POA TRIV PROBLEMS WIDESPREAD & SERIOUS

BY MARK LESLIE

Poa trivialis infestations of "epidemic proportions" are being reported in bentgrasses and some Kentucky bluegrasses, affecting golf courses across a broad portion of the United States. The question is, has it always been present?

A rough bluegrassy, poa trivialis is "very aggressive," said Terry Buchen, The Legends Group director of agronomy. "It will take over bentgrass. Even when the seed is blue tag-certified, it's getting through [inspections]."

"If you talk to the seed companies, the problem doesn't exist. But if you see new golf courses out in the field, it's absolutely a shame how much poa trivialis is there," said Stan Zontek, director of the U.S. Golf Association Green Section's Mid-Atlantic Region. "It's a huge problem. There are some supers who are fit to be tied."

"I totally disagree with Stan and his statement on new golf courses," said Dr. Rich Hurley, director of research at Lofots Seed and perhaps the nation's foremost expert on poa trivialis. "You take me to 120 old courses and I'll find poa triv in fairways, greens and tees. I'm not saying it can't come in the seed, but it's all over. Take me anywhere from Georgia north, coast to coast, blindfolded and I'll find it and I'll find it quick."

"It's a hysteria pointed at the seed companies when, if there is a hysteria, it should be: 'This stuff is everywhere.'" According to Zontek, the situation continues to worsen.

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OB SPORTS: TURNTKEY MANAGERS

BY PETER BLAIS

PORTLAND, Ore. — Bringing resort golf to urban areas is the goal of O.B. Sports, an Oregon-based, full-service management firm that recently began construction of a new golf project on the western outskirts of this city.

"We're focusing on high-end, public golf," said company president Orrin Buchen, The Legends Group. "Country clubs and municipal courses have traditionally been the only choices in Western [U.S.] cities. We want to bring that resort golf experience to the city."

The 36-hole Reserve Vineyards and Golf Club, the fifth facility in the O.B. portfolio, is a good example. The Reserve will operate under an unusual format. Altering each day, one 18-hole course will be dedicated to public/re-sort play with the other course reserved for private members and their guests.

The courses, which should open in August, are designed by architect David McLain. "Bob Ruark and I are working on the course," said McLain. "The course is a real challenge. It's a very aggressive, testing course. It's a course that will really test your skills."

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PUBLIC GOLF FORUM

A NATIONAL BUSINESS CONFERENCE AND EXPO FOR SUPERINTENDENTS, OWNERS, MANAGERS, AND DEVELOPERS OF PUBLIC-ACCESS GOLF FACILITIES

OCTOBER 27-29, 1996

Forum focus: Customer service

BY HAL PHILLIPS

CHICAGO — The golfers couldn't be happier. With more than 400 new courses opening their doors each year, there's an increasing variety of playing options. It's another story for the golf course management team, however, as record development numbers mean more competition in an already tight marketplace.

Sophisticated operations that emphasize customer service, manage efficiently, market aggressively and maintain for quality will thrive in this atmosphere, while those content with the status quo will fall by the wayside. The application of these sound business principles to public-access course operations will dominate the four-track education conference at The Public Golf Forum, a two-day seminar and trade show sponsored by the National Golf Foundation.

Participation, rounds back up, says NGF

BY HAL PHILLIPS

JUPITER, Fla. — That giant sucking sound you hear is actually a collective sigh of relief. According to the National Golf Foundation's (NGF) annual report on golf participation, rounds played increased 5.5 percent during 1995, pushing the total to 490 million.

The report also shows the participation rate, pegged at 25 million, the current playing population at 25 million.

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THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

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Fighting For Funding

Industry lobbies Congress to continue funding NTEP, whose director states his case

One-Stop Permittting

Developers, take heed: One-stop permitting is a reality in Maine and parts of California

Rejection Rollback

Better cooperation between EPA and chemical manufacturers has resulted in better science.

NEWSPAPER

FOCUSED ON EXCELLENCE

Randy Waldron, superintendent at the Golf Club of Georgia. "It's a huge problem. There are some supers who are fit to be tied."

OB Sports: Turnkey managers

By Peter Blais

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