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Fred is in constant touch with his key personnel

HEN Fred Klauk was hand picked by Deane Beman, the bentgrass putting surfaces on the Players Club greens had become a joke.

"You can't read dirt," was Lee Trevino's description in 1985.

Dirt. Worse than at some of the public courses in Jacksonville, about as bad as you can get.

"They were mostly dead," Klauk remembers.

Beman would have none of this. This was his landmark course. It was an agronomic atrocity. So the PGA Tour Commissioner called on the superintendent he kept his eye on since working wonders with the TPC-Eagle Trace in Coral Springs, a man who knew Florida grasses, climate, and its terrain.

Fred Klauk grew up in North Palm Beach and came back in 1985 to finish runnerup in the Palm Beach County Amateur Championship. So he is more than just a turf management man. Klauk is a player, and he thinks that's the most important credential in his rise through the ranks of America's golf course superintendents. Beman now calls him the best in the business, and while that's subjective opinion, it certainly comes from a qualified source.

Beman was sold on Klauk after his work on the TPC-Eagle Trace course drew rave reviews from the Tour pros during the 1984-85 Honda Classic tournaments. But it was also Klauk's background that first got him hired with the Tour.

Klauk's first job after graduating from the University of Florida with an ornamental horticulture degree was the grassing and maintenance of the John's Island course in Vero Beach. Now 38, he worked with Pete Dye on that project, and then moved on to Pine Tree, where he interviewed with Sam Snead before he was hired to the exclusive club in Delray Beach. So besides having the experience of working under Dye (MD) who designed both the Players Club and Valley courses on the Sawgrass property (MD) Klauk could handle the pressure of working for a demanding course like Pine Tree.

Those factors got him hired for the job as TPC-Eagle Trace course superintendent in 1983, and they would ultimately lead Klauk to the Players Club-Sawgrass; first as a consultant and presently as the man in charge. Continued on p. 34



Fred oversees final grooming as the tournament gets underway.

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"I'M NO MIRACLE MAN," KLAUK SAID. "I JUST HAVE A GOOD STAFF. PLUS, I THINK IT HELPS THAT I'M A PLAYER, AND I KNOW WHAT THESE GUYS (TOUR PLAYERS) WANT."

Continued from p. 32

Beman has the final say, but much of it is intrusted in Klauk, who has a staff of 38 working for him. "I've got Deane's ear when it comes to agronomy." Klauk said at the recent Players Championship, won in a tournament record by Mark McCumber. It is no coincidence that the scores in the Tournament Players Championship have been lower since Klauk has given the players something to putt on.

"The golf course is finally playing the way it was intended to be played when Pete Dye designed it," Beman said. "It's in absolutely perfect condition now."

Klauk didn't have any time to sit back and enjoy the compliments during this year's Players Championship. A Saturday deluge flooded the golf course and postponed most of the third round, but Klauk's crew had it back in perfect playing condition by Sunday. Just your typical four-alarm fire in the life of a golf course superintendent.

"I'm no miracle man," Klauk said. "I just have a good staff. Plus, I think it helps that I'm a player, and I know what these guys, (Tour players) want."

Klauk got into this end of the business almost by default. When he went to the University of Florida, it was just about impossible to make the golf team. This was the NCAA championship era when the players included Andy North and Woody Blackburn.

Klauk was good (MD) but not that good. He loved golf, saw the demand for new courses and qualified superintendents, and went a different route. Rather than playing the game for a living, he decided to learn about providing playing surfaces for the toughest critics in the world.

It's a move Klauk doesn't regret at all, although he's playing less now than ever. Beman has him doing consulting work on other TPC courses, all the greens at the Players Club are being replanted this summer with Bermuda grass, and there's the matter of getting the Valley course ready for the 1988 Senior Tournament Players Championship. The Valley course is really Klauk's baby, he's been on-site since the ground breaking in 1986. Knowing that the new Sawgrass Marriott was expected to multiply resort business play on the two TPC courses, Klauk sold Beman on the more durable Bermuda grass. With all that traffic, Bermuda was a necessity, and Beman liked it enough to go in that direction on the Players Club, closing down June 15 to rebuild the greens.

The Valley course wraps around behind the Players Club, and has shot up in no time. The first sprigs of Bermuda were planted last summer, but under the direction of assistant Bob Clarkson, Klauk is pleased with its progress and knows it will be tournament ready by June 9.

The Valley is certainly in a lot better shape than Fred Klauk's golf game. Last year, he won the club championship at Oak Bridge, a residential course across the street from the Players Club. With Klauk averaging 12 hours a day on the job, it's doubtful his golf game is up to the same standards as his golf greens.

Deane Beman wouldn't have it any other way.

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by BUDDY CARMOUCHE C.G.C.S. **Bentgrass:** Hole-In-The-Wall Golf Club. Have We Created A Monster

HAT have we superintendents in South Florida done to ourselves?

Why do we let less than five percent of our members dictate our course of action even though it may not be agronomically sound?

Why do we overseed anyway?

Why do we use bentgrass?

These are a few of the questions I ask myself every year around overseeding time. Sure, a good overseeded bermuda green is beautiful and plays great, but at what cost?

Don't misunderstand what I'm saying here. I can understand the need for overseeding in central and north Florida and other parts of the South; places where frost occurs regularly during the winter months.

But here in South Florida frost is rare. Even in an unusually cold winter the maximum amount of time that bermuda might be dormant is about 30 days, and that is really stretching it. What is the worst we can expect to happen on those

speed of the green. It's going to increase but not to a great extent; because, let's keep in mind, those 30 days aren't going to be back-to-back. A cold snap might last a couple of days and then there will be a few warm days and nights. The greens will have time to recover their health and stamina.

Now compare that to the amount of time that play is difficult due to overseeding. First you have two weeks to a month of slow greens prior to establishment after overseeding. And that's provided that nature is cooperative, which she seldom is.

Last year many superintendents in our area had to overseed twice due to an extremely warm November and December. The bentgrass was dying from the vigorous growth of the bermuda which never went dormant. And of course there is always the torrential down-pour that occurs just after you've finished overseeding, leaving the bentgrass in puddles that dot the greens.

Now take into consideration the two to four weeks of transition from bent to bermuda. You've lost a lot more quality playing time overseeding than you have without overseeding.

Who cares? you say. Your members aren't here during the growing in and transition stages.

Not true. Every year our winter guests are coming earlier and staying later. Many of them come and spend several weeks in the summer and many more are making Florida their permanent yearround residence. These people feel like second-class citizens because they have to suffer through poor playing conditions due to overseeding.

Still none of this takes into consideration the money spent on seed, chemicals and labor. Not to mention that a green that shares its growing space with two different types of turf isn't going to be as healthy as the green that only has to support one turf type.

I have been overseeding with bent and saber over the past seven years and have had excellent putting surfaces for five of those seven years. I feel certain that I could have achieved the same results without overseeding.

Toward that end I would like to see all the superintendents in Southern Florida go back to one grass year-round. I think that in our quest for excellence we may have created a monster in the form of overseeding.







For over fifty years redtop has been successfully used as a component in overseeding mixtures designed to provide winter cover for dormant bermuda-grass on golf course putting greens.

- Streaker Redtop is in the bentgrass family (Agrostis alba) being a close relative to creeping (Agrostis palustris) and colonial (Agrostis tenuis) bentgrass.
- As a member of the bentgrass family Streaker Redtop has a high seed count with approximately 6 million seeds per pound.
- Streaker Redtop has better seedling vigor, while providing a faster rate of establishment compared to Penncross, Penneagle, Emerald or Seaside Creeping Bentgrass.
- Streaker Redtop will springtransition earlier compared to Penncross, Penneagle, Emerald

"Streaker is the Redtop that will enhance your winter overseeding mixture."

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or Seaside bentgrass. Streaker will produce a winter turf with bentgrass qualities without the typical problem of bentgrass persisting through mid-summer.

- 1. Supplement ryegrass, ryegrass/ fescue or ryegrass/fescue/Poa trivialis overseeding mixtures with Streaker Redtop. Performance of these mixtures can be enhanced by applying 2-3 lbs./1,000 sq. ft. of Streaker Redtop in addition to your regular overseeding mixture.
- 2. Streaker Redtop is compatible for use in mixtures with other bentgrass varieties. If you want similar quality provided by 100% bentgrass overseedings, mix 50% Streaker Redtop with 50% Penncross, Penneagle, Emerald or Seaside bentgrass. Recommended seeding rate 5 lbs./1,000 sq. ft.

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Turfgrass Field Day - Dallas, Texas



EXAS Turfgrass Field Day-1988 will be hosted by the Texas A & M University Research and Extension Center in Dallas on August 10, 1988. Scientists and specialists from throughout the state involved in Turfgrass research and extension will be available for discussion of your turf concerns.

Information will be provided through individual field tours on water-use rates of existing and newly developed turfgrass cultivars, fungicide trials on the control of brown patch on 'Raleigh' St. Augustinegrass, chemical and biological control studies on white grub on St. Augustinegrass and other turfgrasses. Soil fertility will be discussed for the establishment and maintenance of the major turfgrasses of the Metroplex and Southwest. In addition, the breeding, development and evaluation of zoysiagrasses, bentgrasses, buffalograsses and St. Augustinegrasses will be discussed.

Formal presentations will be made on root zone modification techniques, the latest in weed control, and root observation techniques used in Texas and other research locations in the United States.

> August 10, 1988 Registration 9:00 AM No Host Lunch





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Bentgrass in Florida Year-Round

by SCOTT WAHLIN Miami Lakes C.C.

do not believe that bentgrass as a year-round putting surface in Florida should be promoted by the Florida Golf Course Superintendents. I believe the use of bentgrass in this manner will hinder the consistency of putting greens in Florida, develop additional disease and control problems, and put unreasonable demands on the industry.

Many times I have heard people speak in terms of percentage of bentgrass in overseeded greens. If a green is 50% bentgrass, does this mean that each square foot of that surface is approximately 50:50 bentgrass to bermudagrass? This has certainly not been the case in the bentgrass greens I have seen. In these greens there was definitely a much higher percentage of bermudagrass in wear areas (areas where pins are frequently located). Bentgrass that was persisting was spotty. Is it possible to get these two creeping grasses to form a uniformly blended community? I believe putting quality would have been more consistent on these greens if they had been 100% bermudagrass. Another factor concerning consistency relates one green to another on the same golf course. Most courses have individual greens that behave better than others. I believe this problem is compounded when bentgrass is added. Percentages of bentgrass from green to green on a given course will vary.

The pests and control measures associated with bentgrass in Florida are confusing. The spray regimens which have been discussed seem excessive to me. I know there are other superintendents who feel the same. We deal with these chemicals all the time. How are these spray programs going to sound to someone who is already upset with pesticide use? I believe we are looking for real trouble in this area. Allow me to relate growing bentgrass in the Florida summer to raising cattle in the desert. It makes about as much sense to me as to blame Pythium spp. for the death of a bentgrass plant in the Florida heat and humidity as blaming the buzzard for the death of the cow in the desert. Killing the buzzards is pointless.

I think our industry is in an exceptional position to look towards the future. We have an outstanding product to offer. It is my opinion that the use of bentgrass year-round in Florida is unnecessary and will eventually hinder the growth of our industry in Florida. It was said at the Bentgrass Seminar on October 9th that the very wealthy will demand and have the best possible playing conditions. I know this is true, but I have a feeling that in Florida they will be putting on bermudagrass in the summer.

