



Bahiagrass

(*Paspalum notatum*)
by Steve Batten

Bahiagrass is the only sod forming turf that can be grown in Florida without irrigation. Its excellent drought tolerance is due to a deep root system and the ability to go into a prolong dormancy. Therefore, it has found a place on golf courses in roughs where turf density is not as critical a factor as the fairway playing surfaces.

A prolific viable seed producer, bahiagrass can reproduce rapidly during warm humid conditions. It can also encroach onto bermudagrass fairways from stolons that grow laterally 1.5 feet per year. When a stolon is observed, the top or terminal end will be shiny, round, and purple in color. The terminal end will also be bulbous where sheaths come down into the stem. Since iron deficiency is common to bahiagrass, it will often have a light yellow green color in the spring.

Common post emergence controls include applications of MSMA in bermudagrass turf. At present, an experimental herbicide, Oust, is being evaluated for post emergence control of bahiagrass in bermudagrass at several southern universities. (Illustration from TURF MANAGEMENT FOR GOLF COURSES, Fall 1982, by James Beard, published by Burgess Publishing Co., Minneapolis, Minn., illustrated by Steve Batten)