Desert turf issues being tackled by new Univ. of Arizona lab

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Kopec and Dr. Charles Mancino will oversee the facility, which has benefited from donations of money and equipment from scores of companies and the Cactus & Pine Golf Course Superintendents Association, among others.

"This is a budding example of how the industry can support the universities and stay close to their programs. And the cost-benefit ratio is tremendous for everyone involved," said Kopec.

The number-one benefit will be the laboratory's work aimed at decreasing water application to sports turfs by having better techniques in irrigation scheduling, he said. "Second, we need to develop new grass varieties that would use less water than Bermudagrass and that would be suitable as a grass cover. We're not looking to replace a 2-1/2 acre ballfield of highly trafficked Bermudagrass with another grass. We're looking to develop new grasses, perhaps domesticate some naturally occurring desert species into a turf setting where it would retain 95 to 100 percent grass cover and take five or six irrigations during the summertime at most."

Research on effluent water and secondary reclaimed water for turf will be "a strong part of the program because there's quite a populace being established in the Southwest and the research we do here is applicable to Tucson, Phoenix, Las Vegas and deserts of Southern California," Kopec said.

"There are 500-plus golf courses in this area and a lot of their turfs need this special management."

Weed control is a problem at desert courses in the Southwest, he said, because Bermudagrass is grown in the summertime and courses overseed with ryegrasses and other cool-season grasses from October to May.

Mancino is looking in to curly mesquitegrass, a low-main-tenance grass native in Arizona at 2,800 feet and above.

"For lower elevations, we're looking at buffalograss, salt grass, paspalums and potential domestication of some other range species. Some would be applicable to golf courses," Kopec said.

The eight-acre facility includes 6-1/2 acres of turf. The laboratory structure contains a wet laboratory, office space, equipment garage and storage space.

Crucial to research efforts are the world's two largest lysimeters — 12-foot-deep, seven-foot-in-diameter tanks containing 50 tons of soil on scales sensitive enough to measure 250 grams (the weight of the morning dew) in weight change.

Kopec and Mancino are looking forward to initiation of a new funding mechanism being worked out by the Arizona Golf Association and turfgrass industry along with Dr. Merle Jensen, UA's associate dean for sponsored projects.

Called the Turfgrass Futures Investment (TFI) program, it would infuse revenue from golf played in the state into research, education and extension programs at the university.

This will provide long-term support for graduate students, technical assistants, research operations, and educational activities. TFI has been discussed for two years, but Kopec reported "a lot of activity" in the last three months.

"The industry has been fabulous with donating equipment. To complete the army, I just need some soldiers," Kopec said. "The game of golf is an important part of the American economy and just 10 cents per round can kick back a 10,000-times-over return on a project."

EPA document

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study, or may warrant additional regulatory actions to prevent ground water contamination.

EPA is developing new rules to address threats to ground water by restricting the use of some pesticides to trained applicators, and requiring State Management Plans for the most serious contaminants. On the state and local level, EPA's data base may be useful in targeting resources for monitoring and assessing effectiveness of pesticide management practices.

Copies of the National Summary and the 10 separate regional volumes are available in paper copy or microfiche from the National Technical Information Service (703-487-4650 or 800-557-NTIS). The paper copy of the summary is $36.50 and microfiche is $17.50; others vary from $19.50 to $112.00.

Correction

Because of a reporting error, a piece of misinformation appeared in last month's product feature on combating dandelions and clover (page 20). Bill Spence, grounds superintendent at The Country Club in Brookline, Mass., was not referring to Gallery when he described a bad experience with a herbicide application. Spence was referring to another chemical used in the 1970s while he was at Pebble Beach Corp. "I am very excited about Gallery," he said. "In fact, we've used it without any problems for three seasons and intend to continue to expand its use in our programs."

Artist, Audubon to produce course paintings

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Adriano Manocchia, an internationally acclaimed artist of sporting scenes and wildlife, has been selected by the Audubon Society of New York State to create a series of prints to benefit the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses (ACSP). Manocchia, in association with Somerset House Publishing, will donate a portion of the proceeds from the sale of the prints of famous golf courses to further the work of the ACSP.

Upon the release of Adriano Manocchia's print, "TPC at Sawgrass, The 16th and 17th Holes," golfer Ben Crenshaw said: "I'm pleased that the ACSP is taking such an active role in showing how golf courses can enhance and protect wildlife habitat. Golf courses over the years have provided valuable open spaces, greenbelts, and natural sanctuaries for wildlife. I am hopeful that the efforts of the ACSP will increase public awareness about the positive effects a golf course can offer to the environment."

The five prints in the series published by Somerset House Publishing feature Pinehurst Resort and Country Club in North Carolina; TPC at Sawgass near Jacksonville, Fla.; Barton Creek Country Club near Austin, Texas; Harbour Town Golf Links at Sea Pines in Hilton Head, S.C.; and TPC at Scottsdale in Arizona.