

New Bermudagrass puts Norman's emerging turf reputation on line

Continued from page 15

from Greg Norman Turf, a subsidiary of Great White Shark Enterprises. According to Norman's staff agronomist, David Barnes, GN-1 is the brain child of Australian Hugh Whiting, who had cultivated a field of GN-1 at Pacific Sod in San Diego as early as 1988. Whiting has since patented the strain.

When Dye and Norman were working on The Medalist, Norman asked Barnes to search for Bermudagrass alternatives.

There were only enough sprigs to grass two holes, but Norman and Barnes were so taken with the strain, they decided to market it nationwide under the name GN-1.

"In order to have a patent on something, you have to prove there are at least three things that set it apart from other products in the marketplace," explained Barnes. "The three things Whiting cited are: It thatched less in the same growing conditions, greener color and

better cold tolerance.

"We have a lot of confidence in this grass. We've been working with it for nearly two years and Pacific Sod has had it since 1988... We feel this grass is an improvement on the norm."

Of course the "norm" is 419, which has set the industry standard for more than 30 years. Don Roberts of Southern Turf Nurseries, which grows and produces 419, said he isn't terribly familiar with GN-1 but is keeping an open mind.

"We're eager to look at any new variety," said Roberts. "And if we find it stands the test of time, we'll be the first ones to sign and become a contract grower — if it truly is the next best grass, the future grass, let's say."

"I think the industry is ready for another grass that will do things better in certain environments."

What sets GN-1 apart? According to Wagner, its aggressive nature and green color do. Be-

fore sprigging in April, Wagner visited The Medalist Club where areas of GN-1 meet 419, making comparisons easy.

"Originally, the color of GN-1 was what I saw," said Wagner. "It's also more aggressive. It will take more edging, verticutting and top dressing to maintain it. Also, I think the leaf blade is a little coarser than 419. When sod was first coming in, you could see the leaf blade is a little wider, a little more purple. But David [Barnes] tells me that, when you start mowing it, it improves."

Barnes said Norman himself likes the new grass because the ball sits up better. Barnes also said GN-1 is not only a darker shade of green than 419, it is more tolerant to nematodes.

"And maybe most important," he added, "GN-1 is a pure strain, a new strain. We had 16 holes at the Medalist done with 419 and you could see all sorts of colors and seedhead formations. If you go back to 1962 [when 419 was introduced], there have been mutations over the years. With 419, you see a grass that is 30 years older."

The ultimate testimonial, however, won't be available until Eaglebrook opens its doors this fall. Early reports have been extremely positive, but all the players in this drama — Barnes, Garl and Wagner — realize their reputations are staked to the success of GN-1 and Eaglebrook. Wagner and assistant Steve Gano, who have worked side by side on the grow-in, know this better than anyone.

"Everything at this job I take personally," Wagner said. "So my job and recommendation on grass is important. So far I've been real impressed with it. But if something went wrong, it would probably be my [job]."

without the gamble.

coverage per square inch with fewer application breaks and more effective control of grassy and broadleaf weeds.

No other preemergent comes with Poly-S. Only Scotts can provide the superior performance of

patented Poly-S technology for controlled nutrient release with flexible release rates, higher nitrogen efficiency and a more predictable response. The result? You get more value from the fertilizer you apply, with overall improvement in turf quality while controlling weeds.

Formulation/application flexibility. Scotts makes it your way, providing a wide range of product rates and application scheduling choices. Scotts offers a preemergent formulation for almost every need — north to south — with varying rates of nitrogen and active ingredients.

There is a difference. The Scotts Difference. It's the difference between gambling and going with a sure thing — the only preemergent with over 11 years of field-proven performance. For more information contact your Scotts Tech Rep today. Or call 1-800-543-0006.



Professional Turf Products
...The Scotts Difference.

The Scotts Company • 14111 Scottslawn Road • Marysville, Ohio 43041 • Phone: (513) 644-0011 • Fax: (513) 644-7205

Beatrice CC 1st Audubon-certified course in Neb.

BEATRICE, Neb. — Beatrice Country Club is the first golf course in Nebraska and 69th in the nation to achieve designation as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System.

"We began working towards complete certification in the fall of 1994," said Casey Crittenden of Beatrice Country Club. "Our members have been supportive of this program and without that support we would not have been able to establish our facility as an environmental leader."

Crittenden acknowledged the foresight of Bill Love, the course architect, and H&H Golf, the course contractors, for creating several areas around the property that were turned into natural settings for wildlife habitat.