BRIEFS

CRENSHAW TO GET OLD TOM AWARD

PGA Tour great Ben Crenshaw will receive the 1997 Old Tom Morris Award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. The presentation will take place Feb. 11 in Las Vegas at a banquet during the association's 68th International Golf Course Conference and Show. GCSAA President Bruce R. Williams said Crenshaw's actions over the years "exemplify what is best about the game. From his activities as a collector to his passion for the integrity of the game, Ben's obvious love of golf is an inspiration."

Ben Crenshaw

SOUTHWEST SHOW SCHEDULED

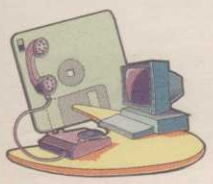
PHOENIX, Ariz. — The 19th annual Southwest Horticultural Trade Show will be held here Sept. 5-6, featuring a full-day seminar on reclaimed irrigation water and several educational sessions. Sponsored by the Arizona Nursery Association, the event will display products specifically designed for the desert areas of Arizona, New Mexico, California and west Texas. The annual Xeriscape Conference, continuing education units, marketing panel and grower short course are part of the event.

FOUTY OVERSEES EXPANSION

NORTHVILLE, Mich. — Expansion is underway here at Downing Farms Golf Course and Michigan State graduate Mike Fouty has assumed the position of superintendent. Work on an additional nine holes began in January along with improvements on the original course. The 3,120-yard Harry Bowers design will incorporate wetlands and hardwoods. A 3,000-square-foot clubhouse is scheduled to open in July.

GCSAA OPENS WEB SITE

A new World Wide Web site makes information available to the general public about course management. The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America site address is http://www.gcsaa.org/gcsaa. The initial phase will focus on the environment. Starting July 1, GCSAA members will have a private Member Services area they can log into at their convenience. GCSAA has also added a new e-mail box — infobox@gcsaa.org — to gather feedback and answer questions.



Budget-cut threat to NTEP awaits Congress

By MARK LESLIE

BELTSVILLE, Md. — The air of neutrality and objectivity surrounding the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program would be in jeopardy if the U.S. Department of Agriculture redirects its support to other areas of its Agricultural Research Service (ARS), according to NTEP National Director Kevin Morris.

The reason, Morris said, is that NTEP would have to move to new quarters outside USDA's research station here, where it uses office, laboratory and greenhouse space and feed and equipment storage areas.

NTEP first observed the threat of lost funding when President Clinton submitted his 1997 budget to Congress in April. While it gave the USDA a small increase, it cut NTEP support.

The USDA gives no actual funds to NTEP, which in effect is a subcontractor whose employees are paid entirely through fees to its users. Rather, USDA's support is indirect, in that $55,900 is set aside on paper to pay rent and indirect costs at the facilities here.

More important than the finances, Morris said, is "this partnership between us and the USDA. The USDA puts out a small bit of support and they get a lot of benefit from it, being able to say how much they've done for research. What NTEP gets is the credibility of running a national program associated with an unbiased, neutral organization — not for industry. It's a danger that people perceive us to [work for industry].

"There is a whole air of neutrality that is hard to put a value on and could be threatened by moving from here."

With many domestic and foreign visitors coming to the facility, NTEP

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Old vs. new ryes like night and day

By MARK LESLIE

BELTSVILLE, Md. — Rest on your laurels in the ryegrass breeding industry and you'll get run over. That's the message from the latest National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) trial results which show the top ryegrass cultivar in the previous test is ranked 23rd in 1996.

"The difference between those [new and old tests] is like night and day," said NTEP National Director Kevin Morris. "They're improved aesthetically (dark green and dense) and some have better persistence" — that is, in relation to disease resistance.

"Mow ryegrasses at one-half inch, using no fungicides in Maryland and you will kill a lot of them," he said. "But ours persisted quite well through last summer. We do irrigate them... But just looking at them this spring, most people are surprised at the differences — even besides color and density. It's easy to see."

The No. 1 ryegrass in the previous trials — Prizm — ranks 23rd this year, and the previous 4th-ranked cultivar — Brightstar — is 37th this time around. None of the other leaders are even in sight except the previous 7th-ranked Cutter, now 42nd.

Asked if the higher ratings in this latest test are due to more use of endophyte in the ryegrass cultivars, Morris said: "Endophyte relates to insect resistance, and surviving under adverse environmental conditions like low water use. My guess is, it's more that they are generally improved for disease resistance and persis

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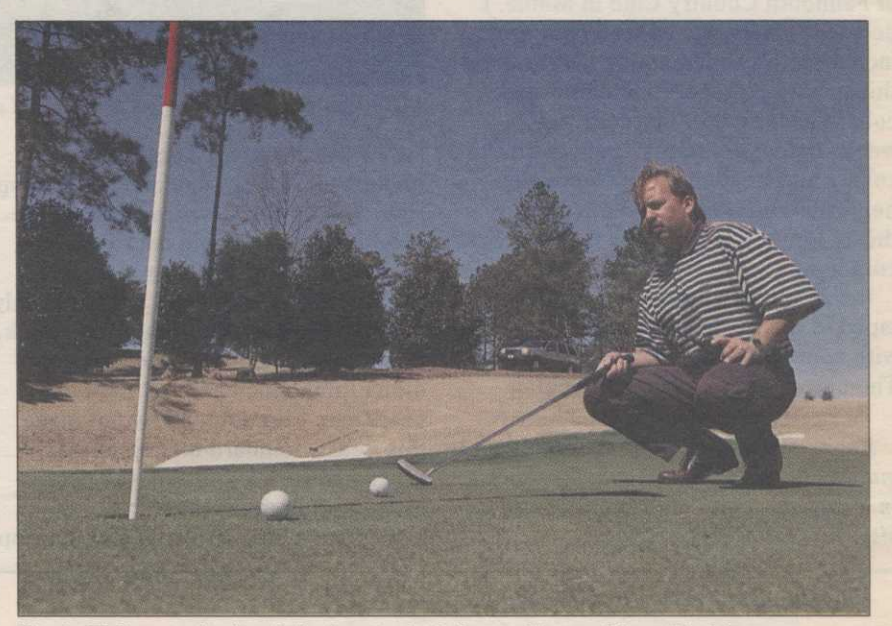

Randy Waldron makes it a daily chore to check the consistency of the roll in his greens.

Waldron's aim: Picture-perfect

By TODD L. SENTELL

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — Eighteen holes in the morning, another in the afternoon, perhaps a third 18 on the way home, dinner, then a Little League game. It's all in a day's work for Randy Waldron, director of golf courses and landscaping at The Golf Club of Georgia.

His walkie-talkie surgically attached and his sharp eyes are constantly on the peel, Waldron oversees the club's 54 holes of golf, managing all this incredible nature and for making sure it's all perfect. Very, very perfect.

There are Creekside, Lakeside and — up the road where he lives overlooking the 18th fairway, White Columns Golf Club.

"I hate it when he [Waldron] plays golf," says golf courses superintendent Tim Reinagel, shaking his head. You'd think Reinagel and his lieutenants would love it when the boss is out of the office for a few hours. But that's not the way it works around here. If

Todd L. Sentell is a golf writer and the Golf Club of Georgia's director of sales and marketing.

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Georgia's Carrow the Doctor of Stress for turf

Dr. Robert Carrow is a professor of turfgrass science in the Crop and Soil Science Department at the Griffin Station of the University of Georgia and is an integral part of the university's nine-member turf research team. He received a Ph.D. in Soil Science from Michigan State University in 1972 and has done research at the University of Massachusetts and Kansas State University. His areas of research emphasis are turfgrass drought resistance mechanisms and water conservation, plant nutrition/soil fertility and turfgrass wear/soil compaction stresses. He has written more than 200 articles and is co-editor of two turfgrass science books.

Q&A

Dr. Robert Carrow
University of Georgia

Golf Course News: What has your work shown in terms of such environmental stresses as drought and salinity? Traffic stress? Water conservation strategies? Why are these issues important?

Robert Carrow: Whether a turfgrass persists in the field depends on its tolerance to the stresses imposed on it. Environmental stresses include high/low temperature, excess/lack of water and low light intensity. Pest stresses include diseases, insects\nematodes and weeds. Use stresses include close mowing, soil compaction from traffic and wear from traffic.

I have concentrated on two primary areas and within each tried to develop several strategies to cope with the stress.

Drought resistance/low water use is the first. We've identified which turfgrass spe

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Top ryegrasses in National Turfgrass Evaluation Program tests

Name	AR1	BC1	DC1	GA1	IA1	IL1	IL2	IN1	KS1	KY1	MD1	ME1	MI1	MO1	MO3	NE1	NJ1	OH1	OK1	PA1	QE1	RI1	UB1	UB2	VA1	WA1	WA3	Mean
LRF-94-MPRH	7.5	5.4	5.0	5.0	6.3	6.9	6.6	5.1	6.6	7.8	5.1	7.7	5.9	6.0	6.9	7.1	7.0	8.0	6.7	7.4	6.8	5.9	7.4	6.6	5.7	7.5	5.7	6.5
BAR USA 94-II	7.8	5.7	4.7	4.8	6.3	5.9	6.0	5.8	6.6	8.3	5.5	7.3	6.0	5.7	6.4	7.7	6.5	7.9	6.0	7.2	7.0	5.6	7.8	6.4	5.6	7.7	5.6	6.4
*Pennant II	7.6	4.3	5.3	5.0	6.6	6.1	7.3	5.3	6.8	8.4	5.4	6.7	6.1	5.3	6.7	6.7	6.6	7.9	6.7	7.6	6.7	5.8	7.3	6.9	5.1	7.6	5.7	6.4
*Imagine	8.0	4.7	4.8	5.1	4.8	6.2	6.9	5.3	6.8	8.3	5.4	7.9	5.9	5.7	6.8	7.1	6.0	7.8	6.5	7.4	6.7	5.9	7.5	6.6	5.5	7.8	5.3	6.4
PST-2M3	7.9	4.6	4.8	4.8	4.6	6.0	5.0	5.6	7.4	8.9	6.0	7.3	5.5	5.8	7.0	5.8	7.2	8.2	6.0	7.5	6.9	6.7	7.4	6.8	5.6	7.7	5.5	6.4
*Calypso II	7.5	5.7	5.2	4.9	5.7	6.0	6.0	5.7	6.7	7.8	5.9	7.3	5.5	5.3	6.7	6.3	6.8	7.8	6.0	7.3	7.2	6.9	7.4	6.4	5.1	7.5	5.6	6.4
MB 45	8.0	4.8	5.0	4.7	5.6	5.9	5.7	5.3	6.5	8.3	5.4	7.9	6.1	5.6	6.5	7.3	6.0	7.9	6.6	7.4	6.8	6.3	7.0	6.7	5.5	7.5	5.8	6.4
LRF-94-C8	7.6	4.5	5.0	4.8	5.1	5.9	5.7	6.0	7.0	8.4	5.0	8.5	5.9	5.7	7.6	6.1	6.5	7.8	6.7	7.1	6.9	6.1	7.1	6.6	5.7	7.7	4.9	6.4
Panther	7.7	5.5	5.3	4.8	6.1	6.4	5.0	5.8	6.9	8.4	5.1	7.9	6.3	5.5	6.4	6.9	6.7	7.8	5.9	7.1	6.6	6.2	7.1	5.9	5.6	7.2	5.4	6.4
RPBD	7.3	5.1	5.3	5.3	6.6	6.0	6.5	5.4	6.7	7.6	5.6	7.0	6.0	5.3	6.2	6.4	6.9	7.9	6.1	7.4	7.0	6.0	7.2	6.0	5.6	7.6	5.2	6.3
*Majesty	7.7	4.6	5.2	4.6	5.8	7.0	6.1	5.1	6.7	8.2	5.6	7.4	5.7	5.8	6.7	6.6	6.0	7.9	6.0	7.6	6.6	6.1	7.0	6.7	5.1	7.8	5.5	6.3
J-1706	7.3	5.3	5.4	4.8	6.6	6.2	6.4	6.1	6.6	8.0	5.4	6.9	5.6	5.4	6.9	6.4	6.7	7.8	5.3	7.1	7.0	5.5	7.3	6.1	6.1	7.5	5.3	6.3
*Line Drive	7.4	5.5	5.0	4.7	6.4	6.7	5.8	5.1	6.4	8.5	5.2	7.6	5.9	5.5	6.8	5.9	6.5	8.1	6.4	7.1	6.9	6.4	6.6	6.1	5.3	7.5	5.3	6.3
PST-2R3	7.5	5.8	5.5	4.8	6.3	6.6	6.1	5.5	6.0	7.7	5.3	7.3	6.5	5.7	6.7	6.3	6.3	7.9	5.8	7.3	7.0	6.3	6.9	6.0	5.2	7.2	4.9	6.3
*PST-GH-94	7.6	5.0	5.1	4.9	6.3	6.2	6.4	5.7	6.8	7.9	5.6	7.4	5.4	5.8	6.3	5.9	6.5	7.9	6.2	7.4	6.9	6.1	7.4	6.2	5.2	7.3	4.8	6.3
MB 44	8.0	4.9	5.0	4.7	5.3	6.2	5.2	4.9	7.4	8.6	5.4	7.3	5.5	5.6	7.0	6.4	5.8	8.1	6.4	6.8	6.7	5.8	7.0	6.6	5.5	8.0	5.3	6.3
PST-2DLM	7.7	5.0	5.0	4.6	5.8	5.0	6.4	5.5	6.4	8.5	5.4	7.9	5.6	5.8	6.5	6.2	6.4	7.8	5.7	7.1	6.7	6.8	7.4	6.5	5.1	7.3	5.0	6.3
LSD	0.7	0.9	1.0	0.6	1.2	1.3	1.3	0.9	0.7	0.4	0.7	1.3	0.9	0.6	0.6	1.2	0.7	0.4	1.1	0.9	0.4	0.6	0.5	1.0	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.2

Here are the locations of the field tests, followed by soil texture, soil pH, pounds of nitrogen applied per 1,000 square feet, and mowing height in inches. All were irrigated only to prevent stress, except BC1, MO1, MO3 and UB1 (only to prevent dormancy) and IL2, KY1 and VA1 (only during severe stress).

AR1 — Fayetteville, Ark., silt loam and silt, 5.6-6.0, 3.1-4.0, 3.1-3.5.
BC1 — Vancouver, B.C., sandy loam, 6.1-6.5, 4.1-5.0, 1.1-1.5.
GA1 — Griffin, Ga., sandy clay loam, 6.1-6.5, 4.1-5.0, 2.6-3.0.
DC1 — Washington Monument Grounds, D.C., N/A.
IA1 — Ames, Iowa, sandy clay loam, 7.1-7.5, 2.1-3.0, 2.1-2.5.
IL1 — Urbana, Ill., silt loam and silt, 6.1-6.5, 1.1-2.0, 2.1-2.5.
IL2 — Carbondale, Ill., silty clay loam, 6.1-6.5, 4.1-5.0, 1.1-1.5.
IN1 — West Lafayette, Ind., silt loam and silt, 6.6-7.0, 3.1-4.0, 0.6-1.0.
KS1 — Manhattan, Kan., silt loam and silt, 6.6-7.0, 3.1-4.0, 1.6-2.0.
KY1 — Lexington, Ky., silt loam and silt, 6.1-6.5, 2.1-3.0, 1.6-2.0.
MD1 — Silver Spring, Md., sandy loam, 5.6-6.0, 2.1-3.0, 0-0.5.
ME1 — Orono, Maine, N/A.
MI1 — East Lansing, Mich., sandy loam, 7.1-7.5, N/A, 2.6-3.0.
MO1 — Columbia, Mo, silty clay loam, 5.6-6.0, 3.1-4.0, 2.1-2.5.
MO3 — St. Louis, Mo., silty clay loam, 6.6-7.0, 4.1-5.0, 2.6-3.0.
NE1 — Lincoln, Neb., N/A.
NJ1 — North Brunswick, N.J., sandy loam, 6.1-6.5, 5.1-6.0, 1.1-1.5.
OH1 — Columbus, Ohio, silt loam and silt, 6.6-7.0, 1.1-2.0, 1.1-1.5.
OK 1 — Stillwater, Okla., silty clay loam, 6.6-7.0, 3.1-4.0, 2.1-2.5.
PA1 — University Park, Pa., silty loam and silt, 6.6-7.0, 1.1-2.0, 1.1-1.5.
QE1 — Quebec, N/A.
RI1 — Kingston, R.I., silt loam and silt, 6.6-7.0, 3.1-4.0, 1.1-1.5.
UB1 — Beltsville, Md., silt loam and silt, 6.1-6.5, 3.1-4.0, 1.1-1.5.
UB2 — Beltsville, Md., (low mowing), silt loam and silt, 6.1-6.5, 3.1-4.0, 0-0.5.
VA1 — Blacksburg, Va., silt loam and silt, 6.1-6.5, 3.1-4.0, 2.1-2.5.
WA1 — Pullman, Wash., silt loam and silt, 6.1-6.5, 2.1-3.0, 1.1-1.5.
WA3 — Puyallup, Wash., sandy loam, 5.6-6.0, 4.1-5.0, 1.1-1.5.

Supers cautious over rye diseases

BELTSVILLE, Md. — Certain disease problems in ryegrasses "are steering many people away from the use of ryegrass — at least in the transition zone," according to the national director of the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program.

"A lot of superintendents are considering going to bentgrass or zoysiagrass on fairways," Kevin Morris said from his office here. "A lot would like to go to zoysia, but the problem is cost and getting it established. Bentgrass is a more economical option for many of them, if they have a good irrigation system and the ability to keep thatch under control."

Morris said gray leaf spot — never a concern that far north before — was a big problem in the mid-Atlantic region last year.

"It may have been just the right climatic conditions. It may be that superintendents are using fungicides so much that they've wiped out beneficial organisms that keep gray leaf spot in check," he said. "So now we have this new problem on ryes in this area. And the question is whether we have resistance to it. Most likely, we don't have a lot of resistance."

One more challenge to the breeders.

Ryes far superior

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tence under close mowing and fairway-type conditions."

While generic color "has always been highly correlated with quality ratings," he said, "that doesn't mean a grass will persist well. We stress them to the point where they have to be able to persist regardless of color.

"The color is fairly easy to improve. But improving the disease resistance takes a more concerted effort and more breeders are looking at that area."

The new cultivars are so fresh from the laboratories that only three of the top 10 are commercially available this year. And it may take awhile to get others into production.

"Finding the acreage in Oregon is becoming more and more difficult," Morris said.

Meanwhile, all this improved breeding is good for the consumer, he said, adding: "If these grasses will persist and survive with less water, pesticides, etc., the consumer benefits."