

BRIEFS



**WATER ABUNDANCE INCREASED**

GOLETA, Calif. — An advanced wastewater treatment project has been completed here that can supply three million gallons a day of reclaimed water to irrigate golf courses, lawns, parks and other green space. The project was completed by Goleta Sanitary and Water districts, working with the California Environmental Protection Agency's Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board and other state and local agencies. The plant allows the use of reclaimed water and reduces the need for fresh water from the Cachuma Reservoir.



**MASSACHUSETTS GUIDE AVAILABLE**

WORCESTER, Mass. — The 1994 edition of *The Professional Turfgrass Management Guide for Massachusetts* is now available from the University of Massachusetts Cooperative Extension System. The booklet covers turfgrass culture, insect, disease, nematode and weed management. Among its features are a comprehensive key to turfgrass diseases, a list of turfgrass variety characteristics, monitoring techniques, and suggested threshold levels of turfgrass insects. The books cost \$7 each and are available from Bulletin Center, Cottage A, Thatcher Way, UMass, Amherst, Mass. 01003.

**JUST ADD SLUDGE**

VENTURA, Calif. — A University of California-Ventura study indicates that sewage sludge added to yardwaste composts increases the yield and color of perennial ryegrass. The study showed best turfgrass color rating was in a treatment composed of 50 percent yardwaste and 50 percent sewage sludge.

**TURF MANAGEMENT FIELD DAY SET**

WORCESTER, Mass. — The 3rd Annual Athletic Turf Management Field Day at Holy Cross College, Aug. 10, will combine demonstrations and talks with the annual meeting of the New England Sports Turf Managers Association. Concentration will be on sports fields. Danvers (Mass.) Superintendent of Tees and Grounds Jack Schmidgall will present a demonstration on irrigation and sprinkler head comparisons. For more information, people may contact Mary Owen at UMass at 508-892-0382.

**OTF FIELD DAY CHANGED**

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The date for the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation and Ohio State University Turfgrass Research Field Day has been changed to Aug. 17. It will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Ohio State Turfgrass Research Center on Kenny Road.

# Delhi College joins giants, adds 9 for students

By MARK LESLIE

DELHI, N.Y. — The list of golf courses built, in part, to serve as working laboratories for college students is about to grow by one. Joining the likes of University of Georgia and Clemson and Pennsylvania State universities is Delhi College of Technology, which expects a major boost to its two-year turfgrass program with the addition of a golf course.

"We think this will cut down the learning curve and make our students much more marketable," said Joel Smith, director of communications at the State

University of New York-Delhi campus. "In the world, you don't have as much time for on-the-job training. Superintendents need graduates who are ready to go to work, work independently and get the job done."

"Originally, turfgrass management was the key program," said John Haight, director of development. "But it has grown since then" to include the entire Department of Plant Science, which includes horticulture, golf course operations, landscape architecture and landscape contracting technology. The golf program is directed by Dominic

Morales, a professor of horticulture, who was unavailable for comment.

Dirt has already been turned, beginning construction of a new nine holes at Delhi College Golf Course. Clark Cos., a local firm, is building the course. Collaborating in its design are Michael Haas of Haas Landscape Architects in Binghamton; Michael Ermisch of The Ermisch Design Group in Utica — both college classmates and ex-roommates; and Larry Reistetter's L.P. Reistetter Golf Design Group of Binghamton. Haas and Ermisch are Delhi College alumni and

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# Overseeding: The life-or-death decision for many

By MARK LESLIE

Overseeding. It's one of the great dilemmas of golf course maintenance. Do you or don't you? When? Where? For what purpose? With what turfgrass or mixture? What are the tradeoffs?

"One of the paradoxes in the business," said Collier's

Reserve superintendent Tim Hiers, "is a great job of overseeding makes you look like a hero — then. But, potentially, you could have a worse transition" back to the main playing surface in the spring.

There are two categories — overseeding of dormant warm-season grasses, and of existent cool-season grasses.

## In the South: Dixieland diversity

Superintendents in Florida, Georgia, Texas, Arizona and Southern California — and to a lesser extent in Mississippi and Louisiana — wrestle with this decision annually. Many have no choice.

Some basics:

- It's simple: When winter arrives, in many places Bermudagrass goes dormant or dies, and cold-tolerant grasses can be seeded over the Bermuda until the weather warms and Bermuda rejuvenates.

"They [superintendents] want it [overseeded grass] to come up quick, to be dark green, and to go away when it's sup-

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A member of the grounds crew at Bighorn Golf Course in Palm Desert, Calif., scalps dormant Bermudagrass in preparation for overseeding.

## In the North: Better bents

Think of overseeding as buying insurance.

"You never know if it's working or if you need it. But in my opinion, you've got to do it," said Jim Connolly, long-time agronomist for the U.S. Golf Association Green Section's Northeast Region who now works at Jacklin Golf in Idaho.

Cool-season overseeding has been popular in the Eastern part of the country for years. But, "west of Chicago it becomes very unpopular," Connolly said. "I can't say why except they simply haven't been exposed to it."

Overseeding in the North  
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## RESEARCH UNDER FIRE

# Browner puts spurs to EPA colleagues to improve peer review procedures

By MARK LESLIE

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is expected by Sept. 30 to have a new peer review policy in place, ending years of hostility with various branches of government and others in the scientific community.

Responding to years of prodding from the General Accounting Office (GAO), which has been calling for better scientific peer review procedures and controls, EPA Administrator Carol Browner has declared the chore will get done this summer. In the meantime, she demanded that her troops follow the peer review process signed by her predecessor, William Reilly, in the 11th hour of his administration. But the Reilly process is considered far too vague and must be clarified.

Leaders in each division of EPA presented drafts of their peer review plans on July 15, according to Dr. Don Barnes, ex-



ecutive secretary of the EPA's Scientific Advisory Board. A group of scientists within and outside the agency will scrutinize those plans and return them for final revisions which, he said, will be in place by Sept. 30.

Reporting that EPA's science is of "uneven quality," GAO Assistant Comptroller General Keith O. Fultz said in February his office was recommending that Browner "set a schedule for developing, completing and implementing agencywide peer-review procedures."

"Also, the administrator should develop and implement controls that protect against the premature release of documents by external peer reviewers."

Requested by Rep. John Dingell of Michigan, chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce's Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, the GAO

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# Passios named to conservation panel

BARNSTABLE, Mass. — Charles Passios, past member of the board of directors and government liaison officer for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), has been appointed to a three-year term on the Barnstable Conservation Committee (BCC).



Charles Passios

The panel "basically protects the town's natural resources, deals with wetlands regulations and promulgates town ordinances," Passios said.

The largest town on Cape Cod, Barnstable sits on the Atlantic Coast. Superintendent at Hyannisport (Mass.) Club, Passios is a past president of the Golf Course Managers

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## Southern equation differs from course to course

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posed to — when the Bermuda grass comes back,” said Steve Tubbs, vice president of Turf Merchants in Tangent, Ore.

• Some supers overseed to keep their courses green, some because of heavy traffic, some to maintain high green speed.

• Some overseed just greens and tees, some just fairways and some wall-to-wall.

• Perennial ryegrass is the backbone of the cool-season overseeding business. But poa trivialis (rough bluegrass, basically a weed) is the new blue-chip kid on the block, and a number of superintendents are mixing it with bentgrass to overseed Bermuda.

Superintendents avoid overseeding if they can, mainly because of the cost and labor, and the hassle of dealing with two transitions — that from Bermuda to the “overseed” and the return back to Bermuda.

“We’re further south,” said Hiers, who does not overseed at his private country club. “It’s warmer. We don’t have shade problems. We don’t have traffic problems. And we’re willing to bear with the inconvenience of maybe 10 or 12 off-color days a year versus the inconvenience of preparing for overseeding, maintaining it and then going out of transition.”

Some have no choice. Their courses get continuing heavy traffic or have a lot of shade. If they didn’t overseed they would be without grass in some areas in January, February and March.

“We conduct a PGA Tour event [The Players Championship, March 24-27], so we overseed to provide the best quality playing conditions we can during a dormant Bermudagrass season,” said Fred Klauk Jr. at TPC-Sawgrass in Jacksonville, Fla. Klauk explained most courses in the area overseed greens, tees and fairways “because of the climate and resort clientele we have here. They want to come to a green golf course.”

“Many overseed to provide color. We do it to provide a total

## Poa triv or rye?

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Naming perennial rye as primarily the grass of choice, Jacklin Seed Co. Research Director Dr. Doug Brede said a few years ago someone got the idea to hybridize annual rye with perennial rye to capitalize on the easy spring transition offered by the annual rye.

“These so-called intermediate ryegrasses have been poorly accepted by golf courses, because their cost was similar to perennial ryegrass and their performance was similar to annual,” he said.

Brede said weather is ideal for overseeding in the autumn when night temperatures start regularly dropping to 55 to 65 degrees Fahrenheit. Soil temperature at a four-inch depth should be between 72 and 78 degrees, he said.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

ryegrass playing surface,” said the superintendent at a well-heeled Georgia course.

“Southern California is so varied, it’s a whole new ball game 40 miles away,” said superintendent Ray Davies of Virginia Country Club in Long Beach, Calif. “Public and resort courses looking for winter play absolutely have to overseed. They’re going for color.”

“It’s a mixed bag in Los Angeles. All courses overseed in Palm Springs. San Diego is very heavy into overseeding as well.”

“There are so many variables,”

said Hiers. “In some cases it’s 50-50. You’re doggoned if you do and doggoned if you don’t. And every year is different. You might have a hot winter or a cold winter, hot early and cold later, or cold early and hot later.”

“If you put your seed down and it stays hot, you’re hurting. Or if you put your seed down and get four inches of rain the next day, you’re hurting.”

Success or failure depends largely on the weather. “Obviously, if you’ve got a strong overseeded stand on a small green that’s heavily shaded, that’s going to be the place where you have a transition prob-

lem,” Hiers said. “Typically, the overseeding will hang on longer there, which makes it even worse on the Bermuda. And finally, when the overseeded area checks out, there’s often not much Bermuda left.”

On the California coast, Davies has observed what he calls “the seven-year cycle.”

“Guys will overseed for a few years, then have problems and back off, and a few years later they try it again,” he said.

The problems regard the transition periods from Bermudagrass to ryegrass, then back to Bermuda.

“The first three years or so, the

transition back to Bermuda isn’t bad,” Davies said. “But then it begins getting sparse and you end up with mediocre spring and early-summer fairways. If we overseed our Bermuda on the coast with ryegrass, it’s my feeling that after five years all you’ve got left is ryegrass.”

“In Palm Springs they close the golf courses for four weeks. We can’t do that, and we don’t have the warm weather that burns off the ryegrass and grows in the Bermuda. We can have a hot spell where the ryegrass goes out, then get cold and the Bermuda doesn’t come in. So you end up with really weak fairways in the spring,” he added.

# YEARS OF UNIVERSITY TESTS SHOW CYPRESS POA TRIVIALIS AS THE SUPERIOR CHOICE FOR OVERSEEDING!

Since 1991, Cypress Poa trivialis has had a proven record in university trials for being better and different than comparable varieties. Differences such as a darker genetic color, faster establishing rate, and better disease resistance.

Instead of taking our word for it, here is what the experts have to say...



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

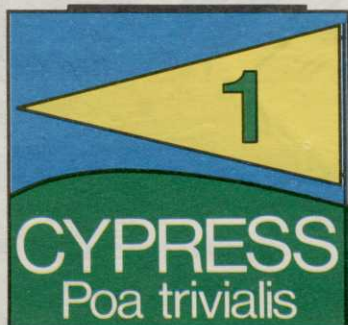
TMI will be happy to send to you copies of the complete trial data for any of the trials we have mentioned below.

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.

**CERTIFIED**



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.	Feb.	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

“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.

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—		
<b>1991</b>			
Cypress	2	23	79
Sabre	2	17	70
<b>1992</b>			
Cypress	87	93	86
Laser	36	58	83

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## Northern supers battle poa annua in overseeding programs

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takes two forms: overseeding bentgrass with another variety bentgrass, and overseeding poa annua with bentgrass.

"A lot [of superintendents] overseed, especially at the older courses, because of the amount of poa in their greens," said superintendent Gregg Grenert of Samoset Resort Golf Club in Rockport, Maine. "They're trying to introduce new species of bentgrass. Poa is such a vulnerable grass to the type of winters

we get and it's a bad situation to come out of spring year after year with so much of your greens dead.

"Bent's a lot more tolerant of the type of winters we have. It's more disease resistant. And it's superior as far as traffic and recoverability are concerned."

Grenert, who maintains PennCross bentgrass, added: "Grass does get old. It's always nice to get nice new healthy seedlings. There are so many new varieties coming onto the market now that can accept lower heights



Don Sweda

of cut, are conditioned for less watering, and are more disease-resistant." At Columbia Hills Country Club in Columbia Station, Ohio, superintendent Don Sweda overseeds "to fight the never-ending poa battle. It's never going to go away."

"If you have a brand new course you are always struggling to keep poa out. If you have an old, established course, you're trying to figure out how you get bent back because you have so much poa," he said.

Sweda, who joined Columbia a year ago, said his course has been seeded over the years with several different bentgrasses, and he is overseeding to encourage just PennCross.

...

Bent-on-bent overseeding is

generally practiced when physical damage, such as divots or disease, to the turfgrass is evident, Connolly said, adding that widescale overseeding into a healthy stand of turf can be like "buying insurance."

"The benefits of overseeding must be viewed as long-term improvement with the possibility of eventually increasing the percentage of desirable grasses," he said.

Connolly said superintendents should take the opportunity to improve their existing turf, overseeding it with new, improved varieties.

"Overseeding putting greens with improved bentgrasses is gaining popularity, especially in the Northeast," he said.

Benefits of overseeding turfgrass, Connolly said, are:

- More uniform playing surfaces.
- Increased plant density and smoother playing surface.
- Replacing inferior varieties with genetically advanced varieties.
- Better competition against weed invasion.
- Insurance against winter injury.

...

August is the month of Catch-22 greenkeeping in the Northern tier of the United States. It is the optimum time to seed turfgrass. Yet, it is the peak playing season.

"Adjusting to aerification and overseeding in August can be a difficult thing to swallow," Connolly said. "But more and more club memberships are accepting August overseeding as a common maintenance program."

Grenert and other colleagues hail the JobSaver, an attachment to Ryan aerators, as avoiding interruption of play.

"It's a good way to get seed into established areas without disturbing the playing conditions," Grenert said. "The problem with overseeding, especially with the overseeders themselves, is that you're taking out more grass than you're trying to grow. Those vertical blades rip out stolons. It's almost like you're defeating the purpose."

...

Indeed, Grenert and others have discovered that using or not using certain equipment can eliminate poa annua.

"It's amazing. By light-weight mowing and eliminating cart traffic on fairways, I'm promoting the heck out of bentgrass," he said. "I haven't introduced any new seed in my fairways in 14 years. Yet, our fairways were 80 percent poa annua and now they're 80 percent bent — simply from cart restriction and light-weight mowing. We also pick up clippings, and I try to mow in the evening when you get a better clip."

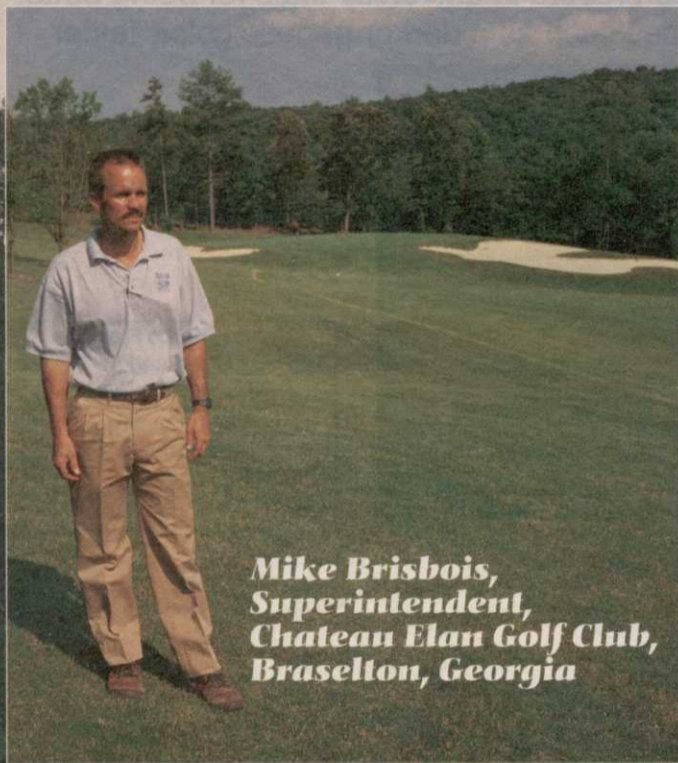
"There's a lot to be said about traffic control."

Grenert also credited his former lack of fairway irrigation for helping the cause of the bentgrass.

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Mike Brisbois, Superintendent, Chateau Elan Golf Club, Braselton, Georgia

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