

Treasure Coast "Tide"ings

By JAMES P. CALLAGHAN
Riomar Country Club

The unusually cold winter during the previous four years have prompted over 85% of the Golf Course Superintendents along the Treasure Coast to overseed their greens this year. The unpredictable weather patterns continued when area superintendents initiated their recent overseeding programs.

With the majority of superintendents in Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River Counties choosing the first week in December to overseed, they were confronted with a week of extremely cold weather during the germination period. In turn, the next three weeks brought unseasonably mild and humid conditions that encouraged vigorous competition from the bermudagrass and prevented a hardening off of the overseeding before the onset of the record cold temperatures that were recorded in mid-January.

By mid-February, another abnormal mild spell was into its fourth week. Many superintendents reported that since the bermudagrass was doing so well, they changed their cultural practices towards maintaining it rather than the cool season grasses.

Although the trials and tribulations induced by the weather persisted, most superintendents claimed that their overseeding programs fared relatively well. And they further commented that they would continue to overseed in the future to prevent "being caught with their pants down during cold weather."

Ryegrasses Dominate

Most Treasure Coast superintendents rely on a blend of seed consisting predominately of perennial ryegrass in their

overseeding mixtures. Ryegrasses have proven successful in the past and many choose to stick with it. Some superintendents have incorporated bentgrasses, in part or whole, in their overseeding programs. This year they reported poor survival due to the hot and humid conditions, but stated that the bentgrasses resulted in superior putting conditions in years past.

However, the plurality of supers in this area bank on ryegrass to magnetize the golfer's eye to their greens. Today's golfer has been programed to see green and the ryegrasses seem to be the best species to transfer that actuality to his eye. Because of its extensive leaf area, adaptibility to close mowing, and disease resistance, ryegrasses have demonstrated desirable characteristics needed to insure success in overseeded greens. Ryegrasses also provide better wear properties that are not found in other cool season varieties.

Similar Methods But Different Choices

Almost all superintendents in the Martin, St. Lucie, and Indian River County area utilize the same methods to execute their overseeding program. Greens are verticut lightly, seed is dispersed, topdressing applied, and incorporation of seed into soil profile by dragging. The first mowing takes place after the seedlings have reached better than 1/4" in height.

Although most superintendents practice the same methods in planting their overseeding, just as many have different choices when it comes to exactly what type or species of cool season grasses to use. Ross Saylor, superintendent of Stuart Yacht & Country Club reported that he applied Penncross at the rate of 4 lbs./1,000 ft.² in early November. He verticut and topdressed his greens one week prior to overseeding. Application of seed was made with no further topdressing. Greens were mowed for one full week without catching, resulting in smooth transition.

Both Sid Saloman IV of Indian Pines and Lonnie Stubbs of Sandpiper Bay Resort chose Lesco's CBS blend using 30 lbs. and reported favorable results. Lonnie overseeded two weeks earlier, around November 15, and stated germination was good since he beat December's cold snap.

Another favorable report was from Dodgertown where Bill Moolenar went with a blend of Jamestown (fescue) and Yorktown (perennial rye). Bill stated that there was good germination even during the cooler weather and is sold on the blend's outstanding appearance characteristics.

(Continued on Page 29)



SPREAD—RITE, INC.

Custom Spreading

DOLOMITE
FERTILIZER
SULPHUR

P.O. BOX 25527
Tamarac, Fla. 33320

PHONE
(305) 482-7224

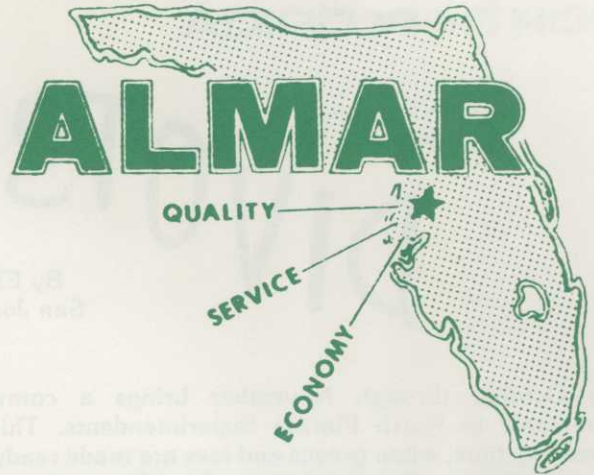
(Continued from Page 18)

At Riverbend C. C., Joe Snook commented on poor and spotty coverage with Medalist 7. He said that he heard of similar reports and would not use it again since he has received far superior results in the past with other mixtures.

Tom Burrows, superintendent of Turtle Creek Club in Tequesta, was another one of the few superintendents contacted who overseeded with straight bentgrass. Although he had excellent coverage through January, the competition from the bermuda the following month crowded out his Penneagle "drastically".

At John's Island, the south course was overseeded with 5 lbs. Sabre and 4 lbs. Emerald / 1,000 ft.² and the north course substituted Penncross for Emerald at the same rate. The team of Adam Yurigan, Lee Van Valkenburg and Chuck Calhoun reported that the bentgrasses never reached maturity and its decline is being investigated by a local research laboratory. They also commented that in order to aid germination, a heavy application of Milorganite and topdressing containing charcoal are utilized to darken greens resulting in better heat absorption on sunny days.

Most Treasure Coast superintendents agree that overseeding is here to stay as an integral part of their maintenance programs. And they have accepted the fact that a little bit of luck in timing and cooperation from mother nature are needed for successful overseedings. ■



CHEMICAL CO., INC.

P.O. BOX 18101

TAMPA, FLA. 33679

CALL COLLECT 813-839-3363

**Scotts most
successful product is
not available for sale...**

**only for advice and
support... your ProTurf Tech Rep.**



Dan McCoy
Technical
Representative

Jerry Mills
Technical
Representative

Wayne Wiemken
Senior Technical
Representative

Bob Wilcox
Technical
Representative

Pro Turf Division
O.M. Scott & Sons
9719 Winder Trail
Orlando, Fla. 32817
Phone: 305/275-6941

Pro Turf Division
O.M. Scott & Sons
7810 NW 74th Ave.
Tamarac, Fla. 33319
Phone: 305/722-0306

Pro Turf Division
O.M. Scott & Sons
3619 Pembroke Dr.
Sarasota, Fla. 33579
Phone: 813/921-7044

Pro Turf Division
O.M. Scott & Sons
1261 S.W. 27th Place
Boynton Beach, Fla. 33435
Phone: 305/734-2277