



SHADETUFF®

Zoysia

Zoysia matrella 'A-1' (D)



Shadetuff® tops commercial ratings in independent trials.

The National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) is one of the most widely-known and independently run turfgrass research programs in the world, operating in the USA for almost 40-years.

'A-1' / Shadetuff® was the only Australian owned and developed cultivar present in the recently published zoysia trials – ranking near the top of the 35 entrants in the key categories.

Most of the cultivars in these trials are experimental and unavailable in Australia. Two commercial varieties in Australia that have been imported from the USA were included in the 2013-2017 NTEP trials with 'A-1' / Shadetuff® and are used here to compare the results of the trials.

Shadetuff® outperformed these commercial turfgrasses across TEN of the major research categories relating to:

1. Colour
2. Seasons
3. Texture & Density
4. Wear & Recovery
5. Shade & Insect Tolerance



Shadetuff®

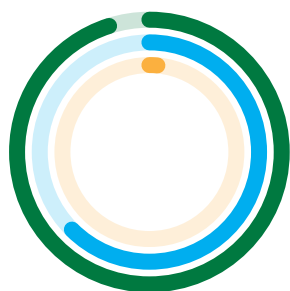


Zeon



Empire

Genetic Colour



Top 5 Overall

Genetic colour is something that sets Shadetuff® apart, and the trials ranked 'A-1' as the top commercial zoysia turf in this category, with Empire (22nd) and Zeon (32nd) in the lower half of results.

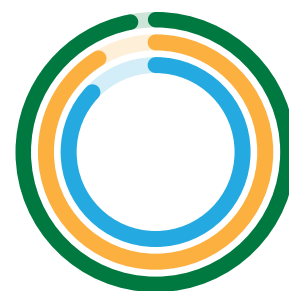
Spring Green-up



Top 25% Overall

Spring Green-up ratings placed Shadetuff® as the top commercially available zoysia and 8th overall, with Zeon at 17th, and Empire 19th of 35.

Natural Shade

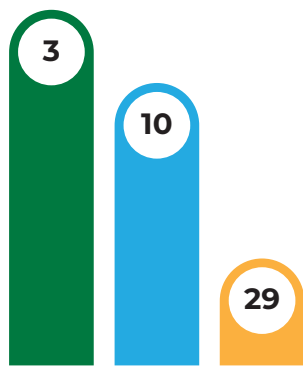


2nd Overall

Natural Shade tolerance was tracked in Carbondale, IL from 2014-2015 with Shadetuff® finishing 2nd overall, Zeon placing 8th, and Empire 13th.



Traffic Wear & Recovery

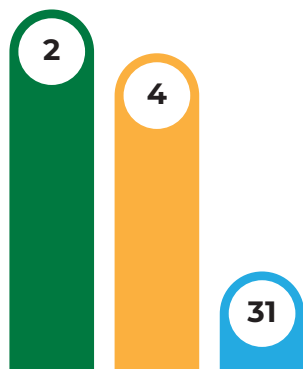


Ground cover ratings for wear and recovery were analysed under the same traffic stress methodologies at Raleigh, NC between 2015-2017. At the end of each period (3-4 months), the level of ground cover remaining was collated and summarised the 35 cultivars annually.

In summary, results showed that:

- Shadetuff® ranked between 3rd and 12th
- Empire maintained a rank between 10th and 17th, and
- Zeon placed between 29th and 34th.

Density



Top 2 Overall

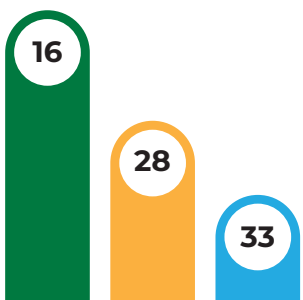
Shadetuff® was the top commercially available turf and 2nd overall across averages for Spring, Summer and Autumn density ratings, while Zeon finished 4th, and Empire in the bottom 5 turfgrasses (31st) in this category.

Leaf Texture



Shadetuff® placed 1st in this category across all 35 cultivars. In comparison, Zeon ranked 3rd, and Empire ranked 34th overall.

Winter Colour



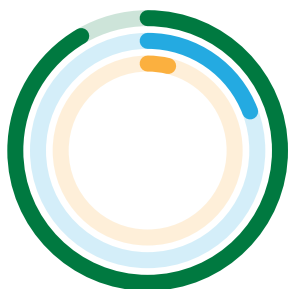
Winter colour was tracked across 4 locations, with Shadetuff® ranking in the top half of results (16th), while Zeon (28th) and Empire (33rd) finished in the bottom 20% of rankings.

Insect Resistance



For the Insect Damage ratings, Shadetuff® tied with Empire – with most of the top 10 separated by small margins. Zeon finished 19th in the insect damage ratings.

Autumn Colour



Ratings were taken across 10 USA locations between 2013-2017, from September to December. When all the annual ratings per location were combined to create a mean for Autumn colour ratings, Shadetuff® ranked 11th overall (top commercial), while Empire (26th) and Zeon (33rd) finished in the bottom 10 turfgrasses.