Lawrence learning to manage TifSport at TPC at Wakefield

By ANDREW OVERBECK

RALEIGH, N.C. — When the PGA Tour was trying to decide which fairway turf to use at the TPC at Wakefield Plantation here, they wanted a turf that would provide the best tournament conditions for the Carolina Classic, a Buy.com Tour event that is held at the course each year in mid-May.

Superintendent Todd Lawrence and PGA Tour officials decided to go with TifSport after examining zoysiagrass and other bermudagrass varieties because they heard it had improved cold tolerance.

TifSport, which was developed by Wayne Hanna at the University of Georgia's Coastal Plains Experiment Station and released for commercial use in 1997, was bred specifically to push the northern bermudagrass limits for golf courses.

"Bermuda generally does well in the Raleigh area but about every four or five years, there can be a problem with winter kill, so we thought we should go with a grass that has more cold tolerance," said Lawrence.

TifSport has performed well for Lawrence and has greened up well for the tournament.

"We have had no problems over the past three years with winter kill and it seems to green up a little earlier than 419 bermudagrass does," he said. "The green up starts at the same time as 419 in about..."

Continued on next page

Spring Creek Ranch

Continued from page 6

The owners, Dr. David Meyer and his son Rob, decided on Palisades after much deliberation. Dr. Meyer wanted the contrast of green roughs while the Meyer zoysiagrass fairways were dormant in the wintertime and Rob wanted a more playable warm season turf. The two compromised, keeping 20 acres of the fescue mix, which would be allowed to go native, and just replacing 65 acres of rough with Palisades.

AN 'AWESOME ROUGH'

According to Dieckhoff, Palisades, which was developed by Dr. Milt Engelke at Texas A&M, made the cut because of its aggressive growing habits and softer texture.

"It is very fast growing," said Dieckhoff. "We have had sod down on one greens complex for six days now and already the seams are disappearing. It also does really well in the shade."

Winstead Turf Farms, which owns the rights to Palisades in Tennessee, Mississippi and Arkansas, is supplying the turf for Spring Creek.

"This is the first big job that we have done since planting our first greens in 1999," said Winstead Turf Farms owner Bobby Winstead. "It will be an awesome rough for those guys. It has better shade tolerance, is not as prone to thatch and is less susceptible to patch diseases."

Work on the front nine at Spring Creek started at the end of March and Dieckhoff was scheduled to wrap up work at the end of June when he will start on the back nine.
New MACH 2 rates approved

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. — Dow AgroSciences has gained a newly approved federal label for MACH 2 that states that all white grub larvae can be treated at two pounds of active ingredient (halofenozide) per acre. The previous label specified a range of one and a half to two pounds of active ingredient per acre depending on the grub.

"Often it's a challenge to tell the difference between grub species. With the new label, all labeled grubs can now be treated at the 2-pound rate," said product marketing manager Chris Wooley. The new rate is based upon efficacy performance from field trials conducted within the last year.

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Cleaning intakes

slowly remove the suction line while cleaning the intake piping for a second time.

When the piping is clean, the screen is then cleaned and replaced on the end of the intake pipe. "We have found some crazy things at some jobs — from golf clubs to rain boots," said Dilulio.

A cleaning averages between $2,500 and $3,500 depending on the travel and mileage costs to get to the job, said Dilulio.