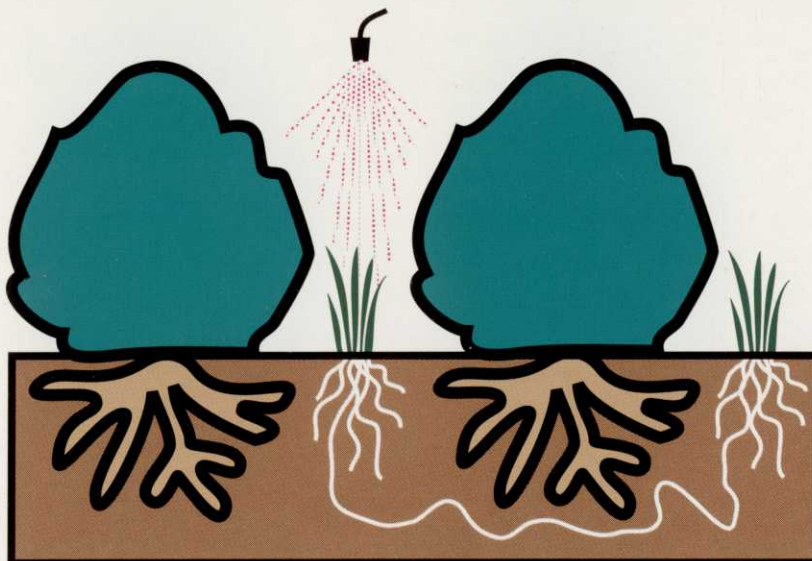


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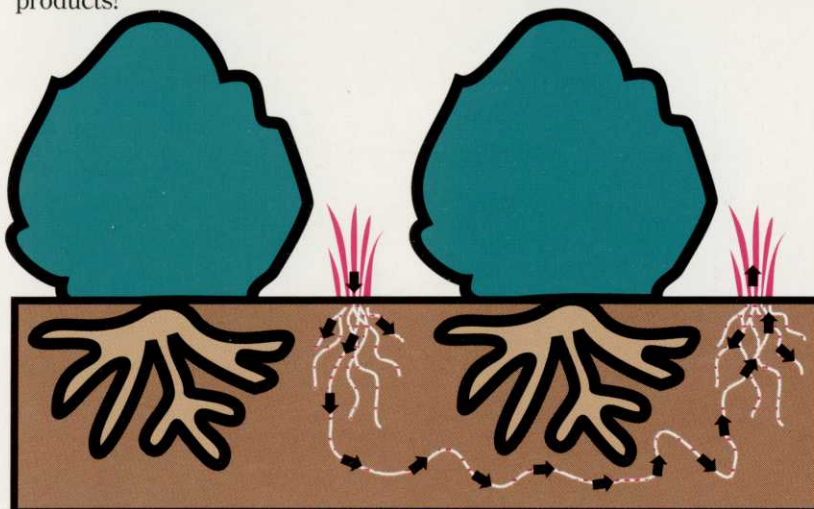


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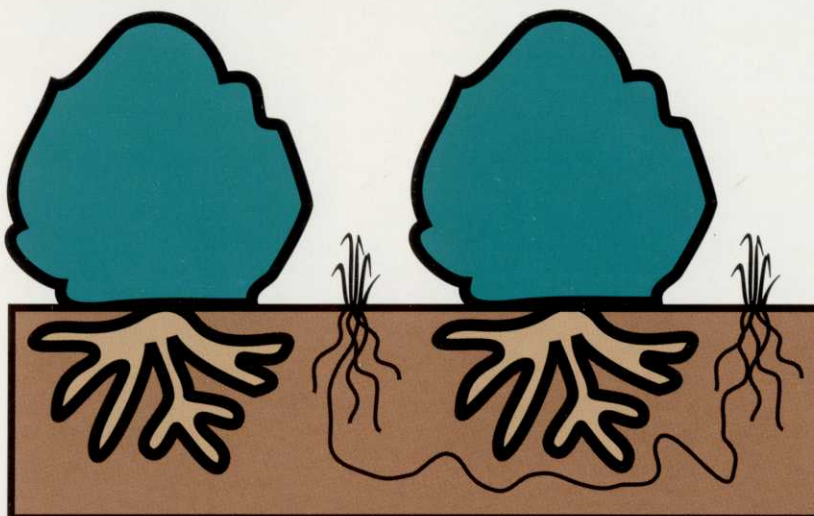
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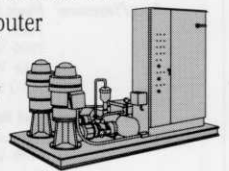
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Official Voice of the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association

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TURFGRASS QUIZ

OMASCAROS



Turfgrass area: sports field.

Location: New Jersey.

Problem: Turf under stress in large circular pattern.

Answer on Page 34

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As I write my last President's Message, I would like to reflect back to my first one and the three goals — association growth, research, and pesticide awareness.

During my term as president, we have increased our membership from 685 to 747. We also added a new chapter, Seven Rivers, which brings us to a total of 11. I would like to thank Eddie Snipes, Membership Chairman, and all who helped in this association growth.

Our research green, now dedicated to Otto Schmeisser, has two USGA projects under way as well as fertilizer trials which will give us beneficial information. Thanks to Kevin Downing, the committee, Marcus Prevatte, and all members who made this research green a reality.

During this year we have seen the start of the Florida Golf Council. Already they are lobbying for us against the proposed water-use tax. Fellow superintendents, I cannot stress enough how important this Council can be for all in the golf industry and I urge you to support the Florida Golf Council. Hopefully, Tim Hiers will have the time and energy to stay on this Council.

If this has been a successful year, it is because of the cooperation I received from the membership who put in the extra time to make it one.

Thank you.



Ray Hansen
FGCSA President

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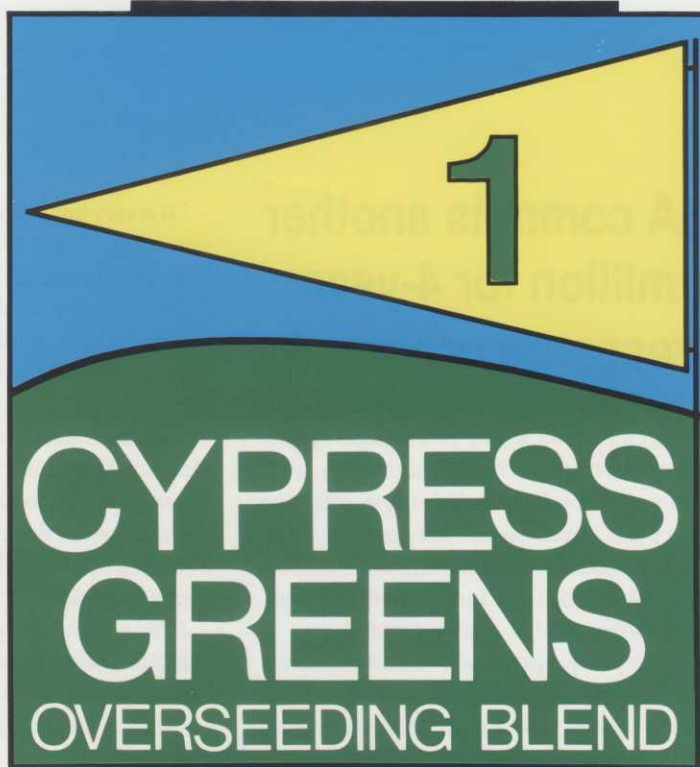
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TURF NEWS

ROUNDUP

USGA commits another \$4.1 million for 4-year turf research program

The USGA has extended the turfgrass research program begun in 1982 with a \$4.1 million appropriation for projects to be conducted through 1997.

The money will fund research projects, still to be selected, in plant improvement and resource management. The former includes turfgrass breeding and biotechnology; the latter includes cultural practices, biotechnology and pest management.

A request for pre-proposals will be sent to university researchers next month and final decisions on projects to be funded will be made by the Turfgrass Research Committee in March.

In the final round of awards for the previous USGA program, University of Florida researchers at the Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center received funding for two projects at the FGCSA's Otto Schmeisser Memorial Research Green on the FLREC campus.

Pathologist Monica Elliott is looking for a "good twin" to the evil fungus *Gaeumannomyces graminis* that causes bermudagrass decline.

"The idea is to introduce an organism with all the same characteristics as the pathogenic strain except pathogenicity (the ability to cause disease) and let it colonize the roots and protect the roots from pathogenic strains," she writes. "It's something like 'king of the root' or 'possession is nine-tenths of the law' or 'I got here first!'"

Dr. John Cisar is only a few months away from beginning actual tests of pesticides on the USGA green.

Both researchers said the USGA announcement was "important news," and both expect to submit pre-proposals to continue and expand their current projects as well as undertake new ones.

"It is very important for the USGA to be a leader," says Cisar. "Most of the research money we get is from private sources."

Determining suitable levels of salinity in recycled water would be particularly appropriate for the golf industry, Cisar said, and it's a project that interests him.

"Bermudagrass decline, and the related patch diseases up North, are root rot diseases that are extremely difficult to control," says Elliott. "Even now, chemicals alone do not do the job. It will truly require a combination of cultural, chemical and biological control practices."

Both researchers, professors at the Fort Lauderdale REC, said that state budget cuts have seriously hampered their work.

"They're talking about turning off my lights," Cisar said.

"We need funds to buy the basics like petri plates, media and chemicals," said Elliott.

Among the objectives of the USGA's original 10-year research program was the significant reduction of water use and maintenance costs by breeding new grasses and developing improved cultural maintenance practices.

Two improved turfgrass varieties, NuMex Sahara bermudagrass and NE 84-609 buffalograss are now available for use on golf courses and other turf areas as a result of USGA funding. Much of the background work has been accomplished with the breeding programs sponsored by the USGA and the organization expects more varieties to be released this decade.

During the next five-year phase of the program, emphasis will be placed on developing grasses and cultural maintenance practices that conserve natural resources. New grasses will be sought that require less water, pesticides and fertilizer, and that exhibit other desirable characteristics, including

- ability to survive temperature extremes
- tolerance of non-potable water

ALSO

Three Floridians were among seven golf course architects taken into the American Society of Golf Course Architects. 12

The International Olympic Committee has recognized the World Amateur Golf Council as the sole international federation for golf, making the game eligible to become part of the Olympic Games starting in 2000. 13

The National Golf Foundation reports 72 Florida golf courses in the planning stage. The complete list is on page... 15