



Axcella is the first commercially available annual ryegrass recommended exclusively for turfgrass. Axcella is a fine texture turf-type annual ryegrass, *Lolium multiflorum* developed for winter overseeding dormant bermudagrass and other warm season turf and where rapid spring transition is desired. It will transition out from 4 to 6 weeks earlier than perennial ryegrass.

Axcella was selected for slower growing, high tillering, and narrow leaves. It has good winter hardiness and is greener than Gulf ryegrass. Color is medium green and not as green as some perennials. Seeding rates of between 15 and 25 lbs/1000 sq ft are recommended. Seed size is about 25% larger than perennial ryegrass seed. All seed should be applied on the same date. Seed should be kept moist by irrigation for several days for germination and establishment. Brief cycles of irrigation may be required to insure seed does not desiccate. After establishment little watering is required.

Axcella is ideal for athletic fields, golf course roughs, fairways and out-of-bounds areas, commercial sites, and home lawns. It can be mowed at a height from ½ to 2 inches, but should not be mowed below ½ inch. Axcella will require from one mowing or less per week in December, January, and February. During March and April when the turf is in the most rapid growth stage, it may require from one to two mowings per week.

Axcella has withstood freezing temperatures as low as 15 F. On football fields, Axcella will be a key component for improved playfield wear, winter aesthetics and reduced player injury. It can be easily established on athletic fields where modest renovation (mowing) and irrigation is available. Soil contact is not necessary to facilitate germination, but is highly recommended. Soil pH should be between 5.5 and 7.0. Fertilization requirements will include 2-4 lb N/1000 ft<sup>2</sup> month.

## **Merits**

### **Genetic Improvement**

- Early spring transition
- Good seedling vigor
- Dwarf stature
- High tiller number
- Slow growth
- Mowing height of ½ to 2-1/2 inches

### **Economics**

- Less expensive than perennial
- Ryegrass and intermediate ryegrass

### **Agronomics**

- Excellent establishment
- Traffic tolerant

### **Environmental**

- Winter hardiness

### **Limitations**

- Medium green color
- May produce seed heads in mid- to late-May
- Must be re-seeded annually
- Poor salinity tolerance
- May require high water use

For more information contact:

Dr. Lloyd Nelson  
Texas Agricultural Experiment Station  
PO Box 200  
Overton, TX 75684