

# China has 'wealth' of material thought useful to the West

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USGA representative wrote in his report to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the agency that sponsored the trip.

"Most of the Zoysia material found had been imported into the PRC [Peoples Republic of China] from adjacent South China Sea countries, although some of the collections were likely indigenous types."

Added Engelke: "We collected some zoysiagrasses we'd never seen before. Zoysias will play an increasingly important part on U.S. courses."

The team also collected specimens of bentgrass, centipedegrass and even buffalograss apparently imported from the United States several years earlier.

Collecting germplasm was one of two purposes of the trip. The other was to develop cooperative relationships with Chinese plant scientists that would foster further interaction in turfgrass research programs in both countries.

"Everybody gains by sharing our [U.S.] talents [turfgrass expertise] and their resources to develop new varieties. The Chinese end up with state-of-the-art grasses without the development costs and we end up with better turf for U.S. courses," Engelke said.

The Americans spoke to scientists at the South China Agricultural University in Guangzhou; Xiaoshiao Grass Research Center in Xindian County, Yunnan Province; Kunming Institute of Botany; Nanjing Agricultural University; Jiangsu Jurong Agricultural School; Green Sea Turfgrass Construction Co. in Nanjing; and the PRC National Germplasm Facility.

Their Chinese hosts and the scientists at each facility were very cooperative, according to Kenna.

"We spent more time with animal scientists than with plant scientists because animal husbandry is charged with producing forage for livestock," Kenna wrote. "The turfgrass programs seem to be an extension of some of the forage research programs."

"We were able to see only one golf course operation during the entire three weeks because of a lack of knowledge on the part of our hosts on where the facilities were or an unwillingness to call and get to see how the course was maintained."

Engelke blamed the lack of golf course access on the government bureaucracy's perception that golf is still an elitist activity and developers' suspicions of any government-sponsored officials wandering around their operations. The one they did see had been under construction five years, slowed by government regulations and lack of infrastructure. Some earthmoving had been completed for the driving range while the course opening is likely years away, Kena said.

There are only about 20 golf courses in China, although dozens more are on the drawing board. It is often seen as the next boom area for Asia-Pacific golf development

"As the Chinese golf industry develops, they will need the cooperation of the Western turfgrass industry," Taliaferro said. "They have a wealth of genetic material that Western scientists would love to examine."

"Fostering cooperation between scientists and industry

*'We collected some zoysiagrasses we'd never seen before. Zoysias will play an increasingly important part on U.S. courses.'*

— Dr. Milt Engelke

in the two countries couldn't help but aid the Chinese. They are importing golf course grasses

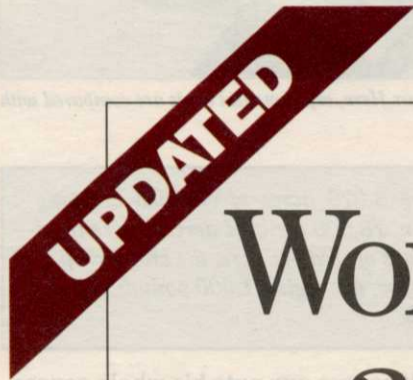
now and paying little attention to what they have right there."

Engelke hopes to return in 1995 to the north coast between Shanghai and Beijing "where we know there are zoysiagrasses with the characteristics and texture we're looking for."

"It was a successful trip," Taliaferro said, "because it provided a basis for future germplasm collections and established substantive relationships between scientists in the two countries."

## Creeping bent #1 in Oregon

SALEM, Ore. — Creeping bentgrass is the highest value farm commodity produced in Oregon, according to the state's Department of Agriculture and Marketing Division. Average grass seed from the Willamette Valley has a value of \$1,500 per ton, whereas creeping bent can be valued as high as \$30,000 per ton in places like Japan.



## BENTGRASS

# Word is spreading almost as fast as our bentgrasses.

Mr. S. Nakano, Greenskeeper  
Kouraku Golf Club  
Okayama, Japan

Garrett Deck, Golf Course Superintendent  
The Harvest Golf Course  
Kelowna, BC, Canada

Joseph M. Hahn, Golf Course Superintendent  
Oak Hill Country Club  
Rochester, New York

Gary Dempsey, Golf Course Superintendent  
The New South Wales Golf Club  
Sydney, Australia

Mandel Brockington,  
Golf Course Superintendent  
Ridgewood Country Club, Waco, Texas