

Duraturf® Furlong

Perennial Ryegrass blend for Racetracks

Key Points

- **Very rapid establishment**
- **Excellent persistence**
- **Attractive dark green foliage**
- **Winter growth**
- **Highly suited to southern Australia**
- **Economically suited to broadacre use**

Description

Duraturf® Furlong is a blend of two high quality Mediterranean perennial ryegrasses especially suited to racetrack surfaces in southern Australia. 60% of the blend consists of a very vigorous tetraploid cultivar with high productivity, especially over the winter months, attractive dark green foliage and excellent persistence. The other 40% of the blend is a diploid cultivar with finer leaf texture and higher density, but also with excellent winter growth. The diploid cultivar has a notably brief reproductive stage in the spring, after which it rapidly returns to vegetative growth, unlike many ryegrasses which continue to put up seed heads over several months. The combination of these two cultivars creates a blend with rapid germination and establishment, even in colder weather, high year-round vigour and an attractive, dense surface when mown at racetrack heights, with excellent hardiness and persistence.

Species Blend

Tetraploid perennial ryegrass

Diploid perennial ryegrass.

Application rates

150-200 kg/ha. Use the higher rate for new construction and the lower rate for thickening existing sward.

Maintenance Care

Mowing: Typically 75-150 mm, can be mown as low as 50 mm.

Fertiliser: Strategic applications of fertiliser (especially slow release fertiliser) throughout the growing season will greatly enhance the persistence, wear and aesthetic look of the racecourse sward.



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The key to success on ryegrass racetracks is year-round performance. Year-round growth and year-round density. The elite ryegrass cultivars in Duraturf® Furlong are based on Mediterranean genetics, and are highly winter-active and outperform the old ryegrasses through the crucial winter months, with around 40% higher biomass production over winter. They also outperform the old cultivars in spring, summer and autumn, with up to 70% higher growth in those months. The table below shows clipping weight data (kg dry matter per ha) of some of these new cultivars, compared to Victorian perennial ryegrass.

Cultivar	Ploidy	Winter production	Summer production
Base AR37	Tetraploid	2587	5708
Halo AR37	Tetraploid	2288	5420
One⁵⁰ AR37	Diploid	2541	5188
Victorian SE	Diploid	1880	3324

The cultivars in Duraturf® Furlong also feature late-heading and low aftermath heading, which ensures good density and quality through the spring and into summer. Older cultivars usually go to seed early in the spring, and the heading process is drawn out over a long period, which compromises track quality through the crucial spring period. The modern cultivars used in Duraturf® Furlong avoid that problem, ensuring excellent spring quality, density and productivity. The modern cultivars have several other benefits over the old cultivars; much better rust resistance, for example.

Duraturf® Furlong is a traditional racetrack blend that combines the density of elite diploid cultivars with the darker green colour of elite tetraploid cultivars. The cultivars used in the blend may change from year to year, depending on supply and other issues, but will always be that winning combination of elite Mediterranean diploids and tetraploids.

The cultivars in Duraturf® Furlong were bred in New Zealand to suit our Mediterranean climate. And the seed for these cultivars is grown in New Zealand, so you can rely on the material being recently harvested and having excellent purity and viability.

If you have been using old cultivars such as Victorian perennial ryegrass, or cultivars that don't have the advantages of Mediterranean genetics, make the switch and see the difference for yourself. Please contact your PGG Wrightson Turf Territory Manager and read the material (Ryegrasses for Racetracks) on our website for further information.