

PlatinumTE

P A S P A L U M



Dr. Ron R. Duncan

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A native of Texas, Ron R. Duncan, PhD, has researched plant breeding and environmental stress tolerance in grass crops for 40 years, including soil acidity, drought, alkalinity and salinity problems. He has specialized in breeding, genetics and stress physiology of edaphic (soil), abiotic and biotic (pests) environmental stresses on turfgrasses with a focus on tall fescue, and since 1994, seashore paspalum. Duncan has worked with all primary cool season and warm season turfgrasses and his research encompasses multiple turfgrass species management involving water quality (salinity and salt ion interactions), alternative irrigation water use on recreational sports turfgrasses, and water conservation in turfgrasses.

In 1992, he was honored as Fellow of the Crop Science Society of America and the American Agronomy Society of America. He was presented the Grain Sorghum Producers Association Outstanding Achievement in Sorghum Improvement award in 1995. He also received the 1998 Excellence in Research Award from Seed Research in Oregon.

- Education and career highlights:
- Earned a B.S. in Agronomy from Texas Tech University in 1969
- Earned an M.S. in Crop Science from Texas A&M University in 1974 after serving 3.80 years in the Air Force as a Russian language specialist
- Earned a PhD in Plant Breeding from Texas A&M University in 1977
- Served as Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and Professor at the University of Georgia, Griffin campus from May 1977 until retirement in June 2003
- Edited or co-authored ten books including one on seashore paspalum and three dealing with salinity, irrigation water quality and best management practices for salinity challenged turfgrass ecosystems
- Published more than 500 times, including 200 refereed journal articles
- Was employed by Turf Ecosystems as Vice President from August 2003 until May 2010.
- Developed three tall fescue cultivars for the southeastern USA while at the University of Georgia
- Developed three vegetatively propagated paspalum cultivars (Sealsle 1, Sealsle 2000, Sealsle Supreme) while at the University of Georgia
- Developed the first seeded paspalum cultivar (Seaspray) with Turf Seed/Pure Seed Testing in Oregon and a second improved seeded cultivar (Pure Dynasty) with Pure Seed Testing in Oregon
- Developed a vegetatively propagated paspalum (Platinum TE™) with Turf Ecosystems
- Developed a bermudagrass control program for paspalum management
- Has taught or co-taught GIS/GCSAA workshops on seashore paspalum management, irrigation water quality, best management practices for salt challenged turfgrass ecosystems, and water conservation on recreational turfgrass sites since 1996.