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. KEPPLE, 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.

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.

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 that 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. HALSTIN, CGCS
Midland Hills Country 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