

GSDC unveils No-Till TifEagle initiative

By Sam Williams

The Georgia Seed Development Commission and TifEagle Growers Association have designated six TifEagle growers as “Authorized No-Till TifEagle Grower/Installers.” They are listed at the end of this article.

According to Dr. Mike Garland, director of GSDC, “These six top-quality growers have been specially trained and authorized to handle all no-till TifEagle sales, on-site inspections and installations. These folks have also agreed to the additional safeguards we felt were essential for our no-till

TifEagle initiative.

“For starters, their no-till TifEagle production fields will be inspected three times each year for varietal purity and problem weeds. As an additional safeguard, all no-till TifEagle production fields will be inspected and tested for sting and lance nematodes. And to ensure freshness and planting uniformity all no-till TifEagle sprigs will first be cleaned and milled to remove thatch, dirt and overly large sprigs and clumps, and then delivered in sealed plastic bags or refrigerated trucks.

“And lastly, these growers have committed to multiple follow-up inspections to ensure customer satisfaction. Our goal is to make sure our customers get a rapid, problem-free grow-in.”

prep can also be done with your own crews and equipment to fit your own schedule. Bottom line, you get a speedy conversion from poor quality greens to TifEagle, the ultimate ultradwarf putting surface.

UNIQUE ADVANTAGES OF TIFEAGLE

TifEagle is grown, inspected and sold under a rigorous set of rules and guidelines set up by the Georgia Seed Development Commission to promote on-going purity and uniformity. In fact, TifEagle is the only ultradwarf variety that has this kind of unbiased third-party oversight. This ensures that the TifEagle sprigs you receive are not contaminated with offtypes, which may occur in the Tifgreen/Tifdwarf family of cultivars.

TifEagle has a number of other unique advantages over traditional bermudagrass greens varieties, as well as many of the new ultradwarf varieties. When maintained at a cutting height of 0.125 inch (3.2mm), TifEagle produces a quality putting surface second to none. It exhibits very aggressive rhizomatous and stoloniferous growth habits, maintains superior color under cool conditions and provides an excellent putting surface during the winter season, with or without overseeding. In fact, many superintendents are reporting excellent results with painted TifEagle greens.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *We don't normally run news releases because we simply don't have enough space to accommodate every request. We make exceptions from time to time for new technology which may have a measurable impact on turf management. Such is the case here, where the cost and water savings can be significant in these times of a flat economy and water conservation mandates. Sam Williams is a communication professional who represents the TifEagle Growers. Also please note that several Florida courses have used the No Till process with Champion Ultradwarf.*

Authorized No-Till TifEagle Grower/Installers

NewLife Turf, Norway SC, 803-263-4231, 803 263-4886 (Fax); John Brown (newlifeturf@tds.net); Bragg Williams (newlifeturf@tds.net)

Pike Creek Turf, Inc., Adel GA, 800-232-7453, 229 896-7581, 229 896-7584 (Fax) www.pikecreekturf.com; Harold Pirkle (hpirkle@pikecreekturf.com); Bruce Allison (bvallison@att.net)

South Florida Grassing, Inc. - Hobe Sound FL, 800-483-4279 (Florida), 772-546-4191, 772 546-3482 (Fax); Homer Greene (hgreene7@comcast.net)

Southern Turf Nurseries, Inc. - Alapaha GA, 800-841-6413, 229-686-2020, 229-686-6552 (Fax); www.southernturf.com; Anna Tillman (annatillman@hughes.net)

Tifton Turf Farms - Tifton GA, 800-841-6645, 229-386-8061, 229-386-1207 (Fax); www.tiftonturf.com; Paul Massey (pcmassey56@bellsouth.net)

Tri-Tex Grass - Tioga TX, 866-573-6676, 817-573-6676, 817 573-4958 (Fax); www.tritexgrass.com; Randy Price (randy@tritexgrass.com)

THE NO-TILL PROCESS

No-till or minimum-till is not a new concept. The practice has been around for a number of years and has proven to be an excellent method for reducing production costs, preserving soil moisture, and reducing soil and nutrient loss for many crops. In recent years, a specialized “no-till process” has been successfully used on golf courses to hold down the costs associated with greens renovations. It basically involves applying Roundup or methyl bromide to kill the existing grass and verticutting down to the stolon/rhizome/top-dressing interface to create a healthy seedbed, followed by a thorough clean-up of all debris. The final steps include aeration, topdressing and, of course, distribution of fresh new TifEagle sprigs.

NO-TILL RENOVATION

No-till TifEagle can save you up to 75% of the cost of conventional greens reconstruction. Complete rebuild-costs range from \$1.50 to \$4.00 per sq. ft. versus 45 cents to 80 cents per sq. ft. for no-till. Time saved is another big factor. Six to eight weeks is normal turnaround for no-till versus 10 to 18 weeks for a complete rebuild. Reduced downtime greatly reduces lost revenue. Site