

Mercury, tested as Pick 232, is a joint release from Rutgers University and Pickseed. It is a hybrid variety developed from crossing C-25 (an “America-type” selection) with P-105 (a very aggressive spreader).

**DESCRIPTION:**

Mercury is a dark green, medium textured variety with exceptional uniformity. It has medium density and, while it performs very well in the shade, it is also a good summer performer with very good heat and drought tolerance. Mercury has a large seed and above average seedling vigor and establishment. It establishes quickly and produces a tough turf with excellent sod shear strength.

**DISEASE AND INSECT RESISTANCE:**

Mercury’s overall disease resistance is excellent. It has demonstrated excellent resistance to leaf and stem rust, stripe smut and powdery mildew. It has very good resistance to dollar spot, summer patch, brown patch, leaf spot, and melting out.

**SEEDING AND ESTABLISHMENT:**

Mercury is a larger seeded variety and has above average seedling vigor and establishment. The recommended seeding times are from early to mid spring and from late summer to early fall. Dormant seeding also works well in more northern areas. A seeding rate of 2 – 4 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. is recommended. A 1 – 2 lb. per 1000 sq. ft. rate can be used under good seeding conditions and where the speed of establishment is not important. Pre plant fertilization is recommended based on a soil test. Generally applying from 1 – 1-1/2 lbs. actual NPK fertilizer per 1000 sq. ft. is recommended. Under normal conditions, germination and seedling emergence will occur within 10 – 15 days after seeding.



**USAGE:**

Mercury is recommended for use as a high quality component in turfgrass blends and mixtures for sod production, sports fields playgrounds, parks and for home and industrial lawns. It can tolerate a low cutting height, down to 3/4”, and has a slower than normal vertical growth rate which is desirable as it requires less mowing.

**TECHNICAL PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS**

Year of Introduction	2003
Main Uses	Sod, athletic fields, playgrounds, parks, lawns
Seed Count	1,350,000 seeds / lb.
Normal Days to Germinate	8 – 14
Normal Days to First Mowing	28 – 35
NTEP Quality Ratings (2001 data)	Good
Genetic Color	Medium Dark
Summer Stress Tolerance	Medium
Leaf Texture	Medium
Summer Turf Density	Fair
Shade Tolerance	Medium
Sod Strength	Fair
Wear Tolerance	Fair
Close Mowing Tolerance	Good – to 3/4”
Growth Rate	Medium
Mature Plant Height	24”
Leaf Spot Resistance	Good
Summer Patch Resistance	Excellent
Spring Green Up	Above Average
Dollar Spot Resistance	Good
Red Thread Resistance	Good
Rust Resistance	Good