

BRIEFS



SEED RESEARCH HONORS FERRIN

CORVALLIS, Ore. — Seed Research of Oregon, Inc. (SRO) has presented Jim Ferrin of Granite Bay (Calif.) Golf Club its 1995 Golf Course Superintendent of the Year Award. A certified golf course superintendent, Ferrin was given the award for "his dedication to integrated pest management, turfgrass variety testing, and innovative cultural practices," according to SRO.



Jim Ferrin

MAINE HONORS LEWIS

ROCKPORT, Maine — Pat Lewis of Portland Country Club in Falmouth Foreside was presented the Distinguished Service Award at the Maine Golf Course Superintendents Association annual conference and show here in March. Lewis is a certified golf course superintendent and former president of the MGCSA. Greg Holder was given the Vern Putney Award and outgoing President Jim Hodge the Presidents Plaque.



Pat Lewis

AUDUBON CERTIFIES LORDS VALLEY CC

HAWLEY, Pa. — Lords Valley Country Club has been designated a "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary," becoming the second course in the state and 62nd in the country to receive the honor. "The membership at Lords has enjoyed the diverse and prolific wildlife population of our club since the ... club was established," said superintendent Dennis Watkins. "The Audubon ... program has been a tool to help us protect, enhance, and develop a greater appreciation for our environment."

PASSIOS MOVES ON

NANTUCKET, Mass. — Charles T. Passios, former member of the board of directors of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, has been hired as superintendent at Nantucket Golf Club, construction on which began this spring. A certified golf course superintendent, Passios has been golf course manager at Hyannisport (Mass.) Club. The new course is being designed by Rees Jones.



Charles Passios

USGA, supers confront concerns over unstable Bermudagrass

By MARK LESLIE

HOUSTON, Texas — Believing that "Bermudagrass greens are on the ropes," the U.S. Golf Association (USGA) Green Section, superintendents, university researchers and others are hoping for vast improvements — quickly.

Convening at Houston Country Club here, some 150 golf course superintendents heard USGA agronomists and university researchers explain that cultivars of hybrid Bermudagrass are becoming increasingly unstable and some sort of research must be done to solve the problem.

"If what was going on with Bermudagrass greens and fairways existed for bentgrasses, there would be

an eruption," said Green Section Southeast Region Director Patrick O'Brien. "It's amazing how it's not getting publicity because it's simply Bermudagrass."

A summary of the Houston meeting will be presented in May to the USGA Research Committee which will develop requests for proposals for projects dealing with the issues at hand, said Green Section National Director Jim Snow. "It may not require a lot of money — perhaps just defining what can be done and finding the people to do it."

"I'm encouraged. It was a good meeting that opened people's eyes about other peoples' viewpoints."

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Significant advances in genetics foster nat'l conclave of scientists

By MARK LESLIE

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Geneticists are progressing at lightning speed in this "very, very new" area of turfgrass research, and to get scientists up to speed on these advances the U.S. Golf Association Green Section and Michigan State University (MSU) are hosting a Workshop on Biotechnology of Turfgrass here, Aug. 11-13.

"This is the growth area where future significant changes will be made," said Dr. Michael Kenna, director of Green



Section research and workshop coordinator. "Whoever can learn the most the fastest and patent significant parts of it will be able to springboard into the future. That's the race."

Scientists from around the country have been invited to the conference, and 26 45-minute talks are scheduled. Ranging from molecular biology to gene cloning and *in vitro* culture and somaclonal variation, many of the subjects have never been discussed in a national or international workshop

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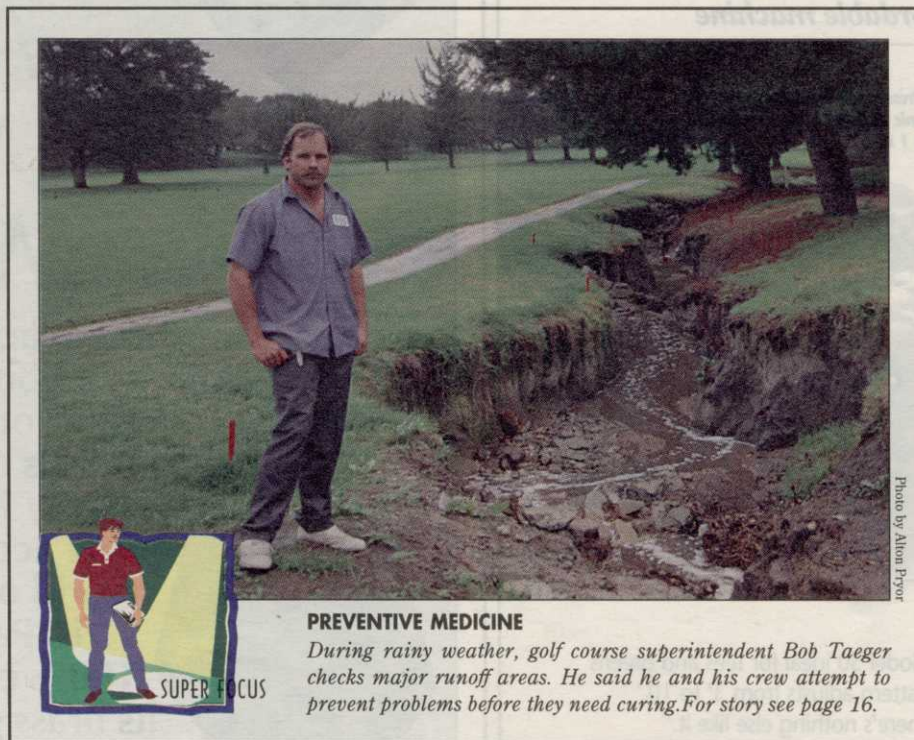


Photo by Allan Pryor



PREVENTIVE MEDICINE

During rainy weather, golf course superintendent Bob Taeger checks major runoff areas. He said he and his crew attempt to prevent problems before they need curing. For story see page 16.

GCSAA sending team to first international tournament

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Six representatives of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) will travel to England in September as part of the Americas team to participate in the inaugural Hayter Challenge golf event. GCSAA President Bruce R. Williams also will attend as non-playing captain.

West Lancashire Golf Course in Blundellsands, Liverpool, and Fairhaven Golf Course in Lytham, St. Annes, will

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host the event Sept. 15-19. Sponsored by European equipment manufacturer Hayter, the tournament is designed to promote international relations and communications among golf course superintendent organizations. Plans call for the event to be held biennially at locations alternating between the United States and Europe.

Q & A



Dr. A. J. Powell
Univ. of Kentucky

Ed. — This month we begin a continuing series of interviews with leading university professors and researchers affecting the golf course industry.

UK's Powell shares transition zone turfgrass know-how

Andrew J. Powell, Ph.D, is a professor in the University of Kentucky Department of Agronomy. He has also taught and conducted research at the University of Maryland and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (VPI and SU). Among his accomplishments are the release of Quickstand Bermudagrass, a new grass for the upper transition zone; and identification of Vamont Bermudagrass, a grass released by VPI and SU and historically the major turf used in the transition zone.

Golf Course News: With the increasing emphasis on prudent pesticide usage, are you seeing more courses converting to warm-season grasses in the transition zone? If so, why?

Powell: Yes, many perennial ryegrass courses are converting. They are determining that the risk of bermuda winter kill is less than perennial ryegrass summer die-back. Also, the cost of establishing bermuda may actually be less than the annual cost of their previous fairway fungicide program. Fungicides are seldom needed on Bermuda.

GCN: What are the warm-season Bermudagrass varieties that work well? Can you briefly describe their advantages and disadvantages?

Powell: For the upper transition zone, I would only consider Quickstand, Vamont or Midiron. Other new vegetation varieties such as Midlawn may also prove to do well, but we have little experience with them. In addition, the new seeded varieties such as Mirage,

Jackpot and Sundevil are much more winter hardy than previous seeded varieties, but it appears that they still lack some hardiness dur-

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Q&A: Dr. Powell

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ing the establishment year (first winter).

Quickstand and Midiron are slightly finer in texture than Vamont. Quickstand establishes faster than Midiron or Vamont, and Quickstand appears to have excellent resistance to spring dead spot. All of these varieties are coarser and lighter green than Tifway.

GCN: How do the zoysiagrass varieties fit in? Can you briefly describe those that show promise?

Powell: For the upper South, zoysia is in a class by itself for fairway quality. The problem with zoysia is cost and/or establishment. Row-planted zoysia takes several years to completely cover.

Strip-sodding is somewhat faster, but it is much more labor intensive and expensive, and the light-colored zoysia strips can be annoying to the golfer. Sodding is the way to go but obviously very expensive for an entire course.

Although several experimental and new zoysia varieties look promising, Meyer is still

the variety of choice.

GCN: How close in quality does the best seeded variety come to the vegetative varieties of Bermudagrass?

Powell: So far, the most winter hardy seeded varieties of bermuda, like Mirage and Sundevil, are as coarse or coarser in texture than common Bermuda. They frequently green-up a couple of weeks behind the vegetative varieties.

But the main difference is winter hardiness. The previously named vegetative varieties are much more hardy than common Bermuda.

Although the texture is very coarse for these new varieties, they can be of high quality if mowed frequently and mowed short.

GCN: Gray leaf spot is a particularly severe problem with the perennial ryegrasses found in your area. What perennial ryegrass varieties best withstand gray leaf spot?

Powell: We did have a serious problem with gray leaf spot last summer and it may have been the big culprit causing perennial ryegrass loss in 1991 and 1993. We have not been able to get uniform infection in our peren-

nial ryegrass plots and cannot suggest possible resistant varieties.

GCN: Dr. Paul Vincelli, a fellow University of Kentucky researcher, is exploring a possible connection between the early-season appearance of gray leaf spot on forage grasses and its subsequent appearance on turfgrasses. What are the potential benefits of this research?

Powell: We made an interesting observation last summer, that is, that moderate to severe damage from *Pyricularia grisea* [gray leaf spot] was occurring in fields of German foxtail millet in Kentucky up to a month before we saw severe damage in perennial ryegrass fairways.

In the future, we hope to put this observation to the test. Can we protect ryegrass fairways with one or two protective sprays that are made after we see gray leaf spot developing on German foxtail millet, or other warm-season forage grasses? And if so, which fungicides should we use?

These questions will be the subject of future field research, but must wait for the kind of summer we experienced last year.

UKentucky profs share solutions

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to cause a seed germination problem for fall reseeding.

Clover can easily be killed with most 2,4-D, MCP, and dicamba combinations. After application, two to four weeks are required before reseeding. The reduced germination caused by these products is minimal with perennial ryegrass seedings.

What can you do about yellow nutsedge? Not much. Most nutsedge herbicides have a two-week or more waiting period required before seeding. Round-Up will burn nutsedge seriously, but it offers poor control. Even with products such as Bassagran, Trimec Plus and Manage, several applications are required over a two- or three-year period, in order to obtain adequate control.

SEEDING

Prior to seeding, a hollow-tine aerification (with cores destroyed) will help relieve compaction and increase soil-seed contact. Slit-seed the perennial ryegrass in two or three directions, with the seeder calibrated to apply between 30-40 pounds per acre for each pass. In order to increase the rapidity of cover and reduce the seeded row-effect, precede the slit-seeding by broadcasting another 40-80 pounds/acre.

After the ryegrass has germinated, apply nitrogen every four to six weeks until the end of the year. Then next year, if at all possible, do not apply additional nitrogen until fall.

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