

Touchdown to Sombrero

Transition Guide



Sombrero is an Aggressive Type Kentucky bluegrass that fits into the sub category of a Limousine Type KBG. It is one of the newest varieties of its kind, and its performance will impress. Sombrero is a very aggressive KBG, sending out many rhizomes quickly to ensure fast establishment and showing the ability to outcompete weeds and *Poa annua* as well as serving as a self-repair mechanism.

Sombrero exhibits a very upright growth habit, but this growth is slow so the turf managers will likely not need to alter their current mowing frequency or expect more clippings. In a study by Bronson et al, 2005 at the University of Massachusetts, the leaf angle was the most important characteristic for wear tolerance, with a more vertical leaf angle associated with high wear tolerance. Sombrero showed the most upright growth out of all varieties in the 2005 NTEP trials.

It shows many characteristics similar to that of Touchdown KBG. By comparing Touchdown NTEP results with that of Washington KBG and then doing the same with Sombrero, we have determined that they show similar performance levels in the areas of summer stress rankings, seedling vigor, density, living ground cover, turf quality and genetic color. Some areas in which Sombrero excels when compared directly with Touchdown is in leaf texture, stem rust, summer patch, leaf spot, fullness of canopy, wear tolerance and upright growth.

One additional benefit that comes with transitioning from Touchdown to Sombrero is that it can be directly compared to the major competitor in the

bluegrass sports turf market, Barenbrug. Sombrero shows considerable advantages over Barvette HGT in particular, with regard to wear tolerance at the Massachusetts NTEP location, vegetative ground cover, spring and summer density and percent establishment.

Sombrero also shows some less significant advantages over Barvette in outcompeting *Poa annua* as well as withstanding drought. Sombrero may be slightly later than Touchdown to green up in the spring, but coupling it with quick green-up varieties like America, Armada, Mercury or Fielder makes it nearly impossible to notice any difference.

Touchdown vs. Sombrero

Grades Comparison

Performance Category	Touchdown	Sombrero
Seedling Vigor	B	B+
Density	A	A+
Turf Quality	B	B
Color	B-	B-
Leaf Texture	B	A
Stem Rust	C	B
Summer Patch	C+	B
Leaf Spot	C+	B
Drought Tolerance	B+	B-
Wear Tolerance	Not Tested	A
Upright Growth	Not Tested	A+
Vegetative Ground Cover	B	A+
Spring Green Up	A	B+
Percent Establishment	Not Tested	A

Touchdown to Sombrero

Transition Guide

Vegetative Ground Cover

Top 6%

Grown in NE, 2006-10 Data

Variety	Rating
Sombrero	8.7
Everglade	8.3
Granite	8.3
America	8.0
Armada	8.0
Barduke	7.7
Barrari	7.3
Washington	7.3
Kenblue	7.3
Bewitched	7.0
Bariris	6.7
Barvette HGT	6.3
Blue Note	5.3
Reveille	5.0
LSD @ 5%	1.2

Turf Quality (Schedule A)

Top 30%

Grown in MI, NE, WI, 2006-10 Data

Variety	Rating
Midnight	6.8
Nu Destiny	6.6
Washington	6.4
Award	6.3
Granite	6.3
Rhapsody	6.2
Sombrero	6.2
Barrister	6.1
Bariris	5.4
Aviator	5.1
Barrari	5.0
Barduke	4.9
Barvette HGT	4.7
Reveille	3.5
LSD @ 5%	0.8

Spring Density

Top 3%

Grown in IN, MA, MI, NC, NE, ON, 2006-10 Data

Variety	Rating
Sombrero	7.6
Washington	7.6
Rhapsody	7.5
Barrister	7.1
Bariris	7.0
Blue Note	7.0
Blueberry	6.9
Barduke	6.7
Barrari	6.7
Aviator	6.7
Barvette HGT	6.6
Dynamo	6.5
Kenblue	6.1
Reveille	5.1
LSD @ 5%	0.9

Summer Density

Top 13%

Grown in IN, KY, MI, MN, NC, NE, ON, 2006-10 Data

Variety	Rating
Nuchicago	7.9
Washington	7.8
Sombrero	7.7
Granite	7.6
Barrister	7.4
Rhapsody	7.4
America	7.4
Barrari	7.1
Bariris	7.1
Barvette HGT	7.0
Blueberry	7.0
Barduke	6.9
Kenblue	6.5
Reveille	6.3
LSD @ 5%	0.8

Leaf Texture

Top 5%

Grown at 14 locations, 2006-10 Data

Variety	Rating
Barvette HGT	7.6
Sombrero	7.3
Blue Note	7.1
Washington	7.0
Juliet	6.8
Diva	6.6
Barrister	6.3
Ginney II	6.3
Armada	6.2
Bariris	6.2
Aviator	6.1
Barrari	5.7
Avid	5.6
Pinot	5.5
LSD @ 5%	0.5

Wear Tolerance

Top 28%

Grown in MA, 2006-10 Data

Variety	Rating
Bewitched	7.3
Everest	7.0
Sudden Impact	6.7
Sombrero	6.3
America	6.3
Barrister	6.3
Barduke	5.0
Bariris	5.0
Mystere	5.0
Armada	4.7
Barvette HGT	4.7
Barrari	4.7
Kenblue	3.7
Mermaid	3.0
LSD @ 5%	1.2

Touchdown to Sombrero

Transition Guide

Percent *Poa Annua*

Top 5%, Top 15% in MA
Grown in MA, WI, 2006-10 Data

Variety	Rating
Harmony	2.0
Washington	3.5
Sombrero	4.0
Bariris	13.3
Alexa II	13.3
Barvette HGT	15.0
Granite	15.8
America	16.0
Barrari	18.3
Ginney II	19.2
Mystere	21.7
Aviator	25.0
Barduke	31.7
Mermaid	53.3
LSD @ 5%	13.5

Drought Tolerance (Dormancy)

Top 10%
Grown in IN, MN, 2006-10 Data

Variety	Rating
Belissimo	6.0
Bariris	5.4
Sombrero	5.2
Alexa II	5.2
Barrister	5.1
Diva	5.1
Barduke	4.8
Blueberry	4.7
Granite	4.7
Barrari	4.5
Blue Note	4.4
Everest	4.3
Barvette HGT	4.0
Kenblue	2.6
LSD @ 5%	1.5

Percent Establishment

Top 18%
Grown in IL, MA, NJ, OK, TN, UT, WY, 2005-10 Data

Variety	Rating
Washington	73.3
America	65.0
Shamrock	63.0
Sombrero	61.4
Rhapsody	61.2
Harmonie	60.5
Barrari	57.6
Barduke	56.4
Bariris	56.0
Barrister	50.5
Barvette HGT	50.2
Blue Note	45.5
Aviator	41.7
Pinot	38.1
LSD @ 5%	9.2

Growth Habit Ratings

#1 in 2005 NTEP Trials
Grown in MA, 2006-10 Data

Variety	Rating
Sombrero	4.0
Harmonie	4.3
Barrari	4.7
Rhapsody	5.0
Barvette HGT	5.0
Aviator	6.0
Yankee	6.3
Mystere	6.3
Kenblue	6.3
Nu Destiny	6.7
Barrister	7.0
Pinot	7.3
Barduke	7.7
Hampton	8.0
LSD @ 5%	1.1

