

‘Fults’ *Puccinellia Distans* (Alkaligrass)

Strengths

- Ideal for fairways, roughs and landscapes with saline and high pH native soils
- Excellent salt and high pH tolerance
- Perennial, non-creeping variety with excellent turf quality
- Dark green color and good density
- Ideal adaptation where low quality effluent or reclaimed water is used

Agronomic Characteristics: ‘Fults’ is a very versatile product which can be mown at a height of ½ inch for dense and upright fairways with exceptional playability, or can be mown to 2 inches for use in golf course roughs or landscapes and home lawns. ‘Fults’ mixes very well with fine fescues and bluegrasses for an extra fine turf. ‘Fults’ can also be left unmown for aesthetic effects as a native grass in deep roughs and waste areas or for roadside use. ‘Fults’ is a low-growing bunch-type grass. Maximum unmown height is between 12” and 16”. Plants are leafy and the leaves are narrow. Seedheads are semi-prostrate, feathery and have a pleasant tan appearance. The turfgrass color is dark green which becomes more rich on alkaline soils.

Salt Tolerance: ‘Fults’ is one of the most salt-tolerant turfgrasses available. It originated on a Colorado golf course where it dominated salty areas of the fairways. It has been seeded in roadside trials in Wisconsin, Iowa and Illinois, and has shown excellent persistence in salty areas where even tall fescue has failed to survive. In California, ‘Fults’ established in a salty area of a city park where other turfgrasses failed to establish, despite repeated seedings. The salt tolerance of the ‘Fults’ has been measured in controlled growth chamber and greenhouse experiments. Under these conditions, it has survived high salt levels of 30 millimhos compared to Kentucky bluegrass and tall fescue, which generally die at 5 to 15 millimhos.

Highway Right-of-Ways and Boulevards: ‘Fults’ is excellent for roadside stabilization and ground cover wherever a salt hazard exists. Because ‘Fults’ is compatible with most other grasses and legumes commonly used in roadside mixtures, it can be included in established formulas or seeded alone. ‘Fults’ will dominate the high salt areas, but will become less aggressive as the salt concentration decreases. On neutral to acid soil, ‘Fults’ will be crowded out by better adapted grasses such as tall fescue, smooth bromegrass or Kentucky bluegrass.

Development: ‘Fults’ was discovered by Mr. Stan Metsker, then superintendent at the Boulder Country Club, Boulder, Colorado, who noticed patches of a grass growing in salty areas of the fairways. Professor Jesse Fults, Colorado State Weed Research Lab, identified the grass as *Puccinellia distans* and was responsible for the initial collecting, purification and seed increase of the variety. Early turf and roadside evaluations of ‘Fults’ *Puccinellia distans* were conducted by Dr. Jackie Butler, formerly of the University of Illinois. Seed became commercially available in 1979.