



Photo by Joel Jackson

The perennial peanut, *Arachis glabrata* alias *Ecoturf!* Lawn cover of the future?

with bright yellow flowers sound?

hosted a Field Day to extol the virtues and potential of the perennial peanut. The event was supported by the FTGA and the SWFWMD. Alan Puckett, FTGA board member and Ridge Chapter president represented the FTGA. Research for the event was funded by SWFWMD, Polk County Board of County Commissioners, The University of Florida involving the collaborative efforts of the departments of Agronomy, Environmental Horticulture, Agricultural Engineering and the Polk County Mined Lands Agricultural Research/Demonstration Project.

The audience was a cross section of the turf industry from superintendents and commercial lawn managers to sod producers. The agronomists were looking for an evaluation of commercial potential for the peanut from the audience, and I'd say the overall reaction was very positive.

Sections of the research plots are going to be open for bidding to sod growers so, it will be out there one of these days.

The history of the perennial peanut, pardon the pun, is "rooted" in forage crop research. Similar in nutrient value and digestibility to alfalfa, the peanut is better suited to southern climates.

The selection and breeding of peanut varieties over the past 58 years has yielded two low-growing types called Arblick and Ecoturf, which are now being explored as possible alternative, ecologically sound, lawn covers. Slides were shown at the Field Day that showed the use of the peanut as a lawn, right-of-way turf, and erosion control on road cuts.

The perennial peanut or rhizoma peanut (*Arachis glabrata*) is a member of the same genus as the eating peanut (*Arachis hypogea*).

Found a turfgrass just now!

Maintenance Cost Comparison between St. Augustinegrass and Perennial Peanut

Item	St. Augustine	Peanut
March: 16-4-8 w/minors @ 6.3 #/1,000 S.F.	\$23.76	
April 1 - November 1: Mow once/week = 30 times	750.00	
April 15 to October 15: Mow once/every 4 weeks		\$200.00
April: Spray w/Dursban @ 1.5 oz and Daconil @ 6 oz/1,000 S.F.	63.87	
May: SulPo Mag @ 2.3 #/1,000 S.F.		18.20
May: Milorganite @ 17 #/1,000 S.F.	35.40	
June: Spray w/Dursban & Daconil	63.87	
July: Fusilade @.74 oz/1,000 S.F.		64.04
August: Spray w/ Dursban & Daconil	63.87	
August: Spray w/Fusilade		64.04
September: 16-4-8 w/minors	23.76	
All year: Irrigation St. Augustine - None to Peanut	227.00	
November - March: Mow every 3 weeks = 7 times	175.00	
October 15 to April 15: Mow twice		50.00
Yearly Total	\$1,426.53	\$396.28

The perennial peanut or rhizoma peanut (*Arachis glabrata*) is a member of the same genus as the eating peanut (*Arachis hypogea*). However, it usually only produces a primitive single-celled, thin-shelled pod.

However, it usually only produces a primitive single-celled, thin-shelled pod. Reproduction commercially by seed is not practical. The plant is best reproduced by digging up some rhizome material and planting it in a new location.

The foliage texture is more coarse than one usually associates with a lawn, because of its broadleaf character, but is a beautiful dark green, and the yellow flowers give it a perennial "meadow" look. The turf rarely grows above 4-6 inches, but performs best when mowed at 1.5 inches every 4-6 weeks (*See photo*).

Jim Stricker, Polk County extension agent, did a comparison of maintenance costs between a commercially-maintained

10,000-square-foot St. Augustine (Floritam) yard and one of equal size planted in perennial peanut. You can compare the physical and financial inputs in the table.

I think the folks over in Forage and Grazing have stumbled onto something that just might be a hit for us folks in Turf and Ornamental. It certainly won't hurt to check it out!

Peanuts! Get your dark green peanuts, right here! Peanuts!

Credits: Technical and historical information provided by Dr. E. C. French, Dr. G. M. Prine, and Mr. Jim Stricker.

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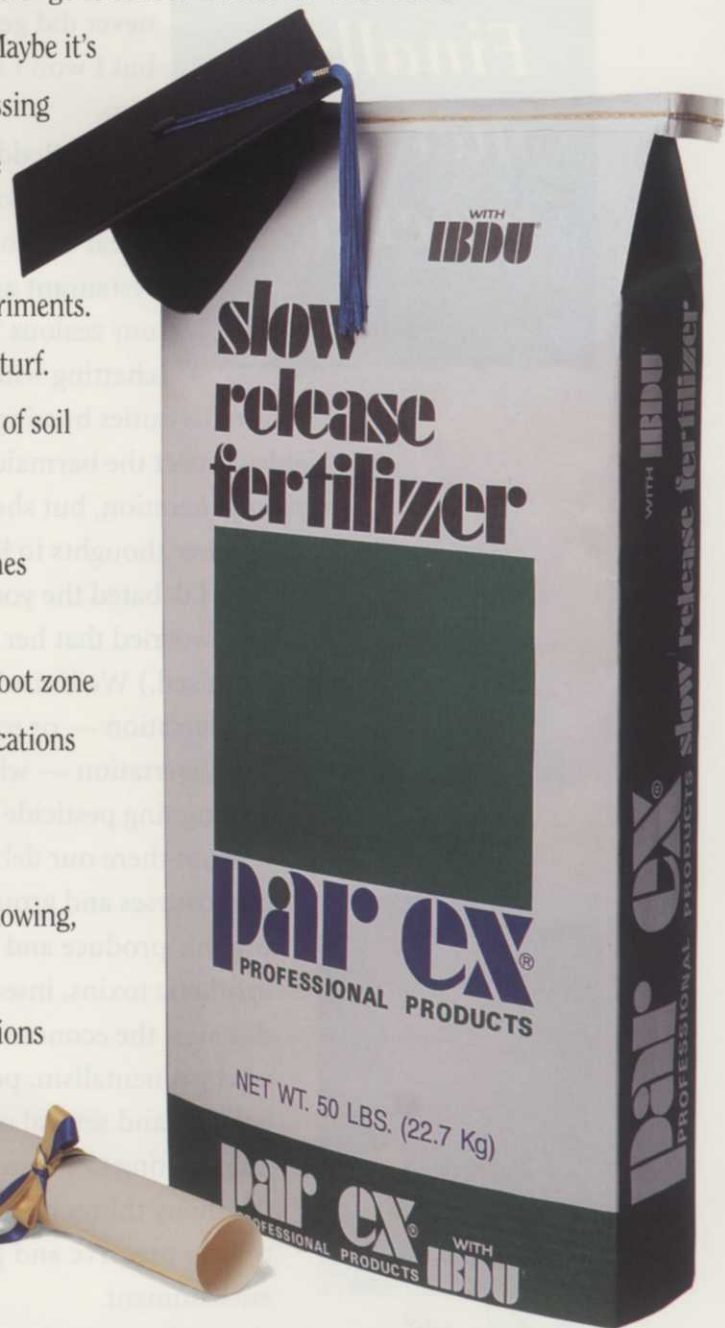
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*Finally
met a
greenie*

After all these years of reading and writing about “eco-warriors” — the nameless and faceless foot soldiers who fill the ranks of the green legions, I finally got to meet one. Well, sort of meet one. I never did get his name, but I won’t soon forget him.

Jerry Redden and I had met for a drink and a bite to eat at a local waterfront restaurant and overheard our zealous “greenie” chatting with the barmaid

between his duties bussing tables (I highly suspect the barmaid was of similar generation, but she just listened and kept her thoughts to herself while Jerry and I debated the young zealot, probably worried that her tip would be compromised.) We intruded into their conversation — or more precisely, his dissertation — when he began haranguing pesticide use on lawns.

From there our debate shifted to golf courses and groundwater, organic produce and natural vs. synthetic toxins, insect-borne diseases, the economics of environmentalism, population and growth, and several other topics, culminating in his summation of the many things he personally did to help preserve and protect the environment.

For his early age (early 20s), he was fairly knowledgeable, but only with the one-sided and all too familiar

propaganda from the major environmental organizations. Dissenting opinions were not considered — he believed what he wanted to believe and everyone else was lying and corrupt. Scientists were bought off. The EPA always compromised and did little to affect necessary changes. Business cares for nothing but profits.

When I tried explaining the ever-increasing high cost of environmental regulation and its strangling effects on the economy and people’s income, he shrugged that off with the rejoinder that “People who can’t afford it need to get better-paying jobs.” When Jerry talked about the lives saved from the use of pesticides punctuated with examples of bodies lying along the side of the road in underdeveloped parts of the world without access to pesticides, he replied, “So! Maybe we need more dead bodies lying along the road to help save this planet.”

That cold and callous remark made my blood boil at him and all the other greenies that show such concern for other species but little to none for their own. How can anyone look at another human being without some compassion, but instead, evaluate their life against a measure of their use of the earth’s resources?

How arrogant to judge themselves so deserving and worthy of life on this planet while those who don’t think and act similarly are unworthy.

Aren’t humans worthy of an effort to educate them to environmental

Mark My Words



Mark Jarrell
Mark Jarrell, CGCS
Assistant Editor

Control Summer Stress Complex*

*Occurs when stresses such as Rhizoctonia and Pythium species combine with heat, traffic and other factors. This results in reduced turfgrass vigor.



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awareness? Wouldn't our dollars be better spent on this education, and on population-control measures, rather than being wasted on environmental legislation that does little or nothing for the environment, but strangles the economy? I wanted to punch the young punk out!

He was young. He was cynical. He was passionate. He was a fanatic. Passion without compassion. Though all involved in the environmental movement are not fanatics, this "elitist" attitude seems to be held by quite a few. How a movement founded on concern and compassion for living things produces adherents without concern or compassion for human beings is beyond me.

Maybe all of us have a limit to our compassion, and we have to pick and choose the objects of our care and concern. The Information Age brings the world's problems to our doorstep on a daily basis, and we just can't deal with it all. Maybe a shift from traditional reli-

gious values has made us less tolerant of others and their beliefs. Whatever the reason, it does seem like society is divided into warring camps on so many issues, with too many fanatics and too little tolerance (myself included for wanting to punch out the young Captain Planet). Fanaticism always seems to lead to conflict and violence.

The point of this article is to emphasize that there are extremists flying the environmental banner — I have finally met one face-to-face rather than just read about them — and our first reaction may be that we need to fight fire with fire. After calmer reflection and deliberation, I realize that what is needed is a continued effective, intelligent, and resolute response, gambling on the Silent Majority's ability to apply a little commonsense and logic to environmental concerns if they are given both sides of an issue.

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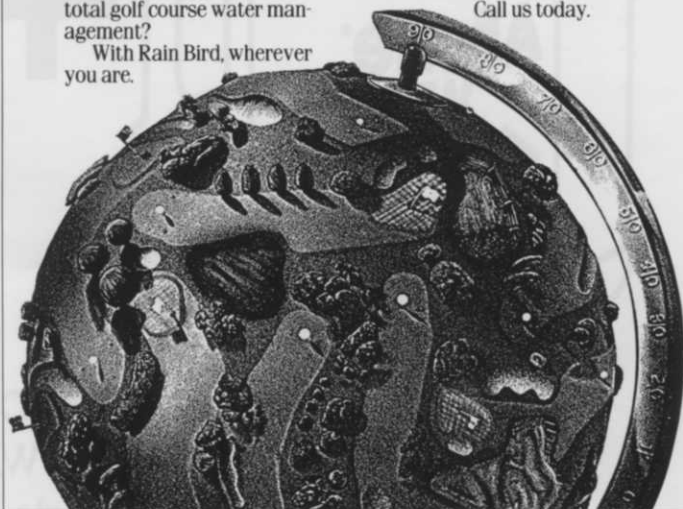
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Cypress' prostrate growth habit is apparent in these P.V.P. trials. One picture is worth 1000 words.

TMI will be happy to send to you copies of the complete trial data for any of the trials we have mentioned below.

University of Florida 1991-92 Overseeding Trials Gainesville, Fla.		
	Mean Quality	
	Scores	Color
Cypress	7.2	7.8
Sabre	7.2	5.4

University of Arizona 1992-93 Overseeding Trials		
	Mean Quality	
	Scores	Color
Cypress	5.4	5.3
Laser	5.0	5.0

USGA Stimpmeter tests at University of Arizona revealed a higher average ball speed of 92 inches for Cypress; better than for Laser.

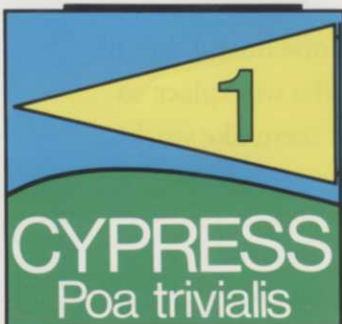
"Although Cypress and Sabre Rough Bluegrass had equal seasonal Turf Quality Ratings of 7.2, the "Cypress" cultivar had better color and less dollarspot disease in May."
Univ. of Florida Gainesville 1991-1992 overseed Trial.

Turfgrass	Monthly and seasonal mean values for turf quality on cool-season grasses overseeded on a "Tifdwarf" bermudagrass putting green from Dec. 1993 to Mar. 1994 at Gainesville, FL.				
	Dec.	Jan.	Quality Feb. Rating	Mar.	Mean
Cypress	6.8	8.2	8.0	6.8	7.25a
Colt	7.1	8.2	7.8	8.5	7.19a
PT-GH-92	6.3	7.8	8.0	7.1	7.19a
LPT-CT (Loft)	6.6	7.8	8.0	6.8	7.16a
PT-GH-89 C11 (Dark Horse)	8.1	7.3	7.8	7.0	6.97a
Danish Common	7.5	8.2	7.5	5.8	6.94a
LPT-HWY (Loft)	6.6	7.7	7.9	8.2	6.88a
Winterplay	6.6	7.5	7.8	6.3	6.88a

Quality mean based on eight visual ratings on a scale of 1-9 where 9 = best

Establishment rate of Poa trivialis varieties overseeded on dormant bermudagrass in Florida (data from Dr. A.E. Dudeck, Univ. of Florida)			
days:	7	14	21
	—% ground cover—		
1991			
Cypress	2	23	79
Sabre	2	17	70
1992			
Cypress	87	93	86
Laser	36	58	83

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They communicate freely with all members of the staff. They don't hold grudges. They lend a hand whenever some one needs help. They operate and maintain the equipment safely and properly. They take pride in their work and get satisfaction from a job well done. They make suggestions and have ideas to improve the operation. They pay attention to details.

They are courteous to members, guests and fellow employees. They go the extra mile without being asked. They are honest. They will make mistakes, but they learn from them and don't repeat them. They ask questions when they don't understand directions or when they are curious about the job at hand. They earn my trust and respect.



Joel D. Jackson
Joel Jackson, CGCS
Editor

They have a sense of humor.

The boss needs a sense of humor when the same few repeat offenders trot out a new generation of maladies and illnesses to replace the old, worn out, broken-alarm-clock and flat-tire stories. Remember, truth is stranger than fiction!

Mechanical Malaise. Day 1: "I can't come in today. Rain is forecasted and my windshield wiper motor is broken." Day 2: "Still waiting for that wiper motor to come in. Hope it clears up soon. I need the money." Remedy: Open an account at the NAPA store.

Silica Sillycosis. "We were stranded at the beach. I saw Mark drop his keys in the sand. I told him he'd better pick them up or they'd get lost. He didn't. They did!" Remedy: Bend over.

Intestinal Insensitivity. "Something I ate last night didn't agree with me." "What did you eat?" "Six dozen shrimp!" Remedy: Join Jenny Craig. She only gives you six shrimp!

Sick Child Syndrome. "I can't come in today. I have to take the baby to the doctor." "Can't your wife take the baby?" "No! She works!" Remedy: Hire the wife!

Ouch! That last one hurt didn't it? Maybe you make the workplace so pleasant it doesn't seem like work!
Carpe diem!

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