

# **A New Turfgrass Species, Crested Dogtail, with Improved Shade Tolerance. (C05-wipff143444-Poster)**

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## **Abstract:**

Crested dogtail or 'combgrass' (*Cynosurus cristatus* L.), is a caespitose perennial species introduced from Europe, where it is not only used as a forage, but also in grass parking lots, due to its traffic tolerance. In trials with 80% shade, crested dogtail established rapidly and rated higher in turf quality than fine fescues in trials near Canby, Oregon. This species thrives in winter, having good color, with active growth and good resistance to cool weather diseases. *Fusarium avenaceum* in tall fescue was reduced when mixed with 3% crested dogtail. It combined best with tall fescue, having a similar leaf texture, but better winter color. Crested dogtail has better red thread resistance than perennial ryegrass, and when mixed with perennial ryegrass, less red thread was evident. Under high temperatures and high humidity crested dogtail does not perform well. In Oregon, some 'yellowing' of the turf was observed when temperatures exceed 90 degrees F. Overseeding trials were established in Arizona and North Carolina with crested dogtail as a monostand and in mixtures with perennial ryegrass. Mixtures with 10-20% crested dogtail had good turf quality ratings. Good winter color and growth, and traffic tolerance make this species a candidate for winter sports turf use.

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