

The Importance of Endophytes

Endophytes are a fungi that have a symbiotic relationship with some grasses, spreading through seed infection.

Not all species have endophytes, but where present they offer tremendous advantages to our customers and the environment.

Seed Research of Oregon was one of the first companies to recognize the critical importance of including endophytes in our turf varieties. Endophyte infection not only confers insect resistance, it increases stress tolerance for weed invasion, rapid recovery from injury, improved persistence, greater density, and increased heat and drought tolerance. In the fine fescues, infected plants now show resistance to Dollar Spot.



Endophyte infection is so critical that we try not to release any varieties without high levels, even though this often involves years of breeding and evaluations. As new information becomes available, we'll remain in the forefront on this critical issue. We're working hard to ensure that not only do our varieties have endophytes, they have superior endophytes.

Disease resistance, high endophyte levels, and stress tolerance enable our varieties to be grown with fewer inputs: water, fertilizers, fungicides, herbicides, etc. This not only saves our customers money, it is a critical benefit in this period of growing environmental concern.