

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. In July 2000, 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