Delhi College joins giants, adds 9 for students

By Mark Leslie

DELHI, N.Y. — The list of golf courses built, in part, to serve as working laboratories for college students is about to grow by one. Joining the likes of University of Georgia and Clemson and Pennsylvania State Universities is Delhi College of Technology, which expects a major boost to its two-year turfgrass program with the addition of a golf course.

"We think this will cut down the learning curve and make our students much more marketable," said Joel Smith, director of communications at the State University of New York-Delhi campus. "In the world, you don't have as much time for on-the-job training. Superintendents need graduates who are ready to go to work, work independently and get the job done."

"Originally, turfgrass management was the key program," said John Haight, director of development. "But it has grown since then" to include the entire Department of Plant Science, which includes horticulture, golf course operations, landscape architecture and landscape contracting technology. The golf program is directed by Dominic Morales, a professor of horticulture, who was unavailable for comment.

Overseeding: The life-or-death decision for many

By Mark Leslie

Overseeding. It's one of the great dilemmas of golf course maintenance. Do you or don't you? When? Where? For what purpose? With what turfgrass or mixture? What are the tradeoffs?

"One of the paradoxes in the business," said Collier's In the North: Dixieland diversity

Superintendents in Florida, Georgia, Texas, Arizona and Southern California — and to a lesser extent in Mississippi and Louisiana — wrestle with this decision annually. Many have no choice. Some basics:

• It's simple: When winter arrives, in many places Bermudagrass goes dormant or dies, and cold-tolerant grasses can be seeded over the Bermuda until the weather warms and Bermuda rejuvenates.

• They [superintendents] want [overseeded grass] to come up quick, to be dark green, and to go away when it's sup

Continued on page 17

RESEARCH UNDER FIRE

Browner puts spurs to EPA colleagues to improve peer review procedures

By Mark Leslie

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is expected by Sept. 30 to have a new peer review policy in place, ending years of hostility with various branches of government and others in the scientific community.

Responding to years of prodding from the General Accounting Office (GAO), which has been calling for better scientific peer review procedures and controls, EPA Administrator Carol Browner has declared the chore will get done this summer. In the meantime, she demanded that her troops follow the peer review process signed by her predecessor, William Reilly, in the 11th hour of his administration. But the Reilly process is considered far too vague and must be clarified.

Leaders in each division of EPA presented drafts of their peer review plans on July 15, according to Dr. Don Barnes, executive secretary of the EPA's Scientific Advisory Board. A group of scientists within and outside the agency will scrutinize those plans and return them for final revisions which, he said, will be in place by Sept. 30.

Reporting that EPA's science is of "un-even quality," GAO Assistant Comptroller General Keith O. Fultz said in February his office was recommending that Browner "set a schedule for developing, completing and implementing agencywide peer-review procedures."

"Also, the administrator should develop and implement controls that protect against the premature release of documents by external peer reviewers."

Requested by Rep. John Dingell of Michigan, chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce's Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, the GAO

Continued on page 12

Passions named to conservation panel

BARNSTABLE, Mass. — Charles Passios, past member of the board of directors and government liaison officer for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), has been appointed to a three-year term on the Barnstable Conservation Committee (BCC). The panel "basically protects the historic and natural resources, deals with wetlands regulations and promulgates town ordinances," Passios said.

The largest town on Cape Cod, Barnstable sits on the Atlantic Coast. Superintendent at Hyannisport (Mass.) Club, Passios is a past president of the Golf Course Managers

Continued on page 22
Southern equation differs from course to course

Continued from page 11

posed to — when the Bermuda-grass comes back,” said Steve Tubbs, vice president of Turf Merchants in Tangent. One, said Tubbs, is to have a lot of shade. If they have a lot of shade, then they’ve got to — when the Bermuda-grass comes back, and the weather is ideal for Overseeding, they’re going to color. It’s a mixed bag in Los Angeles. All courses overseed in Palm Springs. San Diego is very heavy into overseeding as well. There are so many variables,” said Hiers. “In some cases it’s 50-50. You’re dogged out if you do and dogged out if you don’t. And every year is different. You might have a hot winter or a cold winter, hot early and cold later, or cold early and hot later.

“If you put your seed down and it stays hot, you’re hurting. Or if you put your seed down and get four inches of rain the next day, you’re hurting.” Success or failure depends largely on the weather. “Obviously, if you’ve got a strong overseeded stand on a small green that’s heavily shaded, that’s going to be the place where you have a transition problem,” Hiers said. “Typically, the overseeding will hang on longer there, which makes it even worse on the Bermuda. And finally, when the overseeded area checks out, there’s often not much Bermuda left.”

On the California coast, Davies has observed what he calls “the seven-year cycle.” “Guys will overseed for a few years, then have problems and back off, and a few years later they try it again,” he said. “They try it again, and then they try it again.”

The problems regard the transition periods from Bermuda-grass to ryegrass, then back to Bermuda. “The first three years or so, the transition back to Bermuda isn’t bad,” Davies said. “But then it begins getting sparse and you end up with mediocre spring and early-summer fairways. We overseed our Bermuda on the coast with ryegrass, it’s my feeling that after five years all you’ve got left is ryegrass.” “In Palm Springs they close the golf courses for four weeks. We can’t do that, and we don’t have the warm weather that burns off the ryegrass and grows in the Bermuda. We can have a hot spell where the ryegrass goes out, then get cold and the Bermuda doesn’t come in. So you end up with really weak fairways in the spring,” he added.

USGA Stimpeter tests show Cypress Poa Trivialis as the superior choice for overseeding!

Since 1991, Cypress Poa trivialis has had a proven record in university trials for being better and different than comparable varieties. Differences such as a darker genetic color, faster establishment rate, and better disease resistance.

Instead of taking our word for it, here is what the experts have to say...

Cypress' prostrate growth habit is apparent in these P.V.P. trials. One picture is worth 1000 words.

University of Florida
1991-92 Overseeding Trials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mean Quality</th>
<th>Scores</th>
<th>Color</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cypress</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laser</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cypress</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>7.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colt</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>7.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT-GH-92</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>7.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LPT-CT (Loft)</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>7.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT-GH-92 C11</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>7.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Dark Horse)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danish Common</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>6.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LPT-HWY (Lof)</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>6.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winterplay</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>6.88</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Quality mean based on eight visual ratings on a scale of 1-9 where 9 = best

Amorhous Cypress and Sabre Rought Bluegrass had equal seasonal Turf Quality Ratings of 7.2, the "Cypress" cultivar had better color and less pollarspot disease in May.


TMI will be happy to send you copies of the complete trial data for any of the trials we have mentioned below.

Establishment rate of Poa trivialis varieties overseeded on dormant bermudagrass in Florida (data from Dr. A. E. Duteck, Univ. of Florida).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Days</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>14</th>
<th>21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cypress</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sabre</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laser</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOR YOUR NEAREST DISTRIBUTOR CONTACT:

Turf Merchants
35350 Tangent Loop • Tangent, OR 97396
Phone: (503) 926-8649
Outside Oregon: 800-421-1735

CIRCLE 4115
Northern supers battle poa annua in overseeding programs

Continued from page 11

takes two forms: overseeding bentgrass with another variety of bentgrass, and overseeding poa annua with bentgrass. "A lot of superintendents overseed, especially at the older courses, because of the amount of poa in their greens," said superintendant Gregg Grenert of Samoset Resort Golf Club in Rockport, Maine. "They're trying to introduce new species of bentgrass. Poa is such a vulnerable grass to the type of winters we have. It's more disease resistant. And it's superior as far as traffic and recoverability are concerned." Grenert, who maintains PennCross bentgrass, added: "Grass does get old. It's always nice to get nice new healthy seedlings. There are so many new varieties coming onto the market now that can accept lower heights of cut, are conditioned for less watering, and are more disease-resistant. And it's superior as far as traffic and recoverability are concerned." At Columbia Hills Country Club in Columbia Station, Ohio, superintendent Don Sweda overseeds "to fight the never-ending poa battle. It's never going to go away."

Don Sweda
Superintendent,
Columbia Hills Country Club in Columbia Station, Ohio

"If you have a brand new course, you're always struggling to keep poa out. If you have an old, established course, you're trying to figure out how you get bent back because you have so much poa," he said.

Sweda, who joined Columbia a year ago, said his course has been seeded over the years with several different bentgrasses, and he is overseeding to encourage just PennCross.

Bent-on-bent overseeding is generally practiced when physical damage, such as divots or disease, to the turfgrass is evident. Connolly said, adding that widespread overseeding into a healthy stand of turf can be like "buying insurance."

"The benefit of overseeding must be viewed as long-term improvement with the possibility of eventually increasing the percentage of desirable grasses," he said. Connolly said superintendents should take the opportunity to improve their existing turf, overseeding it with new, improved varieties.

"Overseeding putting greens with improved bentgrasses is gaining popularity, especially in the Northeast."

Benefits of overseeding turfgrass, Connolly said, are:
- More uniform playing surface
- Increased plant density and smoother playing surface
- Replacing inferior varieties with genetically advanced varieties
- Better competition against weed invasion
- Insurance against winter injury

August is the month of Catch-22 greening in the Northern tier of the United States. It is the optimum time to seed turfgrass. Yet, it is the peak playing season.

"Adjusting to aerification and overseeding in August can be a difficult thing to swallow," Connolly said. "But more and more club memberships are accepting August overseeding as a common maintenance program."

Grenert and other colleagues hail the JobSaver, an attachment to Ryan aerators, as avoiding interruption of play.

"It's a good way to get seed into established areas without disturbing the playing conditions," Grenert said. "The problem with overseeding, especially with the overseeders themselves, is that you're taking out more grass than you're trying to grow. Those vertical blades rip out stolons. It's almost like you're defeating the purpose."

Indeed, Grenert and others have discovered that using or not using certain equipment can eliminate poa annua.

"It's amazing. By light-weight mowing and eliminating cart traffic on fairways, I'm promoting the heck out of bentgrass," he said. "I haven't introduced any new seed in my fairways in 14 years. Yet, our fairways were 80 percent poa annua and now they're 80 percent — simply from cart restriction and light-weight mowing. We also pick up clippings, and I try to mow in the evening when you get a better clip."

"There's a lot to be said about traffic control."

Grenert also credited his former lack of fairway irrigation for helping the cause of the bentgrass.