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ABOUT OUR COVER

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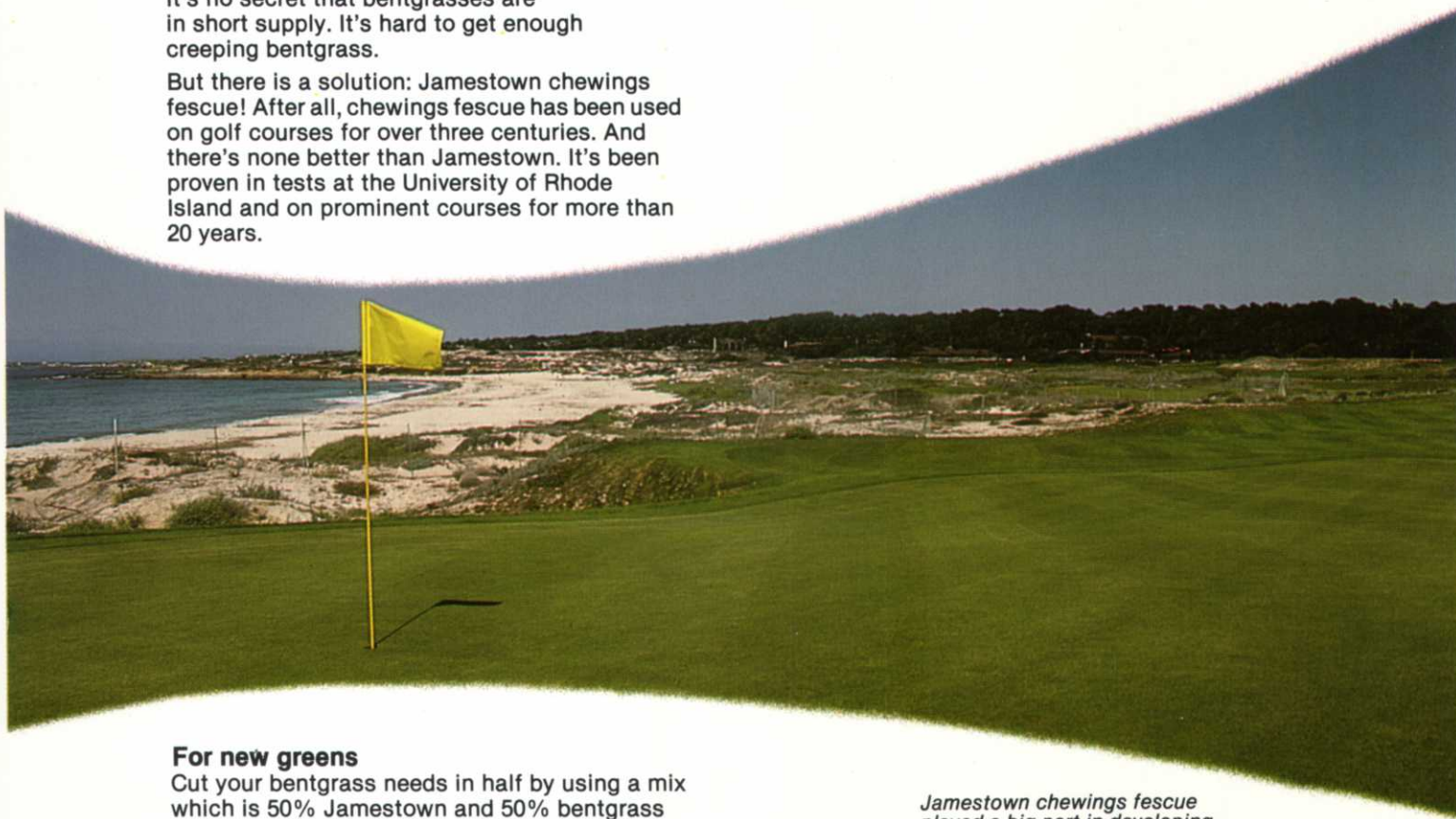
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President's Message



Bentgrass — Friend or Foe?

Past President Reed LeFebvre's message states it very accurately, "Bentgrass, next to the lottery, is the biggest gamble in Florida."

The problem experienced at The PGA Tournament and The USGA Amateur Tournament during the months of August and September indicate the fact that serious problems can quickly appear with Bentgrass greens when weather conditions and Mother Nature fail to cooperate.

There have been numerous problems throughout the Southeast with Bentgrass greens this past year and there will probably be more in the future, as we attempt to grow a Northern Bentgrass in the South, throughout the year.

Speaking as a Superintendent, I know that most Superintendents strive for perfection in their job of providing first class playing conditions for their members; and especially for USGA and PGA Tournaments. I am sure that Superintendents everywhere shared the gut-wrenched feeling of frustration that those Superintendents in charge of those tournaments experienced.

Congratulations and respect for those individuals who in spite of adversity carry on the job and see the fight through, keeping their cool and accomplishing their objective. Possibly it is because of working with nature that keeps most Superintendents "real and humble" people. Superintendents know from experience that even the best planned programs can be changed or completely destroyed at the whims of nature.

On October 8, 1987, The Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association sponsored a seminar on Bentgrass at the J.D.M. Golf Club. Tom Burrows and Marie Roberts are to be congratulated on the efficient, very successful planning of this major event, which attracted a large turnout of Golf Course Superintendents and Club Officials.

The speakers, all experts from throughout the US and Florida provided factual information as it relates to turf management for all turf, but more specifically growing Bentgrass in Florida.

I think everyone associated with turf management knows, or should know at this time, that excellent turf conditions do not just happen. Good clubs, in the north, as well as in the south, have a history of consistency in sound cultural management practices and have practiced them over a period of years.

I wonder if some people think that just planting Bentgrass is a "silver bullet" type approach to solving a problem which often relates to poor initial construction, improper soil conditions, drainage problems, etc.

Let us get "real" when we demand playing conditions like the course we played the other day (the one that was properly planned and constructed).

Let us think about proven, factual information that is available to everyone involved in the turf and golf business. The USGA Green Section, Federal and State Extension Services, agronomists, pathologists, soil scientists, plant breeders, entomologists, all offer to us factual information. Yes, we do still have a lot to learn about the causes of soil conditions and plant diseases; but we must listen to the experts and examine the facts before we make decisions about our turf programs.

This issue of The Florida Green is devoted to the bentgrass controversy that has developed in our state. Club officials will find this issue packed with factual, scientific information from the experts, on Bentgrass greens, as well as Bermuda greens and overseeding.

(cont. on page 14)



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Letters to the Editor

Dear Dan:

First, congratulations on running away with all of the "Oscars" of our profession.

Receiving these awards does not mean you should now relax. It means you must go forward at a much faster pace. Go, Go, Go! (perhaps beginning as a GCSAA Director??). Irene can handle the *Florida Green* — Go for it!

The enclosed packet contains the Bentgrass survey summary, the seminar summary, thoughts on Bentgrass — Part II, Dr. Dudeck's letter, and Larry Kieffer's column from *Florida Golfweek*. We would enjoy hearing your comments and suggestions on Bentgrass — Part II. Note that the seminar summary will appear in the January issue of the *Florida Green*.

Thanks to you and Irene for being there. Sorry we took so long getting the article to you for the *Florida Green*. Marie said she will be faster the next time (somebody has to take the blame!).

Best regards,
Tom Burrows
Director of Education

Dan,

I have been a golf course superintendent in Florida for many years and as such have enjoyed very much the *Florida Green* magazine. The articles are both informative and helpful.

In January this year, I took the position as superintendent for the Emirates Golf Club which is located in the United Arab Emirates (on the Arabian Continent). Growing conditions in the region are similar to those in Florida. Bermuda grasses are used on the golf course which was designed by Karl Litten.

It is my intention to keep informed with the developments in the South Florida area; hence, I would like to get information on how to again receive the *Florida Green*. Details can be mailed to either address shown below:

Kerry Son
Karl Litten Overseas (Ltd.)
P.O. Box 12188
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Dear Dan:

As I usually do when "The Florida Green" comes, I promptly zipped through the Summer 1987 issue to see what was on the minds of my best clientele, and found most of the issue to be as informative as ever. However, I was dismayed when I found my old "Turf Nematode Control Update" article reprinted nearly 3 years after it was current. If that was a signal that I have not sent you anything for a long time, I got the message, and enclose a new article that you may want to use to correct some of the info in the one printed in the Summer issue. It will be distributed to County Agents in August, so you may also see it in other publications.

As Reed noted in his President's Message, there have been many changes in the chemicals that we have available to manage turf, and the article on p. 55-56 is a perfect illustration of that point. As you can see by comparing the enclosed manuscript with the printed article, three of the six products listed in 1984 are no longer available for turf, one product can be added, and there are some changes in details of use of one of the remaining three: Nematicur 15G, Dasanit 15G, and Mocap E.C. are no longer legal for use on turf; Nematicur 3 has been added for fairway treatment; rates and home lawn use restrictions for Mocap 10G have changed a bit. It is conceivable that the implementation of Endangered Species labelling may effectively eliminate most nematicides from most courses during the next 2-3 years, so this will continue to be a hot and unstable topic for the golf course industry.

I'll try to write you more often if you'll promise not to run any pesticide recommendation articles that are over 18 months (maximum) old.

Sincerely,
ROBERT A. DUNN
Extension Nematologist

Dear Mr. Jones:

I have just been given a copy of the Summer Issue of *FLORIDA GREEN* and, being the individual pictured on the cover, I wondered if it would be at all possible to obtain the original of this picture.

If you keep these pictures in a permanent file perhaps I could get a copy.

Your consideration of this request will be most appreciated.

Sincerely,
Robert S. Schwenger