

Press Release

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GROWING ARTWORK HELPS TO RAISE CLIMATE CONCERNS

An art installation featuring a pelt of living, British-bred grasses has been used as part of The Tree Ceremony at the Jardin des Plantes in Paris to highlight the danger of increasing city temperatures, damaging flood waters, polluted air and bio-diversity loss.

The living curtain of seedling grass was used to frame a tree during the opening week of December's COP21 climate convention in Paris, where the aim was to raise awareness of the urban heat island effect and to change preconceptions about how we regard plants and trees beyond their more immediate amenity and ecosystem services.

The grass was grown using Germinal's A26 So-Green seed mixture and sculpted by Dorking-based artists Ackroyd and Harvey.

"The installation made a huge impact and was a great success, with many people commenting that they couldn't believe grass could be grown like a huge living pelt," describes the artwork's creator, Heather Ackroyd. "Part of that success was due to the ability of the grass to maintain its vibrant green colour, even during the short winter days of December."

A26 So-Green is made up of four grass cultivars: 60% Aber[®]Nile (Perennial Ryegrass), 35% Borluna (Slender Creeping Red Fescue), 2.5% Highland (Browntop Bent) and 2.5% Tye (Creeping Bent).

"A26 is the ultimate Stay-Green seed mixture as it contains the unique AberNile perennial ryegrass," explains Richard Brown, Germinal's Amenity Sales Manager. "This one-of-a-kind cultivar is the result of Germinal's unique plant breeding association with IBERS (Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences at Aberystwyth University) where the focus is on breeding the very best and most sustainable grasses. AberNile was selected specifically for its ability to maintain a dark green colour, and as the photo of the art installation clearly illustrates, looked visually stunning set against its Parisienne backdrop."

- Ends -

Photo: The Tree Ceremony © Ackroyd & Harvey

Caption: The Paris art installation was grown from cultivars including Abernile which maintains a dark green colour even during the winter.

Notes to editors:

- [®] Aber is a Registered Trademark of Germinal Holdings Ltd.
- Germinal Amenity is a wholly owned subsidiary of Germinal Holdings Ltd - the largest family owned British and Irish Forage & Amenity Seed Company.
- Germinal Amenity provides a range of grass seed products and services designed to meet the specific requirements of the amenity industry. Customers include professional greenkeepers, turf growers, groundsmen, landscape contractors, golf course constructors, architects, agronomists and ecologists, all of whom deal directly with the only company selling British-bred turf grasses direct to the end user.
- Buying direct from Germinal Amenity gives our customers access to first class technical advice and great value specialist turfgrass products through the "Grade A" grass seed mixture brand. Customers can also purchase from a range of fertilisers and adjuvants as well our extensive range of UK Native wild flower seed mixtures.

Further information:



Follow @wearegerminal for regular and topical information from our amenity and agricultural divisions.



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