

(Houston), Gulf Coast (LA, MS, FL), central or south Florida, Myrtle Beach, SC, North Carolina/Virginia, Georgia/Alabama, Oklahoma/southern Kansas.

Trials will be located on active play sites where golfers hit fairway golf shots and/or drive golf carts. Host clubs will provide daily maintenance of the fairway site. It is preferred that host clubs have a history of supporting the USGA and receiving visits from USGA agronomists. The superintendent should have excellent skills and a strong record of supporting GCSAA and the USGA. The superintendent should have good relationships with the university scientist, who will have ultimate responsibility for the trial.

The Executive Director and Special Projects Coordinator of NTEP, USGA Construction Education Coordinator and Green Section Director of Research and the GCSAA Research Director will determine the location of trial sites.

Trial Specifics. The NTEP will function as the coordinating agent for this two-year cultivar trial. Because overseeded grasses provide a temporary playing surface mainly in fall and winter and are reseeded each year, cultivars will be seeded in two consecutive years. Trials will be conducted under mutually agreed upon guidelines, procedures and funding outlined in a research agreement to be drafted and signed by appropriate representatives of GCSAA, USGA and NTEP. Trials will be conducted under the leadership of a university turfgrass research scientist (i.e., research cooperator), who has a faculty appointment. This person will sign a research agreement and will be responsible for establishment of the trial, coordination of the maintenance regime, collection and submission of the data to NTEP.

The NTEP will solicit entries for the trial from sponsoring companies. Trials will be conducted with named cultivars and commercially available blends or mixtures. Various species used in overseeding, such as perennial ryegrass and *Poa trivialis* will be allowed. Experimental lines that will be released in the immediate future (i.e. before the end of the testing cycle) may also be included in this trial at the sponsor's discretion.

Trials will be maintained according to agreed upon procedures. Establishment and maintenance procedures will be based on recommendations set by an advisory committee consisting of representatives from GCSAA, USGA, NTEP, universities and the turfgrass seed industry. Daily maintenance will be conducted by the golf course superintendent at the expense of the host club.

The NTEP will administer the program and its funding, set the advisory committee and gather their input and recommendations for the trial. The NTEP will organize and distribute the seed that will constitute entries for each trial location. The NTEP will provide maintenance and data collection protocols to each site, collect, analyze and disseminate the performance data in annual and final reports, and conduct an annual site visit of each trial site.

Data Collection. The research cooperator will be responsible for data collection. The following data will be collected from each trial:

1. Establishment rate, seedling vigor, percent ground cover (4-6 weeks after seeding).
2. Turfgrass quality (monthly).
3. Plot color (twice - late fall/early winter and spring).
4. Texture (once per season).
5. Rate or speed of transition from overseeded grass to bermudagrass.
6. Environmental stress, traffic and divoting damage, disease and insect damage and other data deemed appropriate and feasible by the research cooperator.

The research cooperator will be responsible for submission of data to NTEP by August 1 of each year. †

Special Report on Turfgrass Diversity

Diversity, GRCS, Inc

Deborah Strauss

Start Date: 1998

Number of Years: 2

Total Funding: \$36,000

Objectives:

1. *The results and analysis of the USGA turfgrass study, and overviews of the relevant USGA research grants.*
2. *A history of major turfgrass germplasm collections and their evaluation for use in developing golf courses.*
3. *A report on the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP).*
4. *Articles from experts within both the golfing industry and the larger research and breeding community on innovative turfgrass breeding research including how biotechnology is or could be used in turfgrass breeding regimes.*
5. *A perspective on how US turfgrass breeding and use relates to international efforts.*
6. *Interviews with key leaders in forage and turfgrass research and breeding, including the chairs of the US Forage and Turfgrass Crop Germplasm Committee (CFC), and the Guelph Turfgrass Institute, NTED, and others.*
7. *Interviews with representative industry (seed and golf) leaders.*

The rapidly developing interest in golf around the world has put increasing demands on the golfing industry to develop and maintain improved and more environmentally sound golf courses. These demands come not just from the leisure and sporting community, but also from the communities in which the growing number of golf courses are located and where they fill significant needs for green belts and park spaces, particularly in the drier areas of the world.

These circumstances underscore the need for the dissemination of scientific information and expert views about the often-overlooked agricultural commodity of turfgrass. Golf courses require the genetic materials that will keep them

green—hardy turfgrass that is of high quality and resistant to the scourges of pests, heat, and drought. The success of golf courses—environmentally and economically—depends upon the availability of a wide range of turfgrass germplasm for plant breeders as they continually search for ways to breed new varieties that exhibit these qualities.

The independent, quarterly news journal DIVERSITY is a most appropriate vehicle through which to bring together global information and viewpoints on the agricultural and

environmental aspects of turfgrass research. DIVERSITY is the flagship publication of the non-profit Genetic Resources Communication Systems, Inc. (GRCS). GRCS has had a long, successful record of accomplishment in addressing information needs of the plant genetic resources community. During the next year, GRCS will prepare and publish a special report on turfgrass—a subject area that has received very little attention—in order to bring together and engage both agricultural and environmental interests. †