susceptible to brown patch and dollar spot	Good	High turf quality, High density, Good summer performance, Moderate winter performance	Julia, Caliber, Ikone, SR 27832
Common (Midwest ecotypes)	-Susceptible to leaf spot, necrotic ring spot, and pink snow mold -Resistant to gray snow mold	Poor	Erect growth and narrow leaf blades, Good summer stress tolerance, Poor winter color and performance, Early seed production, Good for soil stabilization/conservation	Kenblue, Huntsville, Geary, Newport, S-21, Park, Piedmont, Alene, Greenley, Ginger, Garfield, South Dakota Cert
Other		N/A	Cultivars intermediate between two types and with less information know about (unclassified)	Cynthia, Fairfax, Pp H7832, Freedom II, many additional cultivars not listed

\*Cultivars within their types showed high genetic similarities (Curley, J. and G. Jung. 2004. RAPD-based genetic relationships in Kentucky bluegrass: comparison of cultivars, interspecific hybrids, and plant introductions. Crop Science 44: 1299-1306). Genetic clustering was highest in Midnight > BVMG > America.

Note: information presented here with permission from Dr. Leah Brillman (Seed Research of Oregon).