

## News

### Rutgers royalties support research

Lofts' Seed Inc.'s annual royalty payment to Rutgers University this winter amounted to \$288,000 to support the school's turfgrass research.

The royalties are generated from international and domestic sales of Lofts' proprietary turfgrass varieties. The money is used to support several research, teaching and extension programs at Rutgers.

## 'Come one, come all,' investors told

BY PETER BLAIS

Unlike many proposed golf course projects, **money**, not environmental approval, is the stumbling block to building a new 18-hole course in Yakima, Wash.

County officials cleared the way for a course and residential lots on the 200-acre Hull family site back in 1986. But the money wasn't there.

Then last fall, a group of three local businessmen took an option on the property. They pared down the project to just the golf course, then offered 1,000 shares in the course for \$3,800 apiece to the general public, hoping to raise the

\$3.8 million needed to build the facility. But only 100 people signed the letters of intent by the Dec. 1 deadline.

"Now it's on to Plan B," said Don Powell, one of the members of the executive committee.

Plan B calls for just 100 shares at the same \$3,800 apiece. That \$380,000, plus the investors' personal guarantee for another \$18,000 per share should the project fail, would be used to secure a \$1.8-million loan toward construction of a no-frills, \$3.2-million course. The remaining \$1 million would come from the sale of land originally set aside for house lots.

In exchange for their \$3,800 and personal guarantee on the loan (which Powell estimates would be paid off from the course's cash flow within 20 years), the investors would receive a \$380-per-share discount on their yearly membership fee and a percentage of the profits once the loan was retired.

It sounds good on paper. But paper may be as far as the Apple Creek Golf Course gets unless Powell and partners Scott Wilson and Louis Wishert have their option on the property extended past the Dec. 26 expiration date.

"Our only hammer in this is the information we've gathered over

the past few months," said Powell. "We've talked to a lot of developers from outside the area who might be interested in doing something here. The owners are evaluating whether to extend our option. We're trying to decide whether to sit on our thumbs until then or keep on trying to get more information."

One of the things Powell would like to get a better handle on, if his group is to continue, is the annual expense of maintaining the course. That figure will be very important to the bank he approaches for a loan. His research has revealed costs ranging from \$10,000 to \$25,000 per hole.

"Right now I'm figuring about \$17,500 a hole. But I really believe we can do it for less," said Powell, referring to the \$10,000 figure used by a local course.

It's the crowded conditions at such local courses, plus the willingness of Seattle golfers to drive long distances (2-1/2 hours in this case) to escape the even-more-crowded conditions in the state's largest city, that lead Powell and his associates to believe the West Valley needs a new 18.

"We'd like to be playing on the course by 1991," said Powell, secretary-treasurer of a heavy construction equipment rental company. "I have an excavator sitting in the yard right now. If someone comes in with the money today, we'll have it out there moving earth tomorrow."

### Dedrick named Man of Year

The Irrigation Association handed out several awards during its International Irrigation Exposition & Technical Conference in Anaheim, Calif.

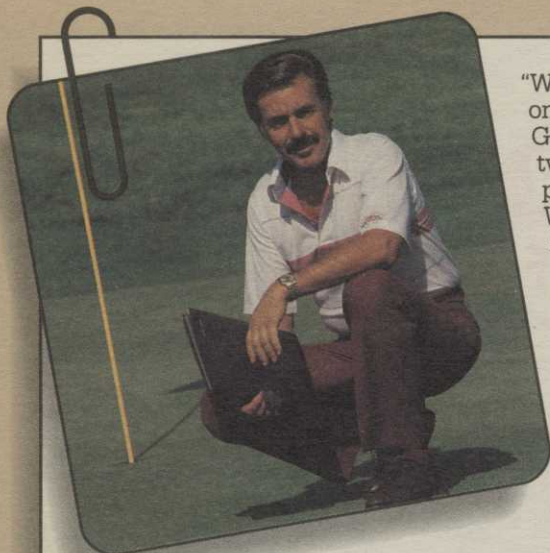
Agricultural engineer Dr. Allen R. Dedrick was named 1989 Man of the Year, while Robert Morgan received the Industry Achievement Award and Professor Jan Feyen received the sixth Crawford Reid Memorial Award for his achievements in promoting proper irrigation techniques and procedures, and for bringing about major advancements of the irrigation industry outside the United States.

Dedrick, who has worked at the USDA's Agricultural Research Service since 1962, has played an integral role in promoting industry professionalism through the IA's certification program and involvement with national and international standards development.

Morgan was honored for outstanding contributions to the development of the irrigation industry and the products it uses. His career spans six decades. He became the IA's sixth president in 1957. The IA's historian since 1987, the Portland, Ore., native is assembling the first documented history of American irrigation for IA.

Feyen teaches soil and water engineering at Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in Leuven, Belgium, where he has been a professor in the Department of Land Management since 1984.

# BENTGRASS



"We planted the 12th hole on Singing Hills' Willow Glen Course to SR 1020 two years ago, and it performed admirably. What's really significant is that members keep asking what we've done to the 12th hole that makes it putt so well! The members like SR 1020's performance from the players' point of view; we like that too, but we also value that we

haven't had to change our normal greens maintenance program to achieve the results."

*David Fleming*

David Fleming, C.G.C.S.  
Superintendent, Singing Hills Country Club  
El Cajon, CA

### Finally! New Cultivars Bred To Meet the Needs of the Superintendent and the Golfer!

At Seed Research, we listen to your needs. You've been wanting a bentgrass that's tough, looks great, and is easy to maintain ... but one that's also fine-textured, with good putting green quality. And available.

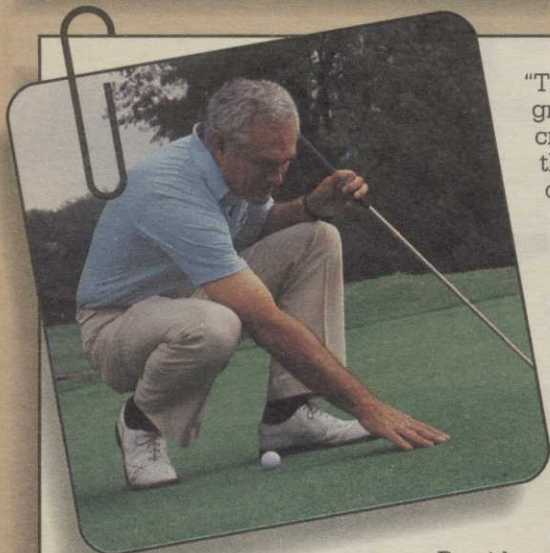
So when the bentgrass shortage became apparent in 1983, we acted quickly and acquired parental germplasm from two of the finest bentgrass collections in the country — the University of Rhode Island and the University of Arizona. From those collections, we developed two exciting new creeping bentgrass cultivars, Providence (SR 1019) and SR 1020.

Evaluation on golf courses and at universities has shown that both these bents produce the kind of turf you demand: dark green, aggressive, competitive, easy to manage, good disease resistance, good stress tolerance, and compatible with existing bents for overseeding.

And, for real golfers like Peter Trenham, SR 1020 has proven it provides everything desired in a putting green bent: fine texture, uniform surface, and most importantly, an absence of grain, so the ball holds the line for true putting accuracy.

With Providence (SR 1019) and SR 1020, you can look forward to a good-looking grass that will give you the performance you demand and the putting green quality your golfers prefer!

Both varieties are in production and excellent quantities of certified seed are available NOW.



"The newer golf course greens planted to Penn-cross look beautiful, but they don't putt like the old South German Bent greens. The putting surface of those old greens is fine-textured, not thatchy or grainy, and the old greens don't show the spike marks like Penn-cross. We've been needing bent-grasses bred for golf quality as well as turf quality for a long time, and it looks like SR 1020 and Providence fill the bill!"

*Pete Trenham*

Peter Trenham  
President, Philadelphia Section PGA  
St. David's Golf Club  
Wayne, PA

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