PASSIONS NEEDED TO CONSERVATION PANEL

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The panel "basically protects the region's 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 Golf Course (Mass.) Club, Passios is a past president of the Golf Course Managers of America (GCM). Continued on page 22

OVERSEEDING: THE LIFE-OR-DEATH DECISION FOR MANY

By Mark Leslie


"ONE OF THE PARADOXES IN THE BUSINESS," SAID COLLIER'S RESERVE SUPERINTENDENT TIM HIER, "IS A GREAT JOB OF OVERSEEDING MAKES YOU LOOK LIKE A HERO - THEN. BUT, POTENTIALLY, YOU COULD HAVE A WORSE TRANSITION" BACK TO THE MAIN PLAYING SURFACE IN THE SPRING.

There are two categories — OVERSEEDING OF DORMANT WARM-SEASON GRASSES, AND OF EXISTENT COOL-SEASON GRASSES.

In the North:

Better bents

Think of overseeding as buying insurance.

"You never know if it's working or if you need it. But in my opinion, you've got to do it," said Jim Connolly, long-time agronomist for the U.S. Golf Association Green Section's Northeast Region who now works at JacklinGolf in Idaho.

Cool-season overseeding has been popular in the Eastern part of the country for years. But, "west of Chicago it becomes very unpopular," Connolly said. "I can't say why except it simply haven't been exposed to it."

Overseeding in the North

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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 "uneven 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 agency-wide peer-review procedures."

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

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

OSS FIELD DAY CHANGED

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The date for the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation and Ohio State University Turfgrass Research Field Day has been changed to Aug. 17. It will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Ohio State Turfgrass Research Center on Kenny Road.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

JUST ADD SLUDGE

VENTURA, Calif. — A University of California-Ventura study indicates that sewage sludge added to yardwaste composts increases the yield and color of perennial ryegrass. The study showed best turfgrass color rating was in a treatment composed of 50 percent yardwaste and 50 percent sewage sludge.

TURF MANAGEMENT FIELD DAY SET

WORCESTER, Mass. — The 3rd Annual Athletic Turf Management Field Day at Holy Cross College, Aug. 10, will combine demonstrations and talks with the annual meeting of the New England Sports Turf Managers Association. Concentration will be on sports fields. Danvers (Mass.), Superintendent of Tews and Grounds Jack Schmidgall will present a demonstration on irrigation and sprinkler head comparisons. For more information, people may contact Mary Owen at UMass, Amherst, Mass., 01003.

BRIEFS

WATER ABUNDANCE INCREASED

GOLETA, Calif. — An advanced wastewater treatment project has been completed here that can supply three million gallons a day of reclaimed water to irrigate golf courses, lawns, parks and other green space.

The project was completed by Goleta Sanitary and Water districts, working with the California Environmental Protection Agency's Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board and other state and local agencies. The plant allows the use of reclaimed water and reduces the need for fresh water from the Cachuma Reservoir.

MASSACHUSETTS GUIDE AVAILABLE


DELIHI, 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 words, 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.

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 cool-tolerant grasses can be seeded over the Bermuda until the weather warms and Bermuda rejuvenates.

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

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A member of the grounds crew at Bighorn Golf Course in Palm Desert, Calif., works on preparing the greens for overseeding. It is a member of the grounds crew at Bighorn Golf Course in Palm Desert, Calif. Continued on page 18

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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, Ore.

"Some super overseed to keep their courses green, some because of heavy traffic, some to maintain high green speed.

"Perennial ryegrass is the backbone of this business," said Hiers, who does not overseed at his private country club. "It's warmer. We don't have shade problems. We don't have traffic problems. And we're willing to bear with the inconvenience of maybe 10 or 12 off-color days a year versus the inconvenience of preparing for overseeding, maintaining it and then going out of transition."

Some have no choice. Their courses get continuing heavy traffic or have a lot of shade. If they didn't overseed they would be without grass in some areas in January, February and March.

"We conduct a PGA Tour event (The Players Championship, March 24-27), so we overseed to provide the best quality playing conditions we can during a dormant Bermudagrass season," said Fred Klauk Jr. at TPC-Sawgrass in Jacksonville, Fla. Klauk explained most courses in the area overseed greens, tees and fairways "because of the climate and resort clientele we have here. They want to come to a green golf course."

"Many overseed to provide color. We do it to provide a total

USGA Stiprometer tests at University of Arizona revealed a higher average ball speed of 92 inches for Cypress; better than for Laser.

CERTIFIED

CYPRESS Poa trivialis

FAST-PUTTING, LOW-MOWING, GOOD LOOKING CERTIFIED CYPRESS!

PRODUCT FEATURE

Years of University 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 establishing rate, and better disease resistance.

"Although Cypress and Sabre Rough bluegrass had equal seasonal turf quality ratings of 7.2, the "Cypress" cultivar had better color and less pollarspot disease in May."

Univ. of Florida Gainesville 1991-92 Overseeded Trial


Mean Quality Scores Color
Cypress 7.2 7.6
Sabre 7.2 5.4

"The problems regard the transition periods from Bermudagrass to ryegrass, then back to Bermuda."

"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," said Hiers. "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.

Ratings of 7.2, the "Cypress" cultivar had better color and less pollarspot disease in May."

Univ. of Florida Gainesville 1991-92 Overseeded Trial