

GOLF COURSE NEWS

Serving the Business of Golf Course Management

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More research

After reading Kevin Ross' article about building up a bentgrass seedbank ("Analyzing a nemesis," March issue, page 40), I wondered if there's any ongoing or prior research that supports the practice, or is it based on theory? While Dr. Joe Duich was quoted, and an interseeding study by Dr. Karl Danneberger was cited, Ross didn't cite any research studies related to building up seedbanks.

Is there such research? I would like to see some before spending a few thousand dollars per year on seed. It sounds like an interesting theory, and I appreciate the article bringing it to my attention.

RALPH J. KEPPLER, CGCS
East Lake Golf Club
Atlanta

Ross' response:

In this case, I'm not aware of any university research to support my practice of building a seedbank. This management practice is something I have experimented with for years. It started from the practice of dormant seeding, which I have been using for about 25 years. Dormant seeding has been a successful part of my management programs. Other superintendents who have adopted my dormant-seeding programs also have reported excellent results.

After seeing the results of dormant seeding, I decided to experiment with building a bentgrass seedbank in the soil/root zone. Also, knowing how weed seeds could survive in the soil for many years, I wondered if bentgrass would do the same. I consulted with Dr. Joe Duich, and he informed me bentgrass could survive 10 to 15 years in the soil. After hearing that, I was convinced this would help. I then began seeding each time we topdressed throughout the year. Observing the greens closely, we began to notice some bentgrass germination in our ballmarks. This convinced me that if a void occurred, bentgrass seed already in place would have a chance.

Most golf courses have a couple of so-called problem greens, (shade, traffic, etc). This is a great place to experiment with this program. Then you can evaluate it and make your own determination. This is what I recommend to everyone.

Pride in one's job

I enjoyed John Walsh's editorial, "Targeting workers," in the February issue (page 8). I work on a municipal course in Connecticut. I'm just a regular employee with no degrees in turfgrass management. It's a

job I look forward to going to every day, except sometimes during the winter.

I take immense pride in my job, and that's reflected by the comments I hear from golfers. It's a tough job, and there's much more to it than just mowing the grass.

CHUCK BUTTERLY
Greenkeeper
Crestbrook Park Golf Course
Watertown, Conn.

A pat on the back

I just wanted to drop Pat Jones a line and wish him luck in his new venture. It's nice to see that he will be writing in *Golf Course News*. He has given a breath of fresh air to an otherwise stale golf course world of articles. I have enjoyed reading him throughout the past few years and look forward to his monthly tidbit in this new venue. I thank Pat for making people think a little differently.

MICHAEL D. PAINTER
Golf course superintendent
Chesapeake Hills Golf Club
Lusby, Md.

I was shocked when I first learned (at the Golf Industry Show) that Pat Jones was no longer with *Golfdom*. I was hoping that he moved on into something really great. After reading his column, "First things first," in the February issue (page 70), it became obvious to me he has the best of both worlds. I couldn't be happier for him and his "management team." I appreciate his creativity, insight and guidance.

SCOTT D. AUSTIN, CGCS
Midland Hills County Club
St. Paul, Minn.

Clarification

In Pat Jones' column, "Beer and scribbles," (March issue, page 70), he said the vast majority of the people working the Golf Industry Show wearing GIS Staff badges were temporaries hired from around the Orlando area. The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America refutes this and says it hired only one temporary person to staff the show that wore a staff badge. The only other support people were security (who wear uniforms), various facility staff (who wear uniforms) and various food vendors (who wear uniforms). The GCSAA emphasizes it just doesn't bring in people off the street to service attendees and vendors. It puts significant pride and emphasis on customer service. GCN

Readers with comments are invited to write to:

GCN Letters to the Editor
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Letters can also be faxed to 216-961-0364 or e-mailed to jwalsh@gie.net. Letters might be edited for space or clarity.