

Special Blend

Glen View Club Commissions a Custom Fescue/Bluegrass Mix

Many Chicago-area courses date back to the early days of the 20th century. It's hardly surprising, then, that restorations and renovations of these classic, older courses are taking place with increasing frequency.



The Glen View Club in Golf, IL, is among the recently remodeled. Prior to the club's renovation, officials there determined that they wanted to change the look of the grass around their bunkers. They wanted to achieve an increasingly popular, wispy, links-inspired look. They felt that this would make for a natural, aesthetically pleasing transition from the bunker area to the fairways and greens. To achieve this look would require a special blend of fescue and bluegrass. Glen View Club's superintendent, Jeff Leuzinger, settled on this particular blend because it would be thinner than bluegrass and more drought-tolerant.

In 1998, Leuzinger asked a number of sod growers if they would consider growing a blend of grass that contained 60% fescue and 40% bluegrass. H&E Sod

Nursery responded, completing the project in 1999 at the nursery's Momence farm.

To achieve the look Leuzinger desired, H&E tested a variety of blends at the University of Illinois test plots and finally settled on a custom blend of three bluegrasses and three fescues. According to H&E's turf specialist, Darin Habenicht, this combination of grasses does quite well in dry, shaded areas to 65% and will maintain a consistent color with no mottling. Habenicht adds that the blend grows equally well on both sandy loam or mineral-based soils.

While somewhat thinner than traditional bluegrass, this blended turf is aesthetically pleasing and tends to wave majestically in the breeze. Its somewhat lighter green color is perfect for use in the rough and around bunkers,

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I realize some of these comments may cross the line for some folk. My apologies, but I don't know enough about growing grass to write even one message. At times, I act like I know even less about managing a staff. I do know a little, and it is a **little**, about letting God guide me through this life. On more than one occasion, I have felt led to send a spiritual message with these

monthly columns. What could be more important in a lifetime than making a relationship with God the highest priority? Putters and *Poa annua*? Not a chance, and I am grateful that these numbing experiences such as Tod's untimely passing cause me to stop and take a look at my life.


Take a break from the rat race. I heard once that the winner

of the rat race is still a rat. Make time to hug your child a second time, take your wife out to breakfast, let your staff know you appreciate them, speak and act true (despite the fear of doing so), rekindle a friendship and/or forgive someone, skip out of work some Sunday to attend a church service, do something kind and don't tell anyone about it. Just today. 

because there it accentuates the lush, deep green colors of bent fairways and greens. Moreover, it is a perfect turf for low-maintenance and light-irrigation areas.

Jeff Leuzinger said, "I'm happy with the results and our membership gives the look high marks. We achieved what we set out to do."

Because this sod is newly developed, it was available only in limited quantities this spring, but availability should be plentiful by fall. All H&E locations—Markham, Harvard, Momence and Wauconda—carry the fescue/bluegrass blend and will cut it in H&E's "BigRoll" or the traditional small rolls.

For more information, contact H&E at 847-526-2300 or check out their Web site at www.hesod.com. 

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