

JB VISITATIONS:**October - Anaheim, California.**

Participated in the 1997 American Society of Agronomy Meetings. The C-5 Turfgrass Division was represented by 124 scientific papers on a broad range of subjects. Abstracts of the papers can be obtained by writing the American Society of Agronomy at their Madison, Wisconsin headquarters. Ask for the 1997 Agronomy Abstracts. Interesting symposia were held on (1) applications of biotechnology to turfgrass, (2) graduate student training for future turfgrass research scientists, and (3) a critical self evaluation as to the impact of turfgrass.

November - Tokyo, Japan.

Visited the Yotsukaido Turf Research Center of Nichino Ryokka. Ongoing research assessments of zoysiagrass (*Zoysia matrella* and *japonica*) cultivars for fairways and of bentgrass (*Agrostis stolonifera*) cultivars for putting greens were discussed. They have an interesting study using a model stadium design to investigate the effects of shading and air movement on turfgrass growth on a sports turf growing within the enclosure. Also being studied are soil heating techniques for use with zoysiagrass turfs, including use in combination with tarp covers during subfreezing temperatures. Will have specific research reports on these topics in a future TurFax as the data are published.

Also had the opportunity to visit the newly completed research and development center of the Nihon Nohyaku Co., which is a US \$100 million research facility. The activities range from the synthesis of new basic chemistry; to screening and assessment of new chemicals for disease, insect and weed control; and to development of new cultivars through biotechnology. A recent release using biotechnology gene transfer is a very prolific flowering snapdragon. The research facility was very impressive. It must be a joy for the

investigators to work within such a positive scientific environment.

December - Houston, Texas.

Traveled with ISTI Associate Scientist Col. Sam Sifers to the winter overseeding research plots he has established just north of Houston. Various methodologies of winter overseeding into closely mowed, high density turfgrasses are under investigation. Other research sites are located in Palm Springs, California, and Phoenix, Arizona. Summary reports on these findings will be presented in TurFax when the research assessments have been completed after spring transition.

UPCOMING JB VISITATIONS:

- Jan. 6 to 9 - Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
- Jan. 14 to 16 - Orlando, Florida.
- Jan. 17 to 19 - Las Vegas, Nevada.
- Jan. 20 to 22 - Phoenix Arizona.
- Feb. 3 to 9 - Anaheim, California.

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The goal of the six issue per year TURFAX™ newsletter is to provide international turf specialists with a network for current information about turf. This newsletter is faxed to all Institute Affiliates that use the ISTI technical assistance services on an annual basis. Faxing is more costly, but ensures quick delivery to those outside the United States.

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