**Field Days: Seed quality put to the test**

By MICHAEL LEVANS

CORVALLIS, Oregon — With field burning severely cut back and three mild, very wet winters behind them, Oregon-based seed growers are facing what is perhaps the heaviest onslaught of Poa annua, Poa trivialis and native bentgrasses contamination the industry has seen.

According to regional seed growers, the problem has been mounting over the past five years and is affecting species across the board — even species that are traditionally Poa-free.

“We’re basically starting to see the effects of five or six years of no burning,” said Glenn Jacklin, senior vice president of production and grower services at Jacklin Seed Co.

The past three mild winters haven’t helped either. Due to higher than normal temperatures and extensive rains, growers aren’t getting the necessary activity out of standard chemical practices.

“This year we’re seeing Poa annua in production areas that we traditionally don’t see it because of the winters,” said Jacklin. “With El Nino, we had a pretty light winter in all our production regions.”

The work now rests on the shoulders of seed farmers. The seed cleaning process has slowed considerably while, in many cases, farmers have added costly machinery upgrades to

**Childs play: Kids Course a new first**

By MARK LESLIE

LAWRENCEBURG, Ky. — A “kid’s course” built within the existing layout may prove a key option for golf facilities around the country, now that Bob-O-Link Golf Course has pioneered the concept.

On Father’s Day, Bob-O-Link opened its Kids Course within the 22-year-old track, thanks to owner Jack Ridge, who is also a golf course architect and president of a children’s golf-product company, Club Pro Products in Louisville.

“Golf has missed the boat,” Ridge declared. “Everybody’s mindset has been junior golf — teenag-ers — but no one has thought of kids up to 10 years old. That’s what separates this course.”

The idea for the Kids Course, he said, stemmed from parents who bought
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Field test sites, followed by soil texture, pH, and the projected end to this problem. As for an projected end to this problem, their mills. In turn, a bag of Poa-free seed is going to be a premium. "There are a number of things growers can do to get weeds out of the seeds," said Dave Holman, general manager at Advantage Seed. "It starts in the fields with picking fields clean and following that up with chemical control. But that's where the problem has been this year, agronomic practices haven't worked." "Without burning you can't properly get rid of that existing seed bank contamination," said Larry Falk, an agronomist with Corvallis-based Seed Research of Oregon (SRO). "This year, there's nothing more we can do. In wet and soggy conditions, growers said, the life of an herbicide is shortened considerably and chemical applications become useless.

"There's a developed resistance to the chemicals we've traditionally used," said Jack. "Plants have not been given the full doses, so a weed survives and genetically manipulates to resist that kind of hit next time."

"With the loss of field burning there are very narrow windows of opportunity for effective chemical control. But that's where the problem has been this year, agronomic practices haven't worked." "Poa can be cleaned from the seed when they miss it in the fields." "Growers urge superintendents to examine seed makeup and the way the seed moves in the mill, is going full force.

"You're going over millions of plants and you have a few that are becoming resistant," said Falk, "so it has to be listed on the tag, but will be cleaned line as easily."

"Phenol and nitrophenol, is going full force. The technology is only good if the customer wants it." 

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