Of the 289 courses opened in 1990, 206 were new facilities of nine or 18 holes and 83 expansions of nine or more holes.

The number of expansions shows many operators are trying to close the gap between supply and demand in their areas, according to the NGF. In a recent survey, golf course operators said their facilities were at 90 percent of capacity. Most added that their areas needed more courses.

The NGF’s review of golf course construction for 1990 shows that:

- Real estate continues to drive much golf course activity. Forty-seven percent of the courses opening last year and 42 percent of those under construction were parts of larger real estate developments.
- Among the three leading states in course openings — Florida, South Carolina and California—all are warm-weather, vacation and retirement-oriented regions. Florida had 76 percent real estate courses, South Carolina 71 percent and California 59 percent, all above the national average of 47 percent.
- Seventy percent of courses opening last year are accessible to the public, either daily-fee or municipal. Overall, public courses outnumber private ones two to one. Approximately 80 percent of all rounds played are at public facilities.
- Among the 206 new courses opened a year ago, 60 were 9-hole courses, of which 38 had no further expansion plans. With rising land costs, especially in urban areas where golf supply is low, 9-holers remain important and viable. Overall, 9-holers make up 40 percent of the nation’s 13,951 courses.

Many courses under construction are carryover projects from 1990 that had set opening dates in the third and fourth quarters of last year but were unable to meet them. Delays were caused by weather, financing, environmental and permitting concerns.

A breakdown of this information and additional aspects on course supply are available in the NGF’s Golf Facilities in the United States, 1991 Edition.

These Pros Know A Great Bentgrass When They See It.

It takes a real professional to recognize the benefits of a superior turfgrass. These superintendents are pros at growing grass. Their expertise is invaluable in evaluating new turfgrass cultivars. So when we developed Providence and SR 1020 we went straight to them. We realized that university data was useful but that evaluation by outstanding superintendents under varied golf course conditions was more important.

These superintendents have all used Providence and/or SR 1020. Their comments have been enthusiastic about the performance of both cultivars: the color, texture, density, disease resistance, and heat and drought tolerance are outstanding. Providence and SR 1020 also produce excellent putting quality. Especially important to the superintendents is the fine turf quality that can provide a fine textured, uniform surface with an absence of grain for true putting quality.

Both cultivars produce this outstanding turf and putting quality with reduced maintenance. That’s important to superintendents, golfers, architects, and greens committees.

So nationwide the pros agree, Providence and SR 1020 really are exciting new cultivars. They represent the new generation of creeping bentgrasses.

COURSE DEVELOPMENT

Florida, California lead golf course construction

Golf course construction continues strong in the United States with Florida and California leading the way, according to the National Golf Foundation.

The NGF was tracking 1,630 projects nationwide at the end of 1990, up from 1,566 projects a year earlier.

The final 1990 tally shows 289 courses opened, one below the 290 in 1989 and well above the 211 in 1988. The nation averaged less than 150 openings annually for many years before that.

Things look bright for 1991, according to the NGF. The 560 courses under construction at the end of 1990 is a significant increase over the 463 a year earlier. The number of courses in planning rose from 569 to 781 during the same period.

Florida led in course openings for the sixth straight year with 41, more than the next two states combined — South Carolina 21 and California 17.

However, California ranked first in courses under construction with 43. Michigan was a close second with 42 and Florida third at 39. California is consistently among the top five in total golf course construction activity.

The Top 10 Openings
1. Florida 41
2. South Carolina 21
3. California 17
4. Michigan 15
4. North Carolina 15
6. Texas 13
7. Georgia 11
7. Illinois 11
9. Minnesota 10
10. New York 8
10. Pennsylvania 8
10. Arizona 8

Total 289

Under construction
1. California 43
2. Michigan 42
3. Florida 39
4. Georgia 28
5. Ohio 28
6. Illinois 24
7. North Carolina 21
7. South Carolina 21
7. Virginia 21
10. New York 20
10. Pennsylvania 20
12. Minnesota 17

Total 560

In planning
1. California 116
2. Florida 93
3. Michigan 36
3. Pennsylvania 30
4. Virginia 30
5. Ohio 28
6. New York 28
6. Georgia 28
9. North Carolina 27
10. Illinois 25
10. Indiana 25
12. South Carolina 23

Total 292

All others 236