



American Eventing Championships were held on TifTuf Bermudagrass. Photos courtesy of TIEC.

Equestrians from around the U.S. and Globe Compete on TifTuf Bermudagrass

Home to the 2016 American Eventing Championships and the upcoming 2018 World Equestrian Games, Tryon International Equestrian Center is quickly becoming a force to be reckoned with in the equestrian community.

Sixteen hundred sprawling acres in Mill Spring, North Carolina, house the Tryon Resort and its variety of restaurants, lodging areas and shops, but the venue's most notable feature is the horse show facility. With permanent stalls for 1,200 horses and 12 competition areas, Tryon has the ability to hold small community activities and large equestrian events each week throughout the year.

The Tryon show facilities are home to both a turf cross-country racing course and a 13-acre grass complex that can hold six large riding arenas. With the latest in turf technology in mind, the designer of these elements chose an ESI international footing surface of specialized sands, organic materials, and synthetic fibers placed above a 6-inch drainage system. Atop this state-of-the-art surface is TifTuf™ Certified Bermudagrass.

TifTuf Bermudagrass is a new drought-tolerant variety that has been in development since 1992 at the University of Georgia. TifTuf uses 38% less water than standard Bermuda and stays green during times

of drought. However, TifTuf's tried-and-true traffic tolerance and recovery rate play the largest role in its importance at Tryon.

More than 700 horses competed on the cross country course and grass complex during the five-day AEC event. TifTuf endured damage from pure running horse power, heavy show-jumping fences and a showering of 2 inches of rain within 45 minutes. During this taxing event, TifTuf remained rideable for competitors but began its recovery process immediately. Three weeks after the AEC, TifTuf had recovered in a healthy manner without the aid of fertilizers. *(See photos on next page.)*

Not only is TifTuf traffic tolerant enough to stand up to hundreds of horses, it also retains its green color more days throughout the year than other Bermuda, an attractive feature considering Tryon's full calendar.

Multiple studies conducted by the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program and UGA show that TifTuf greens up sooner in the spring than the other southern Bermudagrasses Tifway 419, Celebration and Princess 77.

Because of Tryon's location in the "thermal belt" at the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, mild winter weather in the area is ideal for year-round events. TifTuf's ability to obtain and retain its green color in

a timely fashion makes the calendar-friendly grass ideal for the numerous horse shows, festivals and competitions at Tryon.

While Tryon is ever-expanding to include more options for horses, equestrians and spectators, nothing is quite as exciting as the upcoming 2018 FEI World Equestrian Games. Tryon won the bid to host this massive event during October 2016. These games will attract 500,000 audience members from more than 70 countries. The vast TifTuf grass complex will welcome competitors to Tryon for the event that has previously been held in major cities such as Rome, Italy (1998), Jerez de la Frontera, Spain (2002), and Normandy, France (2014).

The FEI WEG will bring economic gain to Mill Spring and the surrounding area in North Carolina; however, the games will also give Tryon the chance to truly test the limits of their facilities. Events will include show jumping, dressage and para-equestrian dressage, eventing, driving, endurance, vaulting and reining. There is no question that TifTuf is up for the challenge of enduring new levels of traffic at this spectacular 14-day event!



The world-class cross country course at Tryon stands up to speeding horses with TifTuf Bermuda.

TIFTUFTM
CERTIFIED BERMUDAGRASS

American Eventing Championships Recovery

Just three weeks after Tryon hosted 700 horses for the AEC, TifTuf experienced beautiful recovery.

