



US00PP19224P3

(12) **United States Plant Patent**  
**Duncan**

(10) **Patent No.:** **US PP19,224 P3**

(45) **Date of Patent:** **Sep. 16, 2008**

(54) **SEASHORE PASPALUM PLANT NAMED**  
**'TE-13'**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** ..... Plt./387,  
Plt./388  
See application file for complete search history.

(50) Latin Name: *Paspalum vaginatum*  
Varietal Denomination: **TE-13**

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

(75) Inventor: **Ronny R. Duncan**, Boerne, TX (US)

PP3,939 P	8/1976	Whiting
PP12,625 P2	5/2002	Duncan
PP12,665 P2	5/2002	Duncan
PP13,100 P2	10/2002	Bennett et al.
PP13,105 P2	10/2002	Bennett et al.
PP13,294 P3	12/2002	DePew et al.
7,262,341 B1	8/2007	Fricker et al.
2007/0089214 P1	4/2007	Duncan

(73) Assignee: **Turf Ecosystems, LLC**, Naples, FL  
(US)

(\* ) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this  
patent is extended or adjusted under 35  
U.S.C. 154(b) by 1 day.

*Primary Examiner*—Annette H Para

*Assistant Examiner*—S. B. McCormick-Ewoldt

(21) Appl. No.: **11/582,541**

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Hunton & Williams LLP

(22) Filed: **Oct. 18, 2006**

(57) **ABSTRACT**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2008/0134400 P1 Jun. 5, 2008

A new and distinct cultivar of *Paspalum vaginatum* Swartz  
(Seashore *paspalum*) named 'TE-13' is disclosed. 'TE-13' is  
characterized as having exceptional turf density and foliarly  
disease resistance under closely mowed micro-  
environmental stress conditions.

(51) **Int. Cl.**  
**A01H 5/00** (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **Plt./387**

**2 Drawing Sheets**

**1**

**2**

Botanical classification: *Paspalum vaginatum* Swartz.  
Variety/cultivar denomination: 'TE-13'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to a new, distinct and stable cultivar  
of *Paspalum vaginatum* Swartz and hereafter referred to by  
the cultivar denomination 'TE-13'.

*Paspalum vaginatum* Swartz (commonly referred to as  
"Seashore *paspalum*") is a grass in the Panicoideae subfam-  
ily that inherently colonizes moist euryhaline to stenohaline  
ecosystems, e.g., along coastal venues and brackish sands or  
silty areas. This warm-season perennial grass species is eco-  
logically aggressive and varies in leaf texture from very  
coarse wild indigenous native ecotypes to intermediate to  
finer-leaved turf ecotypes for uses ranging from land  
reclamation, dune stabilization, bioremediation  
(phytoaccumulation) to forages and recreational turf. The  
diploid, 20-chromosome turfgrass produces both rhizomes  
(primarily) and stolons (secondarily) for asexual reproduc-  
tion and dispersion; it is self-incompatible and rarely pro-  
duces viable seed in monostands, and only when very strict  
genetic and environmental conditions are satisfied. The grass  
can tolerate periodic meso-haline flooding encompassing  
waterlogged, low oxygen conditions.

*Paspalum vaginatum* has been found in more than 35  
countries in Europe, Africa, temperate and tropical Asia,  
Australia, Pacific Rim, South America, Central America,  
Caribbean region, North America and in countries located  
near the Mediterranean Sea. The primary center of origin for  
the turfgrass types is South Africa and a secondary center of  
origin is Brazilian and Argentinean coastal areas. Wild,  
native coarse-textured types can be found along Atlantic,

Gulf of Mexico, and Pacific coastal USA saline venues,  
while the naturalized turfgrass types are predominately  
localized along the eastern Atlantic coastline. With increas-  
ing demands on human use of potable water and the man-  
dated use of alternative non-potable water resources  
(effluent or recycled water, saline ground and surface water)  
on recreational turf, turfgrasses that can tolerate a variable  
range of irrigation water salinities from mildly saline to  
brackish, that require and efficiently utilize judicious fertil-  
izer applications, and that are pest resistant with multiple  
inherent genetic stress tolerances are needed for environ-  
mental stewardship and ecosystem sustainability.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar  
of *Paspalum vaginatum* Swartz and hereafter referred to by  
the cultivar denomination 'TE-13'. The 'TE-13' cultivar is  
particularly suited as a semi-dwarf warm season turfgrass  
for recreational fields, golf courses, parks, landscapes, and  
as one potential parent for hybrid seed production.

The following traits have been consistently observed and  
are determined to be the combination of unique characteris-  
tics that distinguish 'TE-13' as a new and distinct cultivar:

1. A semi-dwarf growth habit that tolerates a wide range  
(0.070 to 1.500 inches or 1.75 to 37.5 mm) of mowing  
heights with excellent turfgrass canopy density and  
quality traits for use on all areas of golf courses or  
sports fields.
2. Establishes rapidly and finalizes grow-in from surface  
stolons aggressively. The horizontally creeping stolons  
are shorter and more uniformly bunched during grow-  
in compared with other *paspalum* cultivars.

3. Consistently tolerates irrigation water levels with total dissolved salts (TDS) ranging from about 4000 to about 6000 ppm under mowing heights on golf course greens about <3 mm. The cultivar can tolerate higher salinity levels with proper salt management and the installation of appropriate infrastructure improvements in the ecosystem for long term sustainability.
4. Produces very few seed heads (inflorescence) in response to day length/photoperiod changes or environmental (drought, cold, traffic) stress exposure compared to other *paspalum* cultivars currently on the market.
5. DNA profile analysis demonstrating distinct genetic separation from *paspalum* cultivars currently on the market. The analysis indicated that 'TE-13' was not closely related to 'SeaIsle 2000' or 'Salam'<sup>TM</sup> and is a genetically distinct and unique cultivar.
6. Dark green genetic color identical to 'SeaIsle 2000' and much darker green than 'Sealsle Supreme', 'SeaIsle 1', 'Seadwarf' or 'Salam'<sup>TM</sup>.
7. Finalizes grow-in from surface stolons more aggressively than 'SeaIsle 1' and 'SeaIsle 2000' and similar to 'Sealsle Supreme'.
8. Shows exceptional turf density similar to 'SeaIsle 2000' and better than 'SeaIsle 1'.
9. Good resistance with proper management to foliar diseases such as dollar spot, fusarium blight and brown patch.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a photograph of the typical cosmetic appearance of 'TE-13'.

FIG. 2 is another photograph of the typical cosmetic appearance of 'TE-13'.

#### DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

'TE-13' was selected from a U.S. Golf Association-specified golf course green in Naples, Fla. that had been continuously mowed at less than 3 mm height under constantly about >90% relative humidity conditions and temperatures about >30° C. (about >90° F.). The selection visually exhibited exceptional turf density and fungal disease resistance when the grass around it was being attacked by pathogens causing brown patch and fusarium blight; the green was managed under close mowed (about 0.070 or about 1.75 mm) micro-environmental stress conditions. 'TE-13' is suspected to be a natural mutation of an unknown parent.

Asexual reproduction was carried out using stolons or rhizomes and nodal segments, which inherently exist in the plant. Plants of the claimed cultivar were extracted from a mature planting, the soil was removed and the plant segments were separated into a plantlet with some root system attached or actual unrooted nodal segments from stolons or rhizomes (collectively referred to as "sprigs"). The sprigs were planted in soil. New plants grew from the stolons or rhizomes and nodal segments of the sprigs and were observed for uniformity in plant characteristics.

'TE-13' was asexually reproduced after initial selection with no off-types or further suspected mutations occurring. The subsequent multiple increased from the initial selected propagule in both the breeding block (100 feet×30 feet) and all subsequent plantings for evaluations over locations revealed only a true-to-genotype cultivar. No off types were

observed at any time. Therefore, the plants asexually reproduced remained true to type. The initial plantings in either pots in the greenhouse or swards in the field involved only monostands and no subsequent pollination or seed set was observed at any time during the generation increases of this cultivar.

The initially selected asexual propagule was planted in a greenhouse in mid-Florida (latitude 27° 12' and longitude 81° 51'); then it was transplanted to 3 m×3 m replicated plots in mid-Florida and eventually in a 4 m×4 m plot on a golf course in Naples, Fla. for side by side comparisons with 'SeaIsle 2000' (described in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 12,625) and 'Sealsle Supreme' (described in U.S. Pub. No. 2007/0089214), and in a 1.5 m×1.5 m plot north of San Antonio, Tex. on calcareous native clay soils. The selection was evaluated for turf quality and related traits using rotary mulching mowers at 0.75-1.0 inch (18.75-25.00 mm mowing height) at the San Antonio, Tex. location. A genetic 'breeder block' was established in mid-Florida on sandy soil and plugs were sent to New Mexico State University for initial field turf-grass plot testing with other grasses in Las Cruces, N. Mex. The age of the sward (10×10 feet) in the field plots and greenhouse pots that were measured for detailed botanical descriptions below were 2 and 1 year(s) old, respectively.

#### BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

4<sup>th</sup> Leaf blade length and width; length of sheath: Greenhouse measurements=about 0.86 cm 4<sup>th</sup> leaf length; about 0.23 cm 4<sup>th</sup> leaf blade width; sheath length=about 0.56 cm.

*Field plot measurements.*—About 0.60 cm 4<sup>th</sup> leaf blade length; about 0.35 cm 4<sup>th</sup> leaf blade width; sheath length=about 0.53 cm.

*Comparative data for 'SeaIsle 2000' on field plot measurements.*—About 0.60 cm, about 0.245 cm, about 0.575 cm.

4<sup>th</sup> Internode stolon (stolon nodes are distinctly pubescent and the pubescence is whitish in colour) length and diameter; leaf blade length and width; sheath length: Greenhouse measurements=about 1.21 cm 4<sup>th</sup> internode stolon length; about 0.155 cm 4<sup>th</sup> internode stolon diameter; about 1.01 cm leaf blade length; about 0.195 cm leaf blade width; about 0.84 cm leaf sheath length.

*Field measurements.*—About 0.595 cm 4<sup>th</sup> internode stolon length; about 0.225 cm 4<sup>th</sup> internode stolon diameter.

*Comparative data with 'SeaIsle 2000' on field plot measurements.*—About 0.62 cm 4<sup>th</sup> internode stolon length; about 0.290 cm 4<sup>th</sup> internode stolon diameter.

Leaf veins: obscure; leaf margins; smooth. Leaves are narrower and smaller than 'SeaIsle Supreme', 'SeaIsle 2000', and 'SeaIsle 1'.

Auricles were absent. Mid-culm leaves do not have sheath or blade auricles, are distinctly distichous, are linear and glabrous, and gradually taper to a narrow apex.

Ligule: <1 mm, membranous, and truncate (pubescent from behind). Collar is normal and smooth.

Inflorescence: Twin spikes (dual conjugate racemes on the primary branch) on mainly basally decumbent, erect and branched culms with glabrous nodes. Peduncle is shorter and smaller than 'SeaIsle Supreme'. Glumes are glabrous, nerved, and awnless. Each spikelet is solitary, plano-convex, subsessile, and elliptic. No actual seed development was observed during evaluation trials of this cultivar.

Salt tolerance and growth rates: Observable salt tolerance response on greens irrigated continuously with >5000 ppm water was equal to ‘SeaIsle 2000’, better than ‘SeaIsle 1’, and less than ‘SeaIsle Supreme’ (See Table 1). Aggressive growth rate is slightly less than ‘SeaIsle Supreme’, but greater than ‘SeaIsle 2000’ and slightly greater than ‘SeaIsle 1’ (See Table 2).

TABLE 1

Relative Salt Tolerance Rankings	
‘SeaIsle Supreme’	9.0 (highest)
‘SeaIsle 2000’	7.5
‘TE-13’	7.5
‘SeaIsle 1’	7.0
‘Salam’™	5.0 (medium)

TABLE 2

Relative Aggressiveness (Growth Rate)	
‘SeaIsle Supreme’	9.0 (highest)
‘TE-13’	8.0
‘SeaIsle 1’	7.0
‘SeaIsle 2000’	5.0
‘Salam’™	4.0

Turf colour: Colour was determined by comparison of at least 5 randomly selected leaf blades for grass that was maintained under USGA specification greens management conditions mowed at 0.110 inch height of cut. The same protocol was used for ‘SeaIsle 1’ and ‘SeaIsle 2000’.

TABLE 3

Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart:	
‘TE-13’	137A (Dark Green)
‘SeaIsle 2000’	137A
‘SeaIsle 1’	137B
‘Adalayd’	138A
‘SeaIsle Supreme’	137C (Green)
‘Salam’™	137C

‘SeaIsle 2000’, ‘SeaIsle 1’ and ‘Adalayd’ are described in U.S. Plant Pat. Nos. 12,625, 12,665 and 3,939, respectively. ‘SeaIsle Supreme’ is described in U.S. Pub. No. 2007/0089214.

Turf quality:

TABLE 4

Relative Quality Ratings, Mid-Florida	
‘SeaIsle Supreme’	1.59 (best)
‘TE-13’	1.75
‘SeaIsle 2000’	1.75
‘SeaIsle 1’	2.25

Turf density:

TABLE 5

Relative Density Ratings, Mid-Florida	
‘SeaIsle Supreme’	1.21 (tightest canopy)
‘TE-13’	1.50

TABLE 5-continued

Relative Density Ratings, Mid-Florida	
‘SeaIsle 2000’	1.50
‘SeaIsle 1’	2.50
‘SWA-4’	9.00 (open canopy)

Disease resistance:

TABLE 6

Visual Dollar Spot Ratings, mid-Florida	
‘TE-13’	1.425 (lowest)
‘SeaIsle 1’	1.500
‘SeaIsle 2000’	1.750
‘SeaIsle Supreme’	3.830 (highest)

Seed head (Inflorescence) production: ‘TE-13’ produces very few seed heads compared to other *paspalum* cultivars currently on the market. Table 7 shows a comparison of some of these cultivars by measuring the mean seed head exertion.

TABLE 7

Seed Head Expression Ratings among <i>Paspalum</i> Cultivars and Experimental Ecotypes	
Cultivar	Mean
‘SeaIsle Supreme’	1.00 (fewest)
‘TE-6’	1.10
‘TE-13’	1.63
‘SeaIsle 1’	2.00
‘TE-15’	2.17
‘TE-7’	2.50
‘TE-14’	2.50
‘TE-9’	2.75
‘TE-12’	3.00
‘TE-8’	3.00
‘SeaIsle 2000’	3.17
‘TE-17’	3.25
‘TE-4’	3.50
‘TE-10’	4.00
‘CHS-22’	4.00
‘CHS-23’	4.00
‘SWA-4’	5.00 (most)

Rating system: 1 = no seed head exertion, 5 = excessive seed head exertion  
Minimum of 5 ratings taken at the end of Spring and the end of Summer in mid-Florida

DNA analysis: DNA profile analysis that was conducted shows distinct genetic separation from ‘TE-13’ and other *paspalum* cultivars currently on the market. ‘TE-13’ is a genetically distinct and unique cultivar genetically.

DNA from 10 individual genotypes per cultivar was extracted. Three Inter Simple Sequence Repeats (ISSR) and one Random Amplification of Polymorphic DNA (RAPD) primer(s) were selected based on screening 10 primers and testing on 48 DNA samples to generate a total of nine bright and reproducible polymorphic bands. Genetic distances between all five genotypes were calculated between genotypes of each cultivar as well as among genotypes as the complement to the simple matching coefficient using the bands. These genetic distance matrices were then used to estimate two multidimensional scaling (MDS) coordinates.

Table 8 below shows results of ANOVA using first genetic coordinates estimated from genetic distances among samples of cultivars based on a multivariate analysis.

TABLE 8

ANOVA Results of Cultivars					
Source	Nparm	DF	Sum of Squares	F Ratio	Prob > F
Cultivars	4	4	5.4823519	28197.92	<.0001
Replication	1	1	0.0001185	2.4390	0.1259

Table 9 below demonstrates that statistical differences among the 5 cultivars were detected.

TABLE 9

Statistical Analysis		
Cultivars		Least Sq Mean
'SeaIsle Supreme'	A	0.4799059
'Salam'™	B	0.2704704
'TE-6'	C	-0.1000941

TABLE 9-continued

Statistical Analysis		
Cultivars		Least Sq Mean
'TE-13'	C	-0.1020941
'SeaIsle2000'	D	-0.4900941

Levels not connected by same letter are significantly different at P = 0.05 based on LS means difference Tukey HSD.

The A through D separation indicates similarities or differences among the five cultivars. 'TE-6' and 'TE-13' exhibited a similar genetic profile, while 'SeaIsle Supreme', 'Salam'™, 'TE-13' and 'SeaIsle 2000' were genetically different from each other and therefore were determined to be genetically unique cultivars.

What is claimed:

1. A new and genetically distinct cultivar of *Paspalum vaginatum* plant named 'TE-13' as described and illustrated herein having distinguishing traits of increased growth density, good foliarly disease resistance, dark genetic color, and aggressive growth under salinity.

\* \* \* \* \*

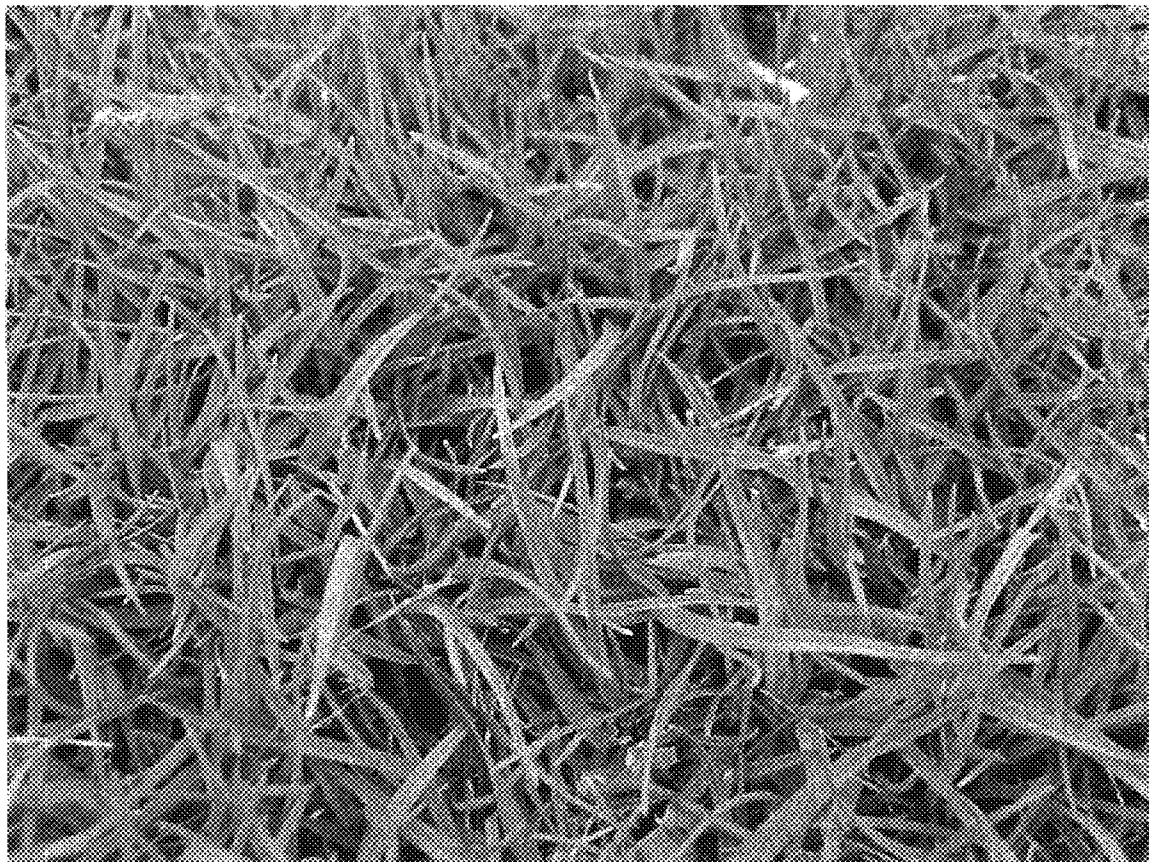


Fig. 1

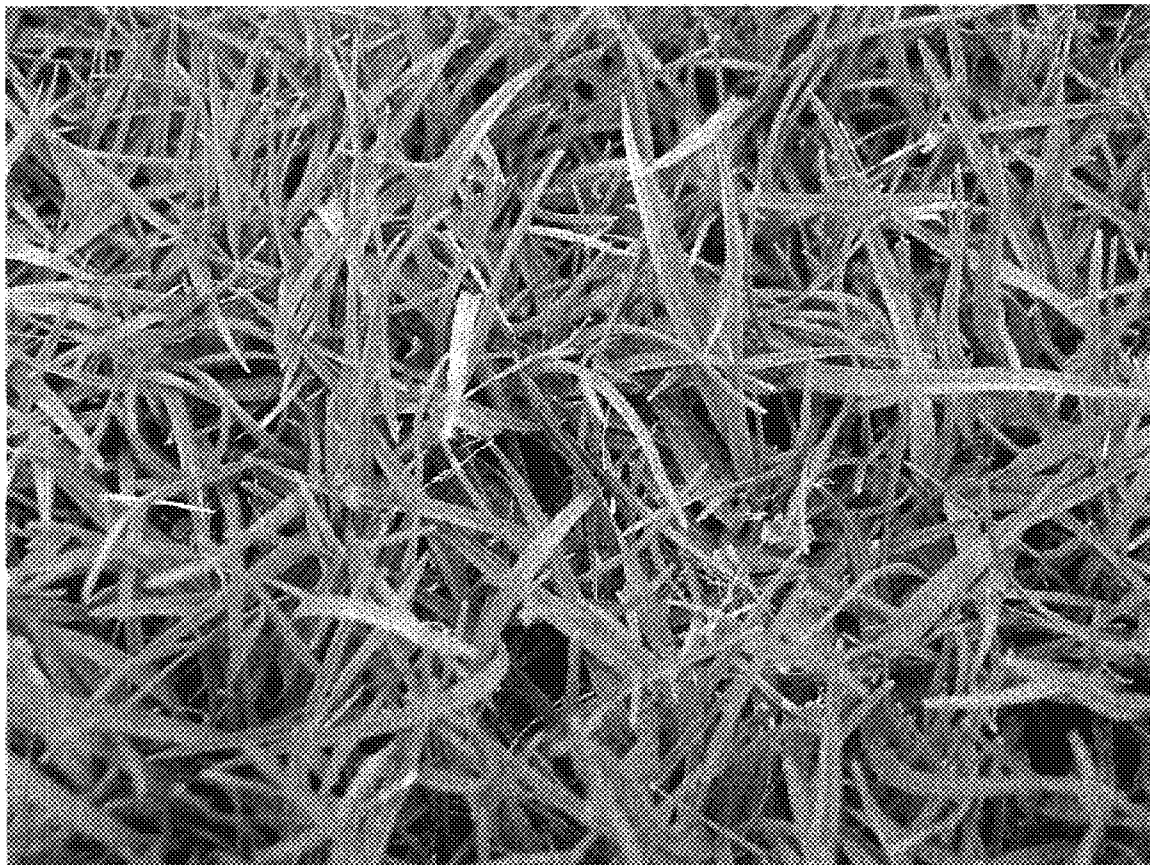


Fig. 2