

MODERN LAWNS MODERN VARIETIES!



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On the role of plant breeding and variety selection for lawn quality

As an internationally active company, Feldsaaten Freudenberger relies on varieties with a large capacity for adaptation to various local environmental conditions. Considerations of heat and drought tolerance have increased in importance, especially in recent years, and now are at the centre of our plant breeding efforts. Like agricultural crops, garden plants must adapt to the changes in climate conditions.



Perennial ryegrass



Tall fescue



Smooth-stalked meadow grass



Red fescue

In collaboration with over 50 plant breeders, varieties are filed for registration and upon approval recommended for use in many countries. Feldsaaten Freudenberger has developed over 60 lawn grasses, covering all areas of lawn applications. All of the varieties bred by Feldsaaten Freudenberger were created using classical plant breeding methods, meaning that they have not been genetically modified. This classical approach to plant breeding has long proven to be effective and is constantly being perfected. It takes at least 10 years for a breeding line to be developed to the point that it can be registered as a new variety.

In order to nonetheless react quickly to changing conditions, it is necessary to think and act proactively, and to have a diversified spectrum of varieties.

Additional requirements are placed on grasses for use in lawns. On the one hand, there is a demand for varieties with differently coloured leaves, and on the other, new varieties must be increasingly able to tolerate stress. Different aspects are also required, such as even finer leaves to improve the appearance of ornamental lawns. Feldsaaten Freudenberger has its own internal team for varieties and trials, which takes stock of these requirements and works to ensure the constant development of the product range. Promising breeding lines are cultivated in the in-house laboratory and on trial plots, after which they are tested and selected. This allows new varieties to be registered every year, while constantly improving the quality of the varieties available. Applications are currently pending on 15 grass varieties, meaning that new varieties will find their way into the product range in the coming years.



Field trials for new breeding lines are examined in the show garden



Variety trials under field conditions in the show garden



The growth of potential new varieties is also regularly examined under laboratory conditions by a team of experts