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Results of the Creeping Bentgrass...

(continued from page 10)

The overall average rating for 1996 for each variety is presented in Table 1, ranked from highest to lowest. The new Penn State varieties (A2, A4, G2, G6 from Tee-2-Green and Lesco) occupy four of the top five spots. These varieties are very fine leaved and dense, with almost a dwarf-like growth habit. Another notable variety with quality comparable to the Penn series is Loft's L-93, which is an advancement of Loft's earlier variety Southshore. Two varieties from the Texas A & M program (Century, Imperial - Burlingham Seeds) also rate highly because of their fine texture and density.

Several other varieties that perform well and are noteworthy include: Providence and SR 1020 (Seed Research), Cato (Pickseed

West), Southshore and Crenshaw (Lofts), and Pennlinks (Tee-2-Green). Note that due to space limitations, Penncross was not included in our trial, although there is over 4,000 sq. ft. of Penncross on the green. At best, Penncross would rank in the bottom third of this trial because of its relatively coarse texture and low plant density.

Table 2 presents the quality data on a monthly basis, which gives an alternative view of the '96 results. Although the monthly rankings bounce around a little, you can still see that the top-rated varieties were pretty consistent from month to month. Many of the varieties in our trial are purported to have improved heat tolerance and would, therefore, be expected to rate higher in the heat of the summer. This was evident for Crenshaw, Century, 18th

Green, and SR 1020 in the summer of '95 (data not presented). However, since the summer of '96 was much cooler, these differences were not as obvious. You will note, however, that Crenshaw's and 18th Green's highest rankings were in July or August. Crenshaw and 18th Green also appear to react more to the first hard frost of the fall, with some thinning and dark green to purple color noted.

Another factor in late season reduction of ratings for several varieties was chronic infection by the dollar spot fungus. Eighteenth Green was especially hard hit by dollar spot, and several other varieties appear to be highly susceptible to this disease (Table 3). Dollar spot is very common in northern Illinois, but in most cases is not as significant on greens as it is on fairways. A prob-

(continued on page 14)

Table 1
Cantigny Golf, Wheaton, IL
BENTGRASS VARIETY TRIAL
Visual Quality Ratings for 1996

RANK	ENTRY NAME	
1	Penn A2	7.61 A
2	Penn G2	7.33 AB
3	Lofts L-93	7.28 AB
4	Penn G6	7.17 ABC
5	Century	6.97 ABCD
5	Penn A4	6.97 ABCD
7	Imperial	6.78 BCDE
8	Providence	6.58 CDEF
9	Cato	6.53 CDEF
10	Pennlinks	6.50 DEF
10	SR 1020	6.50 DEF
12	Southshore	6.44 DEF
12	Regent	6.44 DEF
14	Crenshaw	6.39 DEF
14	Cobra	6.39 DEF
16	ProCup	6.36 DEF
17	Viper	6.33 DEF
17	18th Green	6.33 DEF
19	Putter	6.17 EF
20	Lopez	6.03 F

LSD=0.65

Means followed by the same letter are not statistically different at the 5% level.

Table 2
Cantigny Golf, Wheaton, IL
BENTGRASS VARIETY TRIAL
1996 Monthly Turf Quality Ratings

ENTRY NAME	JUNE 6 MEAN RANK	JUNE 26 MEAN RANK	JULY 19 MEAN RANK	AUG 16 MEAN RANK	SEP 11 MEAN RANK	OCT 21 MEAN RANK
Pennlinks	5.8 12	6.2 12	6.7 10	6.2 15	7.0 14	7.2 5
Providence	6.2 7	6.2 12	6.5 13	6.2 15	7.7 7	6.8 9
Putter	5.5 16	5.5 18	6.2 17	6.0 18	7.2 11	6.7 12
Southshore	6.0 10	5.8 17	6.8 5	6.3 11	7.0 14	6.7 12
ProCup	5.7 14	6.3 8	6.3 15	6.0 18	7.2 11	6.7 12
SR 1020	6.2 7	6.5 6	6.7 10	6.3 11	7.0 14	6.3 17
Lofts L-93	6.7 2	7.0 4	6.8 5	7.2 2	8.2 4	7.8 1
Viper	5.5 16	5.5 18	6.0 18	6.8 7	7.3 9	6.8 9
Cobra	5.8 12	6.0 15	6.0 18	6.2 15	7.2 11	7.2 5
Cato	6.0 10	6.2 12	6.8 5	6.3 11	7.0 14	6.8 9
Crenshaw	5.5 16	6.5 6	6.5 13	7.0 5	7.0 14	5.8 19
18th Green	5.7 14	6.3 8	6.8 5	6.8 7	7.0 14	5.3 20
Penn A2	6.5 3	7.8 1	7.8 1	7.5 1	8.5 1	7.5 4
Penn A4	6.2 7	6.3 8	7.2 3	7.2 2	8.0 5	7.0 8
Penn G2	6.8 1	7.2 2	7.0 4	7.0 5	8.3 2	7.7 3
Penn G6	6.5 3	6.3 8	6.8 5	7.2 2	8.3 2	7.8 1
Century	6.3 5	7.2 2	7.5 2	6.8 7	7.8 6	6.2 18
Imperial	6.3 5	6.7 5	6.7 10	6.7 10	7.7 7	6.7 12
Regent	5.5 16	6.0 15	6.3 15	6.3 11	7.3 9	7.2 5
Lopez	5.3 20	5.5 18	6.0 18	6.0 18	6.8 20	6.5 16

LSD=0.9 LSD=0.6 LSD=0.6 LSD=0.6 LSD=0.7 LSD=0.7

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Results of the Creeping Bentgrass...

(continued from page 12)

able reason for this is that greens are mowed early in the morning (every day!), which removes dew and other leaf surface water, thus reducing the activity of leaf surface fungi. Dollar spot can become a problem on greens if fertility is low, if control measures are not applied in a timely manner, or if the fungicides used have become ineffective. Whether or not some of these new heat-tolerant and fine-textured varieties should be used on greens in Illinois is a controversial topic, because many are so susceptible to dollar spot. However, if dollar spot is not a strong consideration on greens, use of these newer varieties may not lead to a dollar spot problem.

Comparison to National and Regional NTEP Results

How do the ratings from Cantigny compare with the nationwide evaluation of the NTEP? If you look at Table 4, you can see that the overall national rankings are reasonably close to the rankings of varieties that we have made at Cantigny. Keep in mind that these rankings are from 1995; the '96 data is not yet available from NTEP. The Penn A and G series, L-93, Cato, Providence, Pennlinks, Century and Imperial all rank in the top 10. ProCup, 18th Green, and Lopez are in the lower part of the rankings. You can also see that most of the new varieties rank higher than Pennncross. The creeping bentgrass collection and breeding programs of Drs. Duich, Engelke, Skogley, Engel, Kneebone, Funk, Hurley, Lehman and others have started to pay off in a big way!

In Table 5, you can get a different comparison of NTEP and Cantigny results by looking at data from only the six closest Midwestern testing sites to Chicago (that reported last year).

Table 3
Cantigny Golf, Wheaton, IL
**VARIETY TRIAL DOLLAR
SPOT EVALUATION OF
8/29/96**

RANK		MEAN NO. SPOTS/PLOT	
1	Penn G6	3.3	A
2	Cobra	4.3	A
3	Penn G2	7.0	A
4	Lofts L-93	7.3	A
5	Pennlinks	7.7	A
5	Putter	7.7	A
5	Penn A2	7.7	A
5	Providence	7.7	A
9	Viper	12.7	AB
9	Regent	12.7	AB
11	Cato	14.0	ABC
12	ProCup	16.7	ABCD
13	Lopez	25.0	BCDE
14	Penn A4	25.3	BCDE
15	Southshore	29.0	CDE
16	Century	30.3	DE
16	SR 1020	30.3	DE
18	Imperial	37.7	EF
19	Crenshaw	46.3	F
20	18th Green	63.0	G

LSD=15.0

Means followed by the same letter are not statistically different at the 5% level; Fisher's Protected LSD test.

Table 4
**1993 NTEP
BENTGRASS TRIAL**
1995
National Rank

RANK	ENTRY NAME
1	Lofts L-93
2	Penn A1
3	Penn G2
	Cato
	Penn A4
6	Providence
	Penn G6
8	Southshore
9	Century
9	Imperial
	Pennlinks
12	Crenshaw
	SR 1020
18	Lopez
20	Regent
21	ProCup
23	Pennncross
25	18th Green

Ranks out of 28 entries in trial.

Table 5
**1993 NTEP TRIAL
RESULTS OF 1995
FOR SIX
MIDWESTERN STATES**
Overall
Average Rank

ENTRY NAME	RANK
Lofts L-93	3.7
Cato	4.8
Providence	5.0
Penn G2	5.8
Penn A1	6.2
Pennlinks	7.3
Penn A4	7.7
Penn G6	8.5
Sr 1020	9.0
Southshore	9.2
Lopez	9.5
Imperial	9.8
Crenshaw	10.3
ProCup	10.8
Century	11.5
Pennncross	11.7
Regent	13.3
18th Green	14.3

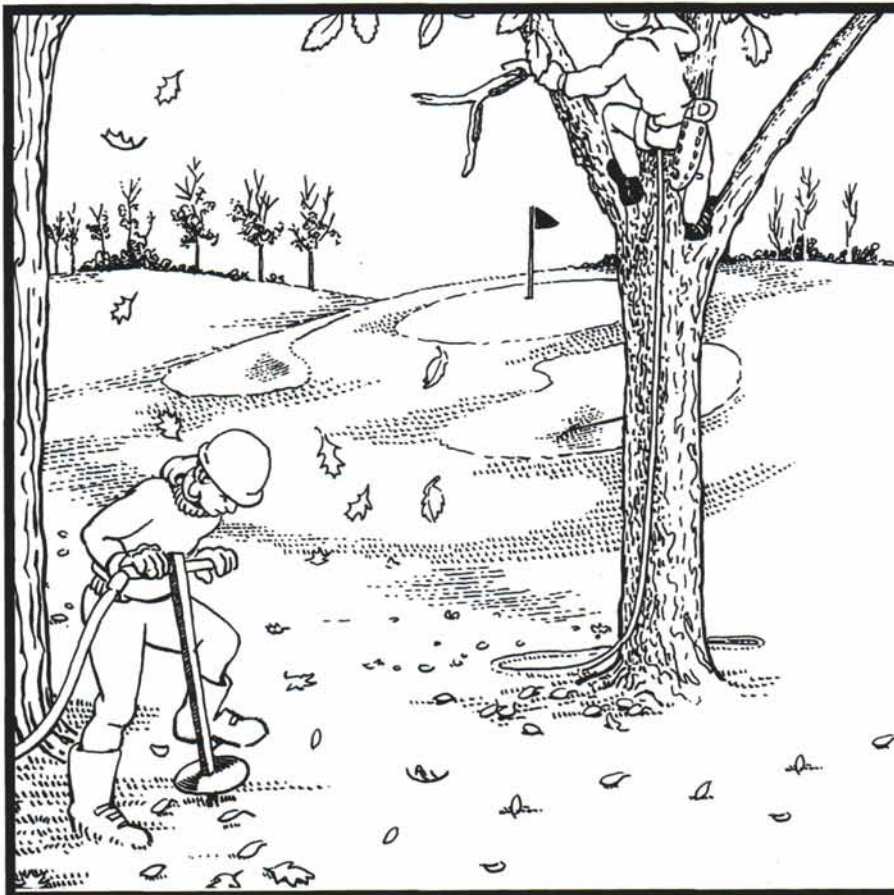
States averaged were: IL, IA, MI, MN, KS, MO.

It is interesting to see that the somewhat older varieties, Providence and Pennlinks, averaged out a little better than some of the newer varieties. The heat- and disease-tolerant variety, Cato, did well in Iowa, Missouri, Kansas and Michigan in 1995, which lead to its high average ranking for the six states. It will be interesting to see how these numbers play out for the much different '96 season.

What's Ahead...

For the 1997 season, we will continue to evaluate the current varieties in the Cantigny test and perhaps add some new ones coming along (e.g., SR 1119). Winter survival and spring greenup will be noted, as it was for '96. So far, there doesn't seem to be any significant differences among the new varieties for spring greenup, and all of them looked better than Pennncross last April. We will probably pick up the fertility a little in

'97 and keep the cutting height at .150 or below. Another trait I would like to examine is recovery from aerification or ball marks. By simulating a ball mark (sand bruise), we may be able to tell if some of these new varieties fill in aggressively or are slow to recover. This would have some bearing on possible *Poa annua* contamination in the future. We will also keep an eye on the disease situation since dollar spot, brown patch, and several other diseases have become established on the green (already!). Finally, if anyone would like to volunteer to do shoot density counts on 60 or so plots, I'm sure that information would be of interest as well. Stop on by and see these new grasses this summer, if you haven't already! ■



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Tribute to Trevarthan



Dick Trevarthan

*Dudley Smith
Silver Lake G.C.*

The Southside superintendents' annual Christmas luncheon was held Monday, December 9, at the German Tavern in suburban Frankfort. Over 80 superintendents and salespeople attended the party. After consuming pork chops, sausages, red cabbage and sauerkraut, and flushing the food down with German beer, the tribute to Trevarthan began.

Dick Trevarthan has retired as the original greenkeeper at the Prestwick Country Club in Frankfort after 34 years. Dick grew up in southern Indiana, graduated with a B.S. in Agronomy from Purdue University, and worked for Ted Woehrl at Beverly C.C. His responsibility at Prestwick began during its

construction with Packard and Wadsworth in 1962. For years, Dick operated out of farm buildings on the site; his office was the milk shed. Dick's supervisor was our friend, Way Thompson, of the Arthur McIntosh Real Estate Corporation, which was also associated with Inverness G.C. and Turnberry C.C.

Dick worked for McIntosh until all the homesites were sold, and the firm sold the golf course to the membership in 1984. When Dick hosted the Illinois State Amateur, the course was acclaimed for its 12,000 sq.ft. Penncross greens and its magnificent Delta-Newport bluegrass fairways. As time moved on, Trevarthan added tennis courts, a swimming pool, and a practice range to the facility. With membership control came demands: renovated and contoured bentgrass fairways, computerized irrigation system, walking greenmowers, even a replica of the stone arched bridge at St. Andrews.

Dick has been an active member of the MAGCS and has served as president in 1970. Dick was also the editor of the *Bull Sheet* for several years.

Perhaps his major accomplishment is the young men he has trained and placed in our profession. Present at the Christmas luncheon to toast Trevarthan were former assistants: Jim Evans, Gene Jennings, Carl Landgrebe, Ken Quandt, John Sutton and Rick Wilson. Congratulatory letters were read from former associates now out of state: Steve Biggers, Dave Fearis, Roger LaRochelle, Ken Stephens, and Walter Simon.

Dick Trevarthan resides in Frankfort where he operates a successful landscape business with his son David. He is active in village politics (perhaps a future mayor)?

The new superintendent at Prestwick C.C. is Tim Anderson. With Dick's muddy worn-out shoes to fill, we wish Tim well. ■

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Starting a Native Prairie Plant Reference Library

Tom Voigt
Extension Turfgrass Specialist
University of Illinois

Are you considering planting some native prairie plants on your course but are hesitating due to a lack of knowledge about this group of plants? In response to the many questions I receive about this topic, I have compiled a listing of my impressions of several books that can be used as the foundations for a prairie plant reference library. These books are also good starting points when trying to answer questions about native Midwestern prairie species.

- Kirt, R.R. 1989. *Prairie Plants of Northern Illinois: Identification and Ecology*; and 1995. *Prairie Plants of the Midwest: Identification and Ecology*. Champaign, IL: Stipes Publishing L.L.C.

Russell R. Kirt is a local; he began teaching biology at the College of DuPage in 1970 and began restoring prairies in 1974. The older book of the two, *Prairie Plants of Northern Illinois: Identification and Ecology*, includes information about some 70 plants. The newer book, *Prairie Plants of the Midwest: Identification and Ecology*, includes the original and adds approximately 40 plants to the list. Included for each plant is a description that includes a line drawing, botanical and identification features, and ecological notes. Both books are paperbacks; and if you have a choice between the two, select the newer book due to the larger number of inclusions.

- Ladd, D. 1995. *Tallgrass Prairie Wildflowers*. Helena and Billings, MT: Falcon Press Publishing Co., Inc.

The major attributes of *Tallgrass Prairie Wildflowers* are the outstanding color photographs of more than 200 prairie plants. Along with the photo is a written description for each species that includes morphological features, their habitat/range, and other pertinent comments. The book opens with an interesting discussion of prairies and instructions on using the book as a field guide. It closes with a glossary and a directory of Midwestern tallgrass prairie sites. *Tallgrass Prairie Wildflowers* is one of the newest books in my library and is destined to become heavily used in the field

due to its high-quality photos.

- Runkel, S. T., and D.M. Roosa. 1989. *Wildflowers of the Tallgrass Prairie*. Ames, IA: Iowa State University Press.

Color photographs of more than 130 prairie plants highlight *Wildflowers of the Tallgrass Prairie*. A written description is included for each plant that traces the origins of the plants' scientific names, their habitats, and their morphological features. Within the descriptions are tidbits of interesting historical facts of how these Midwestern plants were used for food and medicine by Native Americans and pioneers. I like this publication, particularly the great photographs. Be forewarned, however,

(continued on page 26)



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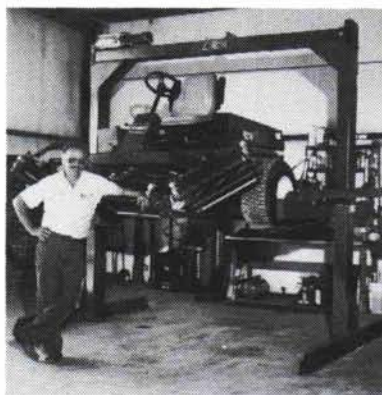
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The Johnsons Settle for Third

*John Otis
Mission Hills C.C.*

The Johnsons, a local superintendent ice hockey team sponsored by Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, has completed another fun and exciting hockey season, even though this season wasn't as successful as in the past. The Johnsons finished in third place in the Men's 30 and Over league at the Centre Ice of DuPage.

Members of the Johnsons were looking and smelling great this season, sporting new jerseys that were washed and pressed before every game. I know this is a fact because dryer sheets were found in the jersey bag. Thanks to Michelle, Dave Blomquist's significant other, for taking on this smelly task.

This season's team included superintendents, assistant superintendents, and a golf professional: Darin Ayres (Aurora C.C.), Dave Blomquist (Naperville C.C.), Kevin DeRoo (Bartlett Hills G.C.), John Gurke (Aurora C.C.), Bryan Haas (golf pro, Mission Hills C.C.), John Otis (Mission Hills C.C.), Joel Purpur (River Forest C.C.), Tim Schneider (Skokie Park District), and Dave Schlagetter (Indian Hill G.C.).

The season can be summed up by a motivational speech given by our captain Dave Blomquist: "We've got to shoot, shoot, shoot. It's obvious that we are failing miserably at this passing thing." Joel Purpur must have been the only guy listening because he goes out, takes an ice-melting slap shot from the center line, and he scores.

Kevin DeRoo was definitely the hard head of the team this year. Kevin would show up to games thinking he didn't need his helmet, for he kept leaving it at home. The Aurora C.C. connection was always good for 100 shots per game, John Gurke taking 10 shots on opposing goalies, and Darin Ayres making 90 saves. John Otis was back in action again this season after taking a year off. John's equipment isn't getting any newer, it's just changing colors. Dave Schlagetter started the season with the Johnsons, and then he went on a family vacation. We're not sure if Dave ever came back. Some guy matching Dave's

description, but without the mustache, started showing up at games claiming he was Dave.

There were two rookies on the team: Bryan Haas, golf pro at Mission Hills C.C., a true-to-life Happy Gilmore (Bryan gave new meaning to the term "Beat the Pro". . .or was it "Beat on the Pro"?), and Tim ("I used to be able to skate like those young punks when I was in high school") Schneider. We hope both guys had a good enough time playing hockey games at all hours of the night to skate with the Johnsons again.

The Johnsons would like to thank Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts for their continued and generous support of our late-night follies. ■

