

Curly mesquite may be grass answer for some

MARANA, Ariz. — Facing Arizona's tight water restrictions and striving to incorporate native grasses into their property, the architect and developers of The Links at Continental Ranch Golf Club here are using curly mesquitegrass and purple three-awn. It is believed to be the first time they have been used on a golf course.

Curly mesquitegrass is a drought-tolerant turf that can survive the 4 to 5 inches of rainfall a year common in the Southwest, and so it was a natural choice, said course architect Brian Huntley.

"I was essentially given a blank slate from which to create an authentic Scottish-style golf experience," Huntley said. "In the traditional links layouts of Scotland, courses are surrounded by heather and gorse. Curly mesquitegrass and purple three-awn will essentially serve as the heather and gorse for The Links at Continental Ranch..."

The two grasses are being used to accent the fairways. Curly mesquitegrass can grow as high as 6 to 8 inches when not mowed. It can, however, survive as low as 2 inches. Its growing season lasts from March to October. Planted in tufts, it sends out slender stolons, which in turn produce new tufts. The internodes of the stolons are wiry and measure 5 to 20 centimeters long. Its blades tend to be flat, usually 1 to 2 millimeters wide,

and have a scabrous look to them.

University of Arizona Prof. David Kopec studied curly mesquitegrass in the late 1980s, after gathering some of it in the desert. It showed potential to become an arid-region turf. Now the test is on.

Pacific Golf Management,

which is managing the facility for the owner, Southwest Value Partners, intends to open the course in November. It is part of an 1,800-acre master-planned community northwest of Tucson.

Curly mesquitegrass is hydroseeded at The Links at Continental Ranch Golf Club.



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Moncrief Scholars chosen by Georgia GCSA, Foundation

ATLANTA, Ga. — Four students from the University of Georgia (UGA) and four from ABAC have been named recipients of Monty Moncrief Memorial Scholarships, awarded to students in the field of agronomy and turfgrass research.

The Moncrief Scholarship Program is sponsored by the Georgia State Golf Foundation, with assistance from the Georgia Golf Course Superintendents Association.

Selected from UGA are Jim Evans of Keene, N.H., Brent Miller of Savannah, Phil Petit of Woodbine and Max Schlossberg of Athens. Selected from ABAC are Jason Bridges of Perry, Wayne Johnson of Albany, Bryan Moore of Tifton and David Prescott of Fitzgerald.

For further information regarding applying for a Moncrief Scholarship, or making a donation to the program, people may contact the Georgia State Golf Foundation at 770-612-1788.

