A New St. Augustine Grass

Something new and exciting has happened on Florida's west coast. It is a new St. Augustine grass "Seville". Seville is flourishing beautifully on Pursley's Sod Farm located on Florida's suncoast approximately 25 miles south of Tampa.

Seville is a semi-dwarf, vigorously growing perennial turfgrass with several outstanding attributes. It has a uniform texture, short internodes, shorter and narrower leaf blades as compared to other St. Augustine varieties like Floratine and Floratam, a tendency to grow horizontal, a rich dark green color, excellent tolerance to shade and cold, moderate seed head production ability and resistance to St. Augustine Decline Virus (SAD). It is not resistant to chinchbugs but has shown strong tolerance to gray leafspot disease. Seville is somewhat easy to maintain and requires less frequent mowings than other cultivars, an obvious advantage from the standpoint of energy conservation. Moreover, because of shorter and narrower leaf blade, it does not produce excessive thatch. Color retention and spring green up rate are good under moderate fertilizer and cultural management. It has responded well to nitrogen fertilization and supplemental iron.

Seville was developed in 1968 by Dr. Terry Riordan, former turfgrass breeder at O.M. Scott & Sons Company in Marysville, Ohio. Parent lines used for this cross were originally grown at O.M. Scott's Research Station in Apopka, Florida. Dr. Riordan is currently employed at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, Nebraska. Soon after the development of Seville, a plant patent was obtained by Dr. Terry Riordan and Jake T. Gruis of O.M. Scott & Co., but now the patent and the exclusive propagation and marketing rights have been acquired by Pursley Sod Farms.

Over the last eight years, Seville's performance has been tested in field at various locations in Florida, Texas and California. Pursley Sod Farm has established several test plots at various locations in Florida and Georgia. Among them are Walt Disney World Tree Farm in Orlando, University of Florida Campus in Gainesville, Maclay Garden State Park in Tallahassee. Deerwood Country Club in Jacksonville and University of Georgia Campus in Athens. Seville is also being grown on a few home lawns in Apopka.

Schmeisser Scholarship Awarded

At a recent meeting of the Florida Turf-Grass Association Scholarship and Research Foundation Board of Directors, action was taken to create a scholarship at the Lake City Community College in memory of the late Hans C. Schmeisser, the "Grand Dean" of golf course superintendents.

This scholarship, named The Hans Schmeisser Memorial Award, will be made annually to the Lake City Community College student, enrolled in the Golf Course Operations School, that most exemplifies the qualities that Mr. Schmeisser possessed during his long, and most honored, turf career. This award carries a $1,000.00 cash compensation.

Mr. Schmeisser, who passed away in October, 1980, had been superintendent of Forest Hill Golf Course, West Palm Beach, for the past 15 years. He was a consultant, golf course designer and builder and superintendent for nearly all of his 88 years. He was made an honorary member of the FT-GA in 1976 and a posthumous confirment of the Golf Course Superintendent's Association of America "Distinguished Service Award" was made at their 1981 Annual Convention.

One of his sons, Otto, is a member of the FT-GA and is superintendent of the Everglades Club in Palm Beach. His other son, John, is associated with Robert Trent Jones, the noted golf course architect.

Cost of Federal Regulations

OMB now estimates that the annual cost of federal regulations affecting U.S. industry costs $135 billion. These regulations add 10% across the board to business expenditures. EPA is responsible for 77% of these costs while the Equal Opportunity Administration ranks second with 7% and the Department of Energy at 5%. Federal regulatory costs are now equivalent to 5% of the entire gross national product and costs every American $500 a year, personally, or $2,000 per family. (Burt Bohmont, CSU)