



FEATURE I  
Kyle Haines, *Onwentsia Club*

# Preparing For Projects in the Future A Homegrown Bentgrass Sod Nursery

*In what turned into one of the hottest summers on record, it seemed many of us were left counting the days until August to catch any sort of relief. For the third consecutive year we were dealt intense heat with unfavorable growing conditions throughout all of Chicagoland. With August came overdue rain showers, cooler soil temperatures, and highs and lows that brought things back to reality. While most of us are now enjoying the shorter days and preparing for the last stretch of events, this year (more than others) will be a refreshing feeling getting our hands dirty and transitioning into project-mode.*

Whether it's drainage, seeding and sodding, renovations, or just getting after cultural practices, we all have something we're looking forward to working on this fall. Here at Onwentsia Club, we've begun expanding our fairway nursery. Being an older club with little work done to our fairways, we try to keep as much sodding in house as possible because of the many varieties of older bent grasses found throughout the golf course. Once established, we then use our own polystand surplus for our other ongoing projects such as fairway expansions and new green complexes.

About this time last year, we began harvesting cores from the least contaminated areas of fairways for creating the first phase of our fairway nursery. Cores were pulled using the Toro 648s with  $\frac{3}{4}$ " hollow tines set at 2.5" spacing and at about a 2" depth. With the site prepped and irrigation already installed, the cores were then spread to approximately a 1" layer over a 7000 sq ft area. Next, the site was dimpled in with the Sand Pro for leveling and to create pockets for a light seeding. Lastly, the cores were covered and kept moist for a quick establishment giving us usable sod by this recent summer.

*(continued on page 7)*



Our total fairway nursery claims less than half of the usable space on our dedicated 30,000 sq ft site. Also growing here is a cored-in nursery green, Alpha bentgrass, Pennlinks bentgrass, a native fescue stand, and a rough bluegrass blend all to be later used on the golf course. As with any out-of-play established turf, these areas have been great for testing new

products, playing with rates, cultural practices, and giving great insight into issues we've faced such as localized dry spots and disease pressures.

Even if it's not a nursery expansion you're working on this fall, good luck with any of your off-season projects. **-OC**



Cores are pulled and harvested from existing stands of bentgrass/Poa fairways and greens.



The cores are then spread out by hand on the prepped site to a depth of 1" or so.



Using a sand rake tire tracks, the cores are then "dimpled" and prepared for a light seeding.



**Your Single Source for:**

- pH Control
- Fertigation
- Injection Equipment
- Irrigation System Monitoring & Alarm


**Ask about our NEW 990v!** NEW

- P** VFD Technology
- P** Eliminates Overfeed Spikes from On/Off Control
- P** Affordable
- P** Remote Control from Irrigation Central
- P** Optimize Treatment Costs
- P** Easy to Use



**PRODUCT \* EQUIPMENT \* SERVICE \* SUPPORT**

For additional info or to schedule a demo, call 800.677.8097

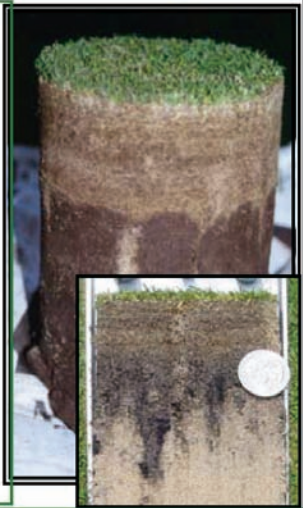


**Independent Soil, Tissue and Water Analysis**

**USGA Physical Analysis**

- ◆ Organic matter
- ◆ Percolation rate
- ◆ Pore space study
- ◆ Construction Analysis

**Local ~ Experienced Here when you need us!**



David Marquardt - Consulting Agronomist  
630-251-1511      Dave@dirty-n-turf.com  
www.dirty-n-turf.com