

Super Sod Nursery

BY KEVIN FITZPATRICK

*Golf Course Superintendent
University Country Club*

How would you like to have six acres of a Tifdwarf sod nursery on your golf course? Instant access to sod for repairing any damaged areas that you may encounter on your greens! Or possibly the ability to renovate your greens completely to remedy mutations, contamination or encroachments that have occurred over time. This is the unique situation that I currently enjoy at University Country Club.

I became superintendent at University Country Club (formerly Calusa Country Club) in August, 1996. New owners Jim Hall and Paul Visaggio had just purchased the course and wanted someone to restore the manicured and well-maintained appearance of the club.

This was no small task since the previous owners had let the course deteriorate



This 6-acre Tifdwarf nursery at the University Club gives superintendent Kevin Fitzpatrick plenty of sod for renovations, repairs and some to sell. Photo by Kevin Fitzpatrick.

into what I would call a "goat pasture."

But with an infusion of capital and a lot of work, we have been able to bring back this championship course to respectability. We are currently the home course of the University of Miami golf team.

In conjunction with restoring the golf course, I have been given the responsibility of overseeing the grow-in and maintenance of six acres of Tifdwarf sod being grown on a plastic base.

We have a total of 170 acres so six acres was readily available for this project.

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Installation of these fields was done under the supervision of Bill Collins who has over 30 years of experience in the turf field. Maintaining these sod fields has been a learning experience along with a great deal of added responsibility.

Due to the shallow rooting medium, water management has been the main problem. These fields tend to dry out

very quickly on those hot, clear, windy days. Needless to say this requires constant monitoring by a trained eye.

Isolated dry spots are hand watered as needed. Mowing is currently being done twice weekly at 5/16" with a 3/16" height anticipated as the field gets closer to harvest.

Spraying is done as needed for pests

including sod webworms and periodic leaf spot or brown patch fungus. Tissue samples are analyzed on a frequent basis to determine any fertilization requirements.

Of course six acres of Tifdwarf sod is not solely for my use on the golf course (What a shame!). It is available for purchase by the owners here at the club. I can vouch for the quality and purity of this sod since we have constructed a new putting green and two chipping greens from the same sprigs. It is an excellent strain with which any superintendent would be proud to have on his or her greens.

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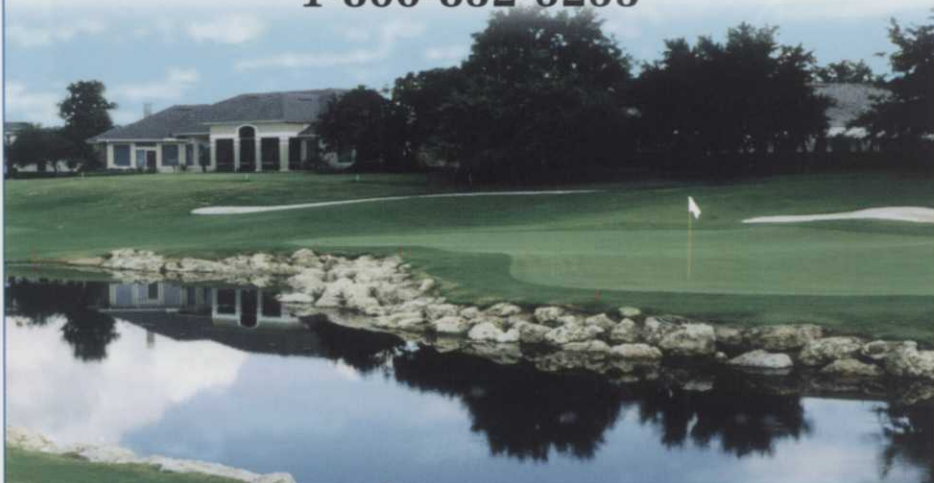
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Turtle Ridge is an Exclusive Challenge

BY TIM KILPATRICK

*Executive Vice President
The Kilpatrick Company*

Turtle Ridge is the most exclusive new golf club in the world. Membership is by invitation only and there is technically only one member and only one hole at this new golf club.

The Kilpatrick Company set out to design and build a new headquarters facility for distribution of irrigation, landscape and turf equipment products in South Florida, the Caribbean and Latin America.

Because a good amount of its total business is golf-related, the company decided to build a single par-3 golf hole on the grounds of The Kilpatrick Building.

"It allows us to test products; train our people; and demonstrate our products," commented Harold Kilpatrick, Sr., president of The Kilpatrick Company.

"And we can go out and play some, too."

The new facility has many state-of-the-art features including a water filtration and recycling wash down system that assures that no contaminated water will drain off and a 1/4-acre natural preserve planted in Florida slash pines on the beautifully