

JB VISITATIONS

December - Austin, Texas.

Visited the Barton Creek Club and Resort facility and specifically the Fazio and Crenshaw golf courses. The Champion vertical dwarf bermudagrass (*Cynodon dactylon* x *C. transvaalensis*) has now been in two years on all 18 greens at the Fazio Course. It was converted from Crenshaw creeping bentgrass (*Agrostis stolonifera* var. *stolonifera*) after the latter had failed during two successive summer stress periods that resulted in closure of the golf course. This is the oldest installation of Champion bermudagrass on putting greens. Thus, Superintendent Dale Miller is in the forefront in developing a more complete understanding of the "real world" cultural requirements for this new cultivar, including the nitrogen nutritional level, vertical cutting requirements, and winter overseeding timing.

Under extreme close mowing heights creeping bentgrass has the capability to shorten its internode lengths, while the previous dwarf hybrid bermudagrasses lacked this capability. It appears that Champion vertical dwarf bermudagrass (*Cynodon dactylon* x *C. transvaalensis*) behaves more like creeping bentgrass.

Prairie buffalograss (*Buchloe dactyloides*) had been planted in a number of locations in the roughs and around bunkers at the Crenshaw Course five years ago. Even in these rough areas it is exhibiting a lack of tolerance to traffic. As a result, it has been severely thinned. Of the original 25 acres of Prairie buffalograss, 75% has now been converted to Tifway bermudagrass. There also have been problems with Prairie buffalograss sodded around the perimeters of bunkers. Its poor stem and root development do not adequately stabilize the integrity of a distinct lip. Thus, they have had considerable problems with the collapse of the lips which then require costly rebuilding with another species.

January - Reno, Nevada.

Under sponsorship of the Reno landscape organizations, presented testimony before a regional committee charged through state legislation to develop what would become state wide water conservation laws. The wording in a very voluminous document included a small section which assumed the elimination of turfgrasses within the county encompassing Reno and Sparks, Nevada. Their claims for water savings were bogus figures generated from undocumented or illegitimate sources. The testimony by myself and representatives from the local landscape organizations reversed the proposed legislation. The result being that turfgrasses will be allowed within the concept of maximum strategies for water conservation in that region. The local landscape groups worked with a legal council, who was very helpful in the preparation leading up to the actual testimony. Should other localities face a similar type of legislation, it would be worthwhile to contact the Reno, Nevada group concerning their experiences during this and an earlier similar attempt.

January - Orlando, Florida.

Presented a lecture before a general session on Turfgrass Benefits and a one-day seminar on Modern Trends in Golf Course Maintenance before the Club Managers Association of American Annual Meeting. Attendance at both sessions were at full capacity. There was a great deal of interest in the high density Penn series bentgrasses and Champion vertical dwarf bermudagrass for putting greens. Cultural approaches to satisfying putting green speed issues for the golfing clientele also received considerable attention.

January-Indianapolis, Indiana.

Presented two lectures at the Midwest Turf Exposition. Dr's Clark Throssell and Zac Reicher of Purdue University are building a quality turfgrass education and research program.