

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND - Dr. C. R. Skogley, Principal Investigator

General Support with emphasis on selection and breeding superior bentgrasses for putting green use.

1984 Grant - \$1500 (New England Golf Assn ongoing funding)

The overall turfgrass research program at URI now involves nine university professionals from three departments. This grant, the funds for which are provided annually by the New England Golf Association, support the selection, seed production and evaluation of grasses for improved performance under reduced management. Most of the effort to-date has been with fine fescues and bentgrasses. Turf trials are continuously established with creeping and velvet bentgrasses, colonial bentgrass, fine fescues, perennial ryegrass, Kentucky bluegrass, tall fescue and sweet vernal. Sweet vernal is a native grass having a truly low fertility requirement and offering promise for use as a turfgrass. A full time research assistant works on this project. A polycross creeping bentgrass nursery has been established and is expected to produce seed in 1985.

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY - Dr. C. Reed Funk, Principal Investigator

Breeding and Evaluation of Kentucky Bluegrass, Tall Fescue, and Perennial Ryegrass for Golf Turf Use.

1984 Grant - \$5000 (ongoing support)

Turfgrass germplasm was collected from old turfs in New Jersey and Maryland and added to nearly 50,000 turfgrass entries now under evaluation in turf trials at North Brunswick and Adelphia. This is part of the program to improve turfgrass performance by increasing stress tolerance, improving pest resistance, and reducing maintenance requirements.

The initial certified production of seed was harvested from Tara perennial ryegrass, Repell perennial ryegrass, Citation II perennial ryegrass, and Cowboy perennial ryegrass. These varieties used germplasm obtained from the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station in their development.

Currently, the research station is in the process of planting over 5000 new turf evaluation plots of Kentucky bluegrass, tall fescue, perennial ryegrass and fine fescue in addition to five additional acres of spaced-plant nurseries.

Research is continuing on the effects of endophytic fungi on turf performance and pest resistance in perennial ryegrass, tall fescue, hard fescue, Chewings fescue, and creeping red fescue.