

FGCSA research green to grow green real soon

University of Florida plant pathologist Dr. Monica Elliott is looking forward to studying bermudagrass decline and rhizoctonia on this large green under construction at the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Research and Education Center in Ft. Lauderdale.

Begun in July, the green was built mostly with donated materials and funds from golf course superintendents, she said. Seeding will begin in the spring now that a part-time technician has been found to take care of it.

The real story lies underneath the graded earth.

The research green is half built according to modified U.S. Golf



CHUCK WOODS/IFAS

Association standards, like most of the greens in Florida," Elliott explained. Missing is the choker layer, a layer of medium grade sand, coarser than the fine sand on top, but much finer than the gravel that forms the base.

One fourth exactly meets USGA specs, and another quarter

has a geo-textile material substituted for the choke layer.

"Eventually we can collect drainage water and compare different methods of construction," said Elliott.

Also to use the research green: Drs. John Cisar and Robin Giblin-Davis.

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