

BREEDING IMPROVED SEEDED BERMUDAGRASS FOR TURF

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY
Las Cruces, New Mexico

Dr. Arden Baltensperger
Principal Investigator

1988 Research Grant: \$3,000
(fifth year of support)

The Research Committee is indebted to Dr. Arden Baltensperger, Plant Breeder at New Mexico State University for the development and release of SAHARA bermudagrass, the first such improved bermudagrass and the first improved grass variety to come from the USGA-GCSAA joint research effort. SAHARA exhibits a dark green color, has a lower natural height of growth and shorter internodes; all desirable characteristics in producing a superior playing turf. SAHARA has shown an exceptional drought resistance and has proved to be an excellent seed producer. The latter trait is particularly essential to successful marketing and making available any improved variety of grass.

Dr. Baltensperger announced his retirement from the University in early 1988. The research grant of \$3,000 was placed with the University to help support maintenance of their turfgrass nursery and preservation of the bermudagrass germ plasm Dr. Baltensperger carefully developed over the years.