

‘Cougar’ KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS

Scientific Name: *Poa pratensis*

Common Name: Kentucky Bluegrass

Cultivar Name: ‘Cougar’

Selected By: Pullman PMC, USDA-NRCS

Release Cooperators: USDA-SCS, Washington State University Agricultural Experiment Station, Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station

Release Date: 1958

ORIGIN: ‘Cougar’ was developed by the SCS-USDA and Washington Ag Experiment Station in 1965

DESCRIPTION: ‘Cougar’ is dark green and has low growing dwarf habit. The leaves are wider than Merion bluegrass, although this difference tends to disappear in dense turf. Cougar is strongly rhizomatous. The rhizomes creep and produce new shoots that fill in open areas.

DISEASE AND INSECT PROBLEMS: Other newer Kentucky bluegrass varieties are more disease resistant.

SEED PRODUCTION: Establishment is slow, and weeds must be controlled. It takes two years to reach full production. When kept free of weeds a field may produce 5 or more annual seed crops. Up to 300 lbs of seed per acre can be produced.

SEEDING RECOMMENDATIONS: A weed-free, firm, well-shaped, and drained smooth seedbed is required. Fertilizers and amendments should be applied as indicated by soil tests. Seed can be drilled or broadcast. Because they are small they should be covered with not more than ¼ to ½ inch of soil or mulch. Where less than 18 inches of annual rainfall occurs, sprinkler irrigation is needed to keep the soil moist until grass is well established..

CONSERVATION USES: ‘Cougar’ was mainly used for lawn establishment, it is weed resistant..

AVAILABILITY: Foundation and breeder seed are no longer available. For additional information contact: Wayne Crowder, Soil Conservationist, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Pullman Plant Materials Center (509) 335-7376 or email crowder@wsu.edu.