



Bluejoint

Tom Voigt
Extension Turfgrass Specialist,
University of Illinois

Wet sites in either full sun or light shade can sometimes present a landscape problem. One cool season grass tolerant of those environmental conditions, bluejoint (*Calamagrostis canadensis*), has remained attractive over the past nine summers in the native grass evaluation plots at the University of Illinois. Bluejoint is native in most of the northern half of Illinois and can be found throughout much of the northern regions of the United States. It is known by other common names, including bluejoint grass, reedgrass, meadow pinegrass, Canadian reedgrass, marsh reedgrass, and marsh pinegrass.

Appearance

The overall appearance of *Calamagrostis canadensis* is one of an erect, rather dense grass that forms heavy clumps. It forms a fibrous root system and spreads by creeping rhizomes. Its overall height will reach 2 to 5 feet tall.

The 1/8-inch diameter flowering stalks are usually smooth or slightly rough-textured, often with swollen nodes, and terminate in a panicle seedhead. There is much diversity in seedhead appearance; some plants form very tight, dense seedheads, while others produce open, loose seedheads. They are usually 4 to 8 inches long and brown colored, sometimes with a purplish tinge, at maturity. Published reports

identify it as normally flowering in June and July.

In the U. of I. evaluations, bluejoint began flowering in late May or early June when its pale, blue-green foliage was about 3 feet tall. The panicles emerge pale green and mature to a tan or golden brown. The contrast between the green foliage and the brown inflorescences has been attractive, and remained so



AQUATIC WEED TECHNOLOGY

Comprehensive Pond & Lake Management Services

-  Aquatic Plant Management Services
-  Algae Control Services
-  Water Quality Testing
-  Nuisance Geese Deterrents
-  Aeration Systems
Floating Fountains & Bottom Diffusers
-  Game Fish Stocking
-  Product Equipment & Sales

**For A Professional Consultation,
Call Rich Rollins at (630) 893-0810**

email: Clarke@cmosquito.com or www.cmosquito.com

A division of Clarke Environmental Mosquito Management Co. Inc.

through much of the summer. The grass and its inflorescence usually remain upright throughout most of the summer.

The leaves of bluejoint grass are pale blue-green, drooping, and grow to 16 inches long and 1/2 inch wide. The upper leaf surface is rough, as are its margins and underside. There are no auricles; the vernation is rolled, the 1/5-inch long ligule is rounded and membranous, and the collar is medium broad and divided. The undersides of the leaves are keeled, and the sheaths are rather short.

Landscape Use

Bluejoint can be used in natural gardens, as a seasonal screen, and in moist perennial gardens. It is not a plant for highly managed areas; it spreads by rhizomes and may become invasive as it

matures. It can also be planted in lightly wooded areas near lakes and ponds. Avoid siting this plant in areas where its height will interfere with errant golf shots.

Environmental Adaptation

Grow bluejoint in moist sites in full sun or light shade. It occurs naturally in both acid and alkaline sites, and thus seems to be tolerant of a wide pH range. In the Chicago area, it is found naturally in marshes, bogs, and alkaline fens (limy areas fed throughout the year by water at or beneath the surface). Where adapted, bluejoint often develops dense stands at the expense of other species.

Growing and Propagation

Propagate bluejoint by dividing the plants or rhizomes or by seeding. Divide in spring or autumn while the plant is dormant. The small seeds (approx-

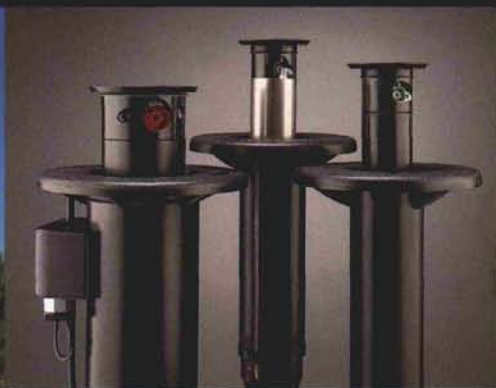
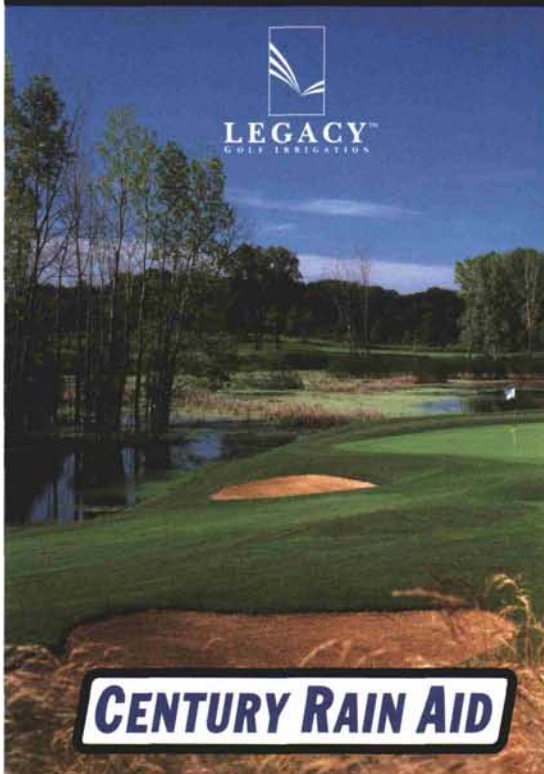
mately 1.5 million per pound) can be harvested in late summer or early fall when ripe and planted in fall or late spring. Reports indicate that this plant can be somewhat difficult to start from seeds.

Cut back the plants in autumn or spring while dormant. In most settings, fertilization is unnecessary.

Of Interest

Bluejoint is a relative of one of the greatest ornamental grasses, Karl Foerster Feather Reedgrass (*Calamagrostis x acutiflora* "Karl Foerster"). This European native is a refined, upright hybrid well-suited to manicured settings. ■

LEGACY – RELIABLE PRODUCTS FOR GOLF COURSES



Legacy Golf Rotors

Century – Your Link to Legacy Golf

More golf course professionals like yourself are switching to Legacy irrigation. Your local Century golf representative can show you the advantages of a Legacy system and can offer valuable technical assistance on a new course or retrofit.

CENTURY GOLF PROFESSIONAL - ILLINOIS/INDIANA
Ed Kruse • 630-515-8555

LEGACY GOLF NOW
AVAILABLE AT
CENTURY RAIN AID IN
THESE MAJOR MARKETS

- ALABAMA • DELAWARE
- FLORIDA • GEORGIA
- ILLINOIS • INDIANA
- MARYLAND • MICHIGAN
- MINNESOTA • NEW JERSEY
- NORTH CAROLINA
- PENNSYLVANIA
- SOUTH CAROLINA
- VIRGINIA • WEST VIRGINIA
- WISCONSIN
- ONTARIO, CANADA

Call for a Free Catalog
800-347-4272

www.rainaid.com