

“Poa annua - Three Ways to Establish a Nursery”

Pat Gross, Director, USGA Green Section, Southwest Region

There have been many good articles in recent trade publications regarding the breeding and management of *Poa annua* putting greens. This is very appropriate for golf courses in the Southwestern United States since the majority of the putting greens are comprised of *Poa annua*. Given this fact, it makes sense that courses maintain a *Poa annua* putting green nursery so that any sod used for repairs blends with the surrounding turf. During recent visits to courses throughout California, I got to see how three different courses established *Poa annua* nurseries.

Bert Spivey, Superintendent of the Eisenhower Course at Industry Hills, established a *Poa annua* nursery to be used as a research green for a GCSAA-sponsored *Poa annua* management study. Bert prepared the nursery site in the early spring and spread aerification cores on the surface taken from the other greens on the course. The cores were spread in two directions using a sand topdressing machine to provide even distribution. The cores collected from 110,000 square feet of total putting surface provided enough material for a 9,000 to 10,000 square foot nursery. The cores were rolled and pressed into the surface and watered regularly to prevent desiccation. Creeping bentgrass was seeded into the nursery area at the rate of 1 pound per 1,000 square feet to enhance sod strength and provide a good match with the other greens on the golf course.

Another method to establish a nursery is to collect clippings or stolons from vertical mowing. This is exactly what Brad Clark, Assistant Superintendent of the Lake Course at the Olympic Club did to establish his nursery. Brad selected a practice green near the clubhouse that had some excellent perennial biotypes of *Poa annua* and verticut the green in several directions. Next, the green was mowed to collect the clippings and provide enough plant material for a small nursery in a nearby location. The surface of the nursery was lightly raked with a flexible metal leaf rake to provide small furrows in the surface. The clippings were spread over the nursery

and lightly raked into the surface followed by additional sand topdressing and rolling to provide good soil contact.

Reed Yenny at Mesa Verde Country Club used Peterson's Creeping Bluegrass seed to establish a nursery in preparation for a putting green reconstruction project at his course. The Peterson's Creeping Bluegrass was the product of a *Poa annua* breeding project by Dr. Don White at the University of Minnesota. This improved perennial biotype of *Poa annua* var. reptans was seeded at the rate of 2.5 pounds per 1,000 square feet. Peterson's Creeping Bluegrass created a good sod and was a good match with the other greens on the course. Due to supply and demand, cost for the Peterson's Creeping Bluegrass is quite high at this time, however, this seeded *Poa annua* is a viable option for establishing one green or a nursery at your site.

There are a few things you should keep in mind when establishing a *Poa annua* nursery:

- Avoid collecting aerification cores or clippings from greens with pest infestations. It does no good to transfer weeds, nematodes, or bermudagrass infestations onto your nursery site.

- Be sure the rootzone mix on the nursery matches the material found on the greens. This prevents problems with soil layering when sod is transferred for repairs.

- Treat the nursery green like the other greens on the golf course with the same frequency of core aeration, vertical mowing, sand topdressing, and pest control applications.

Having a putting green nursery is an important insurance policy should vandalism or any other unexpected damage occur on a green. If you have *Poa annua* greens, it makes sense that you have a *Poa annua* nursery so that any repairs blend with the surrounding surface.

Candidate Statements

Candidate for Board Member

Gary Skolnik

If I have never had the pleasure to meet some of you personally, please let me introduce myself. My name is Gary Skolnik, golf course superintendent at Fountaingrove Resort and Country Club in Santa Rosa. I have been a member of the GCSANC for the past nine years, which has afforded me the opportunity to advance in our profession. I've attended several GCSANC meetings and seminars, and as a result, continue to benefit from sharing ideas with fellow superintendents. This knowledge, coupled with my fifteen years experience in the turfgrass business, has provided me a well-rounded background in the golf industry.

I feel it's time I give something back to the Association that has provided me a great avenue for success, and would be proud to serve as a member of the Board. It would be an honor to get more involved and serve the members of the GCSANC.

Candidate for Board Member

Bob Costa, CGCS

Some might be asking, “After four years of Board service, why would you want to continue?” My answer is simply because there is still much more that we can accomplish and I'd like to be a part of it. When I first arrived on the Board in 1995 I had but two objectives, to enhance the educational opportunities available to the membership and to improve our professional image and standing. Those goals are unchanged. Recently, I have reduced some of my Association responsibilities so I can devote more time and energy to my latest passion, coordinating activities relative to public relations and the media. It is an issue that I have felt strongly about for years and with the recent hiring of a Media Director, I feel confident that we are ready to make an impact. With your continued support, I look forward to taking our profession to new heights and together through the collective efforts of the Board, realizing our future goals.