

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY - Dr. Arden A. Baltensperger,
Principal Investigator

Breeding Improved Seeded
Bermudagrass for Turf

1985 Grant - \$20,000 (Second
year of support)

Presently, only three seeded, turf-type bermudagrass varieties are available for turf use. "Common" bermudagrass seed is commercially available in quantity and used as a general purpose turfgrass in the southern half of the U.S. Improved seeded varieties are needed that are more attractive, especially in color and density and that are less sensitive to stress conditions of low moisture, iron, nitrogen, and cold than "common."

Plant breeding and genetic information now available indicates that improvement in the tetraploid or common type bermudagrass can be achieved by conventional selection and breeding.

This research project is designed to develop new seeded strains by polycrossing and single crossing desirable clones and evaluating progeny in several generations for turf quality and seed production. Several progeny from these crosses have been made and are currently being evaluated. Additional cycles of selection will be made, if necessary, to develop suitable strains.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY - Dr. Leon T. Lucas,
Principal Investigator

Spring Dead Spot Disease

1985 Grant - \$10,000
(First year of three year
study solely supported by
contributions from
Mr. Hall Thompson)

Experiments were conducted to isolate fungi that have been reported to cause spring dead spot in Australia and California. Similar fungi were not isolated from samples collected in Alabama and North Carolina. Fungicide evaluation trials have been established on bermudagrass fairways that had spring dead spot in the spring of 1985. Disease control evaluations will be made in the spring of 1986. A graduate student has not accepted the assistantship at North Carolina State University yet. Efforts are continuing to have a graduate student on the project soon.