"Interseeding works for us"

Here is what will work for you

Country Club at Castle Pines
Sean McCue, Castle Rock, CO
"We are in our fourth year of interseeding, and our population of bentgrass is anywhere from 70-80% on our fairways."

Hinsdale Golf Club, Bob Maibusch, MG, CGCS, Clarendon Hills, IL
"We had germination in 5-7 days, and just looking at it, 80-90% germination of the bentgrass seed we put down."

Stone Creek Golf Club
David Phipps, Oregon City, OR
"I've been doing it for two years now, and I've seen an overall improvement of appearance, vigor, and turf quality and texture in all my greens."

I will continue to interseed to keep getting additional populations of bentgrass out there and to help me compete against the Poa Annua populations in our fairways

These superintendents, from both private clubs and public golf courses across the country, say that interseeding with the advanced bentgrasses from Tee-2-Green is a highly effective method for improving turf.

The interseeding process is simple: After you aerify, put down one of the aggressive Penn bents from Tee-2-Green, such as the Penn A’s & G’s, Seaside II, PennLinks II, or Penneagle II. Over time, as you slowly build up your seed bank, the aggressive Penn bentgrasses will grow and spread to become the dominant turf on your greens, fairways, and tees—even out competing many unwanted weeds, including Poa annua.

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"I've seen an overall improvement of appearance."
David Phipps, Stone Creek Golf Club, Oregon City, OR

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FEATURES

Superintendent profile

30 SHAWN OF THE DESERT
Arizona superintendent Shawn Emerson describes what makes him tick, what he thinks the future holds for golf in the West and how he balances work and family.

Career development

FROM PUBLIC TO PRIVATE
Golf course superintendents who work at private clubs value their public course experience.
Cover credit: John Eberidge Illustration

Turfgrass management

42 THE SUPREME WEED
Keeping Poa annua out of bentgrass remains a challenge.

Turfgrass management

50 PGRS: THE SUPERINTENDENT'S MULTITOOL
New uses for plant growth regulators seem to emerge daily.

Course construction

54 PROJECT PARAMETERS
Golf course builders discuss the differences between renovation and new construction, along with the importance of grow-ins.

Course construction

60 HOW SWEET IT IS
A Native American tribe differentiates its new course from others in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Product features

76 A MUST HAVE
A Colorado superintendent relies on growth regulators for dollars and sense.

THE BIG THREE
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EDITORIAL MISSION STATEMENT:
Golf Course Industry reports on and analyzes the business of maintaining golf courses, as well as the broader business of golf course management. This includes three main areas: agronomy, business management and career development as it relates to golf course superintendents and those managers responsible for maintaining a golf course as an important asset. Golf Course Industry shows superintendents what's possible, helps them understand why it's important and tells them how to take the next step.

DEPARTMENTS
6 Editorial
   Experience needed
8 Calendar of events
10 News analysis
   The GCSAA's new task and water management recording in Georgia
20 Assistant's view
   Justin Wheeler: From bent to Bermuda
22 Design concepts
   Jeffrey D. Brauer: Interfacing with contractors
24 Advancing the game
   Jim McLoughlin: Written contracts
28 At the turn
81 Travels with Terry
   Equipment ideas
82 Classifieds
83 Ad index

COLUMNS
26 Human resources
   Robert A. Milligan, Ph.D.: Interesting reading
80 Tournament insider
   Tim Moraghan: From the front lines
84 Parting shots
   Pat Jones: Pro-environment?

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THE DAY I KICKED NICK FALDO'S ASS
Jim Peacock, CGCS, at Meadow Lake Golf Resort describes a day he spent with the professional golfer and the Espinoza family at an event in Wyoming.

CATCHING A SHARK
Shark's Tooth Golf Club in Lake Powell, Fla., is the fourth and newest golf course acquired by the St. Joe Co.

ONLINE POLL: WRITTEN AGREEMENTS
As a golf course superintendent, do you work without a written agreement or contract? Visit the GCI home page to vote in this online poll.

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RESEARCH
64 GETTING BETTER
   Investment yields high-quality Bermudagrass cultivars with improved cold hardiness.

72 LOOKING AT LARGE PATCH IN SEASHORE PASPALUM
   Academics test fungicides on various paspalum cultivars to combat disease.

50 THE DAY I KICKED NICK FALDO'S ASS
Jim Peacock, CGCS, at Meadow Lake Golf Resort describes a day he spent with the professional golfer and the Espinoza family at an event in Wyoming.

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EXPERIENCE NEEDED

Grass janitor. I'd never heard that one before, but I thought it was an interesting term on which I should shed some light.

Recently, I discussed construction projects with those in the building realm. I heard part of an off-the-record comment about grow-ins: "...it's the difference between a golf course superintendent and a grass janitor," one person said. "Oooh," I thought. "That sounds pretty harsh." But the point was clear: Growing in a golf course requires different knowledge, skills and methods compared to maintaining existing turf. And, typically, it's more difficult.

I pondered the concept and what others told me throughout the year during interviews for various articles. A reoccurring theme was articulated by consulting agronomists and golf course superintendents, builders and suppliers. They said:

- A minority of golf course superintendents has grow-in experience.
- University turfgrass programs need to include more education about construction and irrigation.
- There are relatively few golf course superintendents who are really good grow-in specialists.
- Too many inexperienced superintendents call builders back to help with grow-ins, and course conditions sometimes worsen.
- More interns and assistant superintendents need to spend time working on construction projects and/or grow-ins because the experience is invaluable and will make them better superintendents.
- Superintendents often get better jobs because of their construction and/or grow-in experience.

Because construction is down, it's understandable to think there isn't as much focus on this area of the industry as there should be. Yet, the truth is just the opposite: This is an excellent time for turfgrass students, assistant superintendents and superintendents to become more involved in construction projects, when realistic. When new golf course construction picks up again, they'll be better prepared to work on these projects. More importantly, the increase of the number of renovations and reconstructions creates more opportunities for those with construction experience.

 Granted, not everyone will have the opportunity to be involved with a new construction project. But, more turfgrass management students should become involved with golf course construction and grow-ins because it will help them become more well-rounded and more valuable.

Communication, finances, human resources, management and other nonagronomic areas of a superintendent's job seem to be the focus of improvement for many. That said, let's not ignore the value of being able to effectively manage the incredibly important and expensive processes of building and rebuilding. Construction and grow-ins, which obviously are agronomy related, are critical areas of improvement—especially at the student and assistant levels. Do you agree?

Turfgrass management curriculums change based on real-world pressures and demands. That's why more business-related courses are being added to these programs. However, it's up to those in the real world, including manufacturers, who see a specific need in the market to provide such feedback to professors and those in charge of the turfgrass programs throughout the country to help make that change more quickly and effectively. And because of such change, maybe terms like "grass janitor" will fade from the lexicon.
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The GCSAA's new task

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's board of directors began a task it hasn't had to face in 14 years. It started the process to replace C.E.O. Steve Mona, who announced he has taken the newly created position of C.E.O. of the World Golf Foundation.

Mona, 50, says he was approached in January by PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem about an executive position with the WGF but nothing was firm because the WGF's board didn't determine anything at that time. "Nothing was solid," he says. "I needed to learn more about the job and the challenges and issues I would face. I eventually got a better insight and understanding of the job and a better feel for what I would do. It's a great opportunity to work in the game in a different way."

Mona elected to keep the job opportunity to himself until it was official. It wasn't agreed to until late last month, and he didn't want to bring up anything speculative. Also, he wanted to honor the process the WGF board was going through.

"My wife was the only person who knew until I flew down to Texas and told (GCSAA president) Ricky Heine on (Sept. 23)," he says.

There seems to be a shared feeling of surprise about his move, some calling it bittersweet. "I was surprised, but not shocked, because it was a matter of time before someone was going to recognize his abilities and give him one of those job offers he couldn't refuse," says Chuck Borman, staff member of the Carolinas GCSA who worked with Mona when Borman was director of the CGCSA.

Current and former association board members say the new position is a testament to Mona's leadership and the strength of the association. "Just as the GCSAA prospered under his leadership, so too will the World Golf Foundation achieve even greater accomplishments with Steve at the helm," Heine says.

Bruce Williams, CGCS, director of golf courses and grounds at the Los Angeles Country Club, says...