

West Coast Turf helps prepare Riviera for 1995 PGA tourney

PACIFIC PALISADES, Calif.—Riviera Country Club, site of the Los Angeles Open and host course for the 1995 PGA Championship, has recently completed a greens renovation program.

All eighteen greens and a practice green were re-contoured and sodded with a new variety of bentgrass called Syn 12, thus bringing them up to USGA specifications.

Under the direction of golf course designers Bill Coore-Ben Crenshaw, the greens at this stately course were constructed by Ed Connor of Golforms, and are being grown-in to tournament conditions by Riviera Country Club golf course superintendent Jim McPhilomy.

The greens will be open for play later this year, and will certainly be in top shape for the 1994 Los Angeles Open.

West Coast Turf of Palm Desert, California, grew the Syn 12 sod and washed it using the patented StrathAyr turf washing system. According to West Coast Turf spokesman Jeff Cole, the Syn 12 sod has "a terrific dark green color, great density and texture, and a very aggressive growing habit..."

"We will definitely grow much more of this variety," maintained Cole. Nearly 110,000 square feet of the sod was installed by West Coast Turf during the course of construction.

Turf certification

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"If someone offers turf that is not certified as certified turf, the state will come down on them hard," said Yount. "This is one of the big differences between the certification that failed and this one — the new certification program has teeth in it."

FloraTex, a bermudagrass recently released cooperatively by the Florida and Texas Agricultural Experiment Stations, is being used as the first test cultivar for the new program. The FTGA is licensing one grower near Gainesville to produce the planting stock of FloraTex, but only for certified growers in the two states. Yount says that this grower, Jones Turf Farms, was chosen because its proximity to the University of Florida was an advantage to the monitoring program. However, as other turfgrasses are introduced into the program, additional sod producers will be certified.

"In addition to providing certification," Yount explained, "the program will also provide revenues that will return to the Florida Turfgrass Research Foundation, to enhance work on turfgrasses in the state."

INGHAM THE NEW GM AT DAVENPORT

DAVENPORT, Wash. — Mike Ingham is the new general manager of Davenport Seed Co., effective immediately. Ingham is one of the former owners of DSC before Warren's Turf acquired the company in 1989. Also announced was the promotion of Todd Harris to the new position of operations manager, responsible for the production portion of the business.

Dixy Lee Ray to speak at ASPA Midwinter Conference

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Opening with Dr. Dixy Lee Ray, closing with retired NASA scientist Richard Underwood and interspersed with knowledgeable speakers on a diverse array of topics, the three-day American Sod Producers Association (ASPA) Midwinter Conference in Arizona will give registrants much to talk about, think about and act on. The Jan. 20-22 Conference, hosted at the Wyndham Paradise Valley Resorts here, is keyed to a theme of innovation and information.

In designing the educational

program — chaired by Trustee Louis Brooking of Brookmeade Sod Farm, Doswell, Va. — the committee took to heart many of the suggestions received from the general membership. The 1994 Conference will present only general sessions. Also, there will be an optional (separate fee) banquet for those who want to socialize with their fellow attendees, but it's not included in the overall fees for those on a tighter budget. A post-conference tour to A-G Turf Farms in the Stanfield area will also be an optional event that reg-

istrants can enjoy.

Highlights of the educational program include Dr. Ray's keynote talk on the effects so-called "environmentalists" are having on the world economy; Richard Underwood's photographic study of the earth from space; and Dr. Tom Jadin who was so popular at the San Diego meeting in 1989.

Complete conference information, registration forms and hotel reservation materials have been sent to all ASPA members; however, additional copies can be obtained by calling 708-705-9898.

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