And the bent goes on...

Dan Jones, CGCS, photographs some newly germinated bentgrass on his test plots at Banyan GC in West Palm Beach.

Jones is one of 12 superintendents taking part in the national trials of some strains developed by Dr. Milton Ingleke at the Texas A&M research center in Dallas.

"We're not supposed to do anything special with it," says Jones, mindful of the effort required to keep the current strains of the cool-season grass alive in Florida's long, hot, humid summers.

"If it requires special treatment, it won't be suited for Florida. That's the point of the trial."

Looking on is Jones's assistant, Tim Echols. A full description of the test will be reported in the Spring issue.

Further research: How can golf courses control for nematodes that hurt grass without upsetting the usefulness of the nematodes that attack mole crickets?

During the course of the two-year test of the nematodes, participating golf courses will receive a bonus: another biological control agent for the mole cricket. This one is a red-eyed fly from Brazil that answers the mole cricket's mating call. Its young, laid on or near mole crickets, burrow into the cricket.

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