

### **JB COMMENTS - MANUAL *Poa annua* CONTROL:**

Most preemergent herbicides exhibit some phytotoxic effects on bentgrasses grown on putting greens that consist of restricted rooting and shoot density. For newly constructed putting greens established to creeping bentgrass, this author has been fostering and monitoring for over 12 years a long-abandoned approach. First it was pursued with golf course developments in Germany, then in Japan, and more recently in the United States. It involves a program of hand weeding the annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*) seedlings from the greens.

This program was initiated in south Germany where laws do not allow the use of most pesticides on golf courses. I was working with a group addressing the problems caused by these laws. It was found that one person who worked a half-day per week in manual removal could maintain *Poa annua*-free bentgrass putting greens on 18 holes, even on golf courses where *Poa annua* was the dominant species on the fairways. The key is that (1) the program must be initiated on newly constructed greens before the *Poa annua* starts to encroach and (2) must be done each and every week throughout the growing season for *Poa annua*. The typical response when this approach is first mentioned is "too costly." However, those using it are pleased with the result, which is accomplished without any phytotoxicity to the creeping bentgrass and at a surprisingly reasonable cost.

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### **UPCOMING JB VISITATIONS:**

Provided for Institute Affiliates who might wish to request a visitation when I'm nearby.

- January 14 to 18 - Boston, Massachusetts.
- February 1 to 3 - Austin, Texas.
- February 6 to 12 - Orlando, Florida.
- March 1 to 4 - Vancouver, BC, Canada.
- March 6 to 9 - Cromwell, Connecticut.

### **UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL EVENTS:**

**February 1 to 3, 1996. 1996 TPI Midwinter Conference & Expo. The Stouffer Austin Hotel, Austin, Texas, USA.**

Contact: Turfgrass Producers International, 1855-A Hickes Road, Rolling Meadows, Illinois, USA. 60008.

Phone: 708-705-9898

Fax: 708-705-8347

**February 5 to 11, 1996. 67th International Golf Course Conference and Show of the GCSAA. Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, Florida, USA.**

Contact: Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, 1421 Research Park, Lawrence, Kansas, USA. 66049-3859.

Phone: 913-841-2240

Fax: 913-832-4455

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### **NEW PUBLICATION AVAILABLE:**

**Managing Turfgrass Pests. by Thomas L. Watschke, Peter H. Dernoeden, and David J. Shetlar. Lewis Publishers. 361 pages. 1995.**

The focus of this book is on the cultural practices and systems that minimize pest problems of turfgrasses. It is organized in three sections representing the major pests of turfgrasses: weeds, diseases, and insects/mites. The theme is that while pesticides are a necessary component in managing turfgrass pests, first priority should be on cultural systems that will either avoid the need for pesticide use or else enhance the effectiveness and reduce the amount of pesticide use. The turfgrass pests described are from both cool and warm climatic regions.

Contact: Lewis Publishers, CRC Press, Inc., 2000 Corporate Blvd, N.W., Boca Raton, Florida, USA. 33431.