

JB VISITATIONS:**October - Italy.**

Presented a lecture on the Italian bentgrass cultivar characterization research sponsored by the Italian Golf Federation. The occasion was the first National Conference sponsored by the Italian Golf Course Superintendents Association. Best wishes for continued professional development of the golf course superintendents in Italy!

During the 1994 growing season this bentgrass cultivar research showed that those new cultivars with increased dollar spot disease susceptibility did require greater fungicide use to control the problem.

October - Japan.

The Institute continues to provide guidance in planning and monitoring turfgrass research in Japan. El Toro zoysiagrass is performing better than the *Zoysia japonica* genotypes commonly used in Japan. This includes better fall low temperature color retention, shoot density, lateral stem development, rooting, and establishment rate.

The interlocking mesh element root zone stabilization system continues to perform superior in terms of far less divoting and more rapid turf recovery in the turfed starting gate areas and steeple jump areas at the horse race rack in Nagoya.

November - France.

Presented two talks at a European Golf Seminar in Montpellier. Take-all patch (*Gaeumannomyces graminis*) continues to be a major concern in Europe, especially on new bentgrass (*Agrostis* spp.) greens. Fortunately this disease can now be controlled, see Turfax II-5-1994. Our rolling research for putting greens also generated numerous questions, as did the hydrophobic soil problem.

The golf course boom of Europe has now run its cycle. Now some of the courses are struggling with a lack of funds and members. Typically

these courses were built at a very high cost by investors and their American architects who had unrealistic expectations and a lack of detailed study concerning the financial reality.

November - Malaysia.

Presented a 3-day seminar on "Diagnosing Turfgrass Problems and Corrective Actions" in Kuala Lumpur. Attendees ranged from Hong Kong to Malaysia to Singapore to Indonesia. New golf course construction has slowed from its rapid rate of the late 1980's and early 1990's, but the golf course industry remains very healthy.

Malaysia is building facilities to host the Commonwealth Games. Thus, new sports field construction is very active.

Contaminated hybrid bermudagrass (*Cynodon* spp.) planting stock is a big problem, as is the mycoplasma-like organism (MLO) that causes a loss of chlorophyll in the shoots of individual bermudagrass plants.

There is an increasing trend to use zoysiagrass (*Zoysia matrella*) on golf course fairways and tees in Malaysia. It remains to be determined whether this is a wise long-term decision.

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