

Poa annua reptans — Creeping Bluegrass

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The first commercially available creeping bluegrass cultivar is now available for purchase. It has been named "DW-184." DW-184 is a dense, upright, dark green turf that holds its color even under extremely low nutrient levels. Once established, it produces very few flowers and for only a short time in the spring. DW-184 has also displayed good resistance to a variety of diseases.


Now that the initial goal of producing a high quality *Poa annua reptans* has been met, the Creeping Bluegrass Breeding Project continues to work on developing other new cultivars with still improved disease resistance, reduced flowering and winter hardiness.

Numerous creeping bluegrass trials continue to be evaluated. One of the selections in the trials has not flowered for two consecutive years. Another trial will be initiated this spring with a portion of a sand green constructed in 1997 to be seeded with new creeping bluegrass selections from the breeding program.

You can visit our web site for more information about the breeding project and DW-184. You may visit our web site at: <http://www.hort.agri.umn.edu/cbg/cbhome.htm>.

Creeping Bluegrass And Creeping Bentgrass Competition — Compatibility

The turfgrass population on golf course greens is continuously changing in adapting to the changing environmental conditions. Most greens have a mixed population of creeping bentgrass and *Poa annua*. Each species seems to perform better in particular niches and during different periods of the growing season. Since it seems inevitable that most greens will have a mixed population, we have initiated research to track population changes over time and to ascertain compatibility of creeping bluegrass and creeping bentgrass mixed seedings. One objective of this research is to identify population ratios that result in high quality turf.

The first planting was seeded on native soil, top-dressed with sand, in the fall of 1997 with mixtures consisting of two creeping bentgrasses and three creeping bluegrasses in ratios of 100:0, 75:25, 50:50, 25:75 and 0:100, by seed count. A second seeding, on a sand green, is planned for the spring of 1998 with two creeping bentgrasses and two creeping bluegrasses using the same ratios. 

Director's Column

(continued from page 4)

9. A uniform association logo for affiliate chapters was discussed and had merit. In order to compete as a top organization in the golf industry, we need to become as recognizable as possible.
10. Compensation survey and employer relations: Overall, the results of the 1998 survey show that superintendents are comfortable with their compensation. Chapters were asked to help define what information should be gathered for future surveys. Efforts are continuing to ensure that employers have a greater appreciation for golf course superintendents and their contributions to the game of golf.

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America is much like our own MAGCS. It will only be as good as we the members want it to be. Make time to read the President's message, News Line, Brieffax and other publications sent out by GCSAA. A great deal of work by staff and volunteers go into producing these materials for our use. If you are really ambitious, sign up on a committee at chapter or national level. We have vehicles to make our profession even better than it already is. All it takes is fresh ideas, a positive attitude and a willingness to get involved. I will see a lot clearer this conference and show how much energy and time was put into the convention; I will also reflect as a whole on the GCSAA. That it is one of the finest associations in the world. Have a safe trip, and I will see you at the show. 