

Lynch comment

Continued from previous page

bentgrass "... requires a relatively intense level of culture..." and that they are, "... susceptible to a large number of diseases."

Under high intensity maintenance, colonial bentgrasses are very susceptible to disease. Turn this equation around, and under low intensity maintenance, they are extremely resistant to disease pressure. As a result of Dr. Beard's book, many of us went through turf school thinking that colonials were somehow inferior to creepers. The truth of the matter is, they are neither better or worse: just different.

Today, great improvements are being made. SR 7100, Bardot and Tendenz are a far cry better than their parent material. We have been advocating these fine fescue and colonial bentgrass polystands for years.

Turfgrass trials installed by Tom Cook at Oregon State University in June of 1992 were seeded with 11 such mixes and one plot of perennial ryegrass as a check plot. Some of these mixes also included Kentucky bluegrasses or perennial ryegrasses with the fine fescue/colonial bentgrasses. The plots have received no additional fertility beyond preplant and no pesticide applications whatsoever. They have been mowed at 0.500" with the clippings removed. Through four summers, the combination (90 percent Chewings fescue/10 percent colonial bentgrass) has performed best, followed very closely by those plots that added strong creeping and hard fescues to the polystand.

These plots have remained relatively weed free and have shown very little sign of disease. These combinations of the fine fescues and colonial bents have stayed extremely well integrated and have provided a firm, dense, uniform playing surface. By contrast, those plots with Kentucky bluegrass or perennial ryegrass in the mix have been very prone to Red Thread, Pink Snow Mold and weed invasion, and segregated almost immediately. The perennial ryegrass check plot has shown the worst performance of all under these low input conditions.

We applaud the movement in the golf industry that is trying to maintain the traditional look of the Scottish links courses. We are also encouraged that our industry is making great strides to reduce the chemical, mechanical, and monetary inputs required of golf course maintenance. Mixing fine fescues with colonial bentgrasses is an excellent way of reducing pesticide applications, lowering water use and minimizing fertility requirements.

Although the turfgrass/golf industry has been slow to break from the "conventional wisdom", more and more superintendents are realizing what's new isn't always better, and what's old isn't always bad.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

Musser Foundation names President Dobie and new directors

SHARON CENTER, Ohio — Musser International Turfgrass Foundation has announced its 1996 board of directors.

The Musser Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to fostering turfgrass as a learned profession and supporting education and research in turfgrass development and management. The board is composed of turf professionals who volunteer their time and efforts.

This year's board officers are President Frank Dobie of The Sharon Golf Club in Sharon Center, Ohio; First Vice President Dr. Joseph Duich; Second Vice President Tom Burrows of Tom Burrows Turfgrass

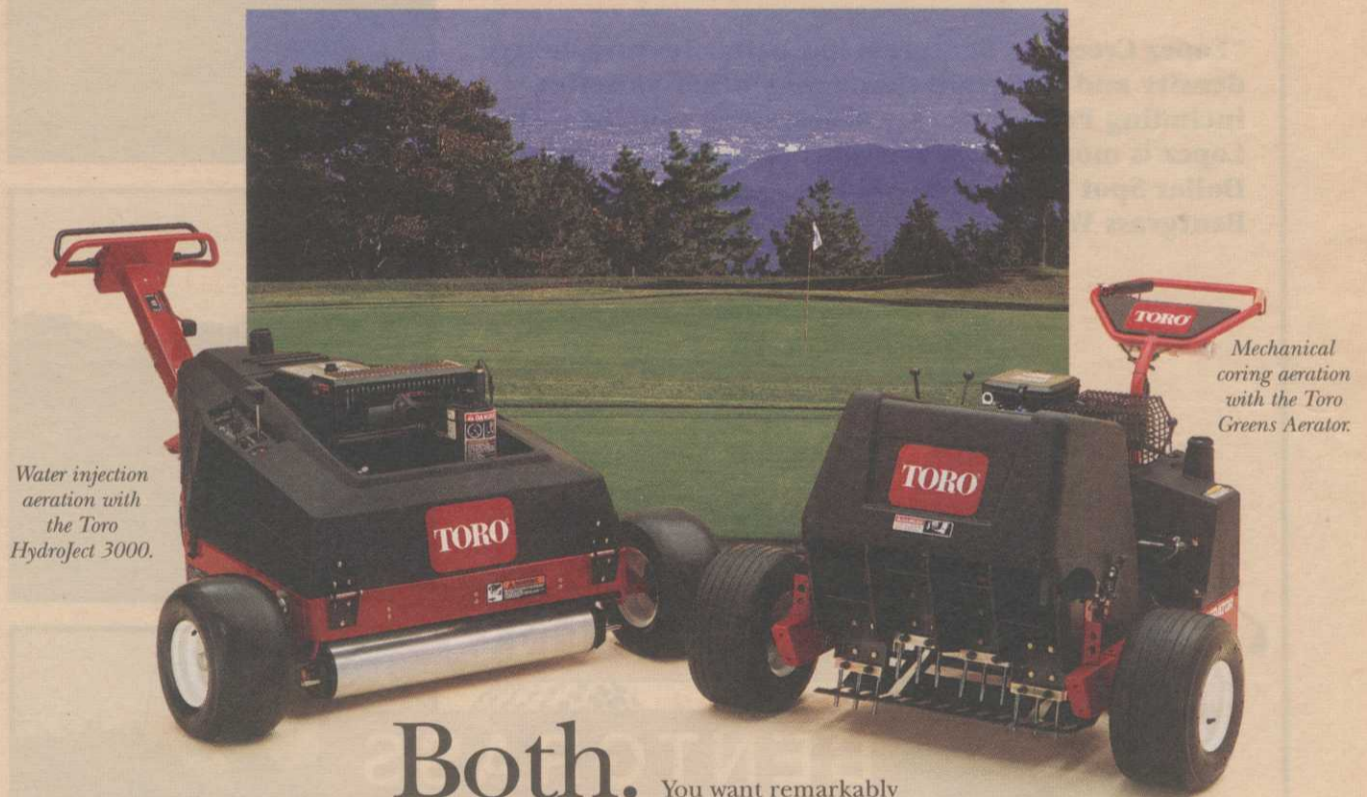
Services in Stuart, Fla.; Treasurer John Spodnik of Westfield Center, Ohio; and Secretary Dudley Smith of Silver Lake Country Club (CC) in Orland Park, Ill.

Elected to the board are Joseph Baidy of Acacia CC in Lyndurst, Ohio; Michael Bavier of Inverness Golf Club in Palatine, Ill.; Dr. James Beard of International Sports Turf Institute in College Station, Texas; Michael Hurdzan of Hurdzan Design Group in Columbus, Ohio; James Loke of Bent Creek Golf Club in Lancaster, Pa.; Jeffrey Markow of Cypress Point Club in Pebble Beach, Calif.; Don Maske of AgrEvo in Parkville, Mo.; Dr. Harry Niemczyk of

Ohio State University; and Dr. Tom Perkins of American Cyanamid Co. in Wayne, N.J.

The remaining board members are Terry Plagman, Penncross Growers Association, Albany, Ore.; Dr. Paul Rieke, Michigan State University; William Rose, Tee-2-Green Inc., Hubbard, Ore.; Dr. Robert Shearman, University of Nebraska; John Souter, Souter of Stirling Ltd. of Scotland; Eberhart Steiniger, Laurel Springs, N.J.; Brent Wadsworth, Wadsworth Golf Construction Co., Plainfield, Ill.; Dr. James Watson, Littleton, Colo.; Norm Whitworth, Whitworth Associates, Oak Grove, Ore.; and Stanley Zontex, U.S. Golf Association, West Chester, Pa.

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