

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

**Breeding, Evaluation and Culture of Buffalograss
for Golf Course Turf**

1991 Research Grant: \$45,000
(Eighth year of support)

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Principal Investigator

Patent rights and sod certification have been obtained for the cultivar NE 84-609 ('609'). First official sales of '609' were made September 9, 1991 by the Crenshaw & Doguet Turfgrass Corporation. Production, marketing, sublicensing and research are continuing on this cultivar. Aggressive production of '609' has increased the acreage from 1.5 acres in May 1990, to 90 acres as of September 1991. Currently, California, Arizona and Oklahoma have been granted '609' sublicenses by Crenshaw & Doguet with the stipulation that they meet the certification standards developed in Texas. Royalties for '609' from the 1991 season will not be significant; however, projections for 1992 indicate a substantial increase.

Two Nebraska experimentals (NE 84-315 and NE 85-378) are advanced enough in the program that patent documentation information is currently being assembled for submission this winter. Additional experimentals are concurrently being advanced for release in 1992. The Native Turf Development Group (NTDG) has made significant progress in the development of seeded buffalograss. Four test sites were established with 2,000 nursery plants to assess sex ratios and performance of the five potential cultivars developed by the group. The five cultivars have been entered into the "National Buffalograss Evaluation Trial" conducted by the National Turfgrass Evaluation Trial Program. The release of the best entry among these five seeded buffalograsses is projected for 1993.

Research on insect pests of buffalograss continues with emphasis on the "buffalograss mealybug" and chinch bug. This research is important for a complete understanding of buffalograss management. Emphasis on buffalograss establishment and cultural practices continues in order to aid the turfgrass industry in their utilization of this relatively new turfgrass species.