

## Poa annua

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winter damage, and its diversity complicates the uniformity in growth and color demanded for golf course greens.

"We're looking to eliminate those types of weaknesses," said Huff. "We do have a variety that's resistant to several strains of anthracnose. One Poa strain also has a very good field resistance

to dollar spot. The tests this year will be a key factor. We're also focusing on color."

### SEED PRODUCTION

For those who have Poa and rely on it, Huff hopes to offer a tool so they can continue to manage their courses the way they would like. "I've had one guy say, 'More superintendents have kept their jobs because of Poa rather than have lost their jobs because of Poa,'" he said.

Building a market with an abundant supply of Poa products could prove challenging. "It may be quite some time before we solve all the problems with the plant," said Huff. "Probably not in my lifetime. But the biggest single thing holding us back from the marketplace is seed production.

"You just can't go out and harvest the seed with a combine," he said. "That's what all the seed

producers use. They're huge operations, and I don't imagine most would want to harvest Poa as a sort of specialty."

### HANDLING NATIVE STRAINS

Kevin Morris, executive director of the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program, in Beltsville, Md., sees other com-



Cup hole filled with Poa on bentgrass test plot

plications. "Poa is unique because there are so many locally adaptive eco-types that it would be difficult for someone to market," he said.

"The problem is marketing a

*'The problem is marketing a variety that can overcome and withstand the native varieties of Poa.'*

— Kevin Morris

variety that can overcome and withstand the native varieties of Poa," Morris added. "It would be hard to obtain a uniform green that's not invaded by a local Poa with a different strain. Native types may move in and create a splotchy, non-uniform green, just like they do with bentgrass."

That hasn't stopped Colin Boyd. He has been growing Poa annua for the past five years, doing green extensions on as many as 60 golf courses.

"We're doing this because the older-style golf courses—the Oak Hills and the Aroniminks of the world—have Poa annua greens," said Boyd, president of Colin Boyd Turf Industries in New Wilmington, Pa. "We focus on the golf course industry, and strictly greens and tees.

"Our approach is to make it so that the golfer can't tell that we were there, as opposed to using straight bentgrass," he added. "The sod we grow, we hope, helps make our extensions match up well and flow with the rest of the green." ■

### PENN STATE STUDENTS RECEIVE GCSAA SCHOLARSHIPS

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — Eight students at Penn State's Golf Course Turfgrass Management Program were awarded



scholarships by the GCSAA. The scholars are: Daniel J. Brickley,

R. Geoffrey Brunner, Sean R. Jordan, Toby J. Kiggins, Joshua J. Laughridge and Joseph Maloney. Merit award winners were Aaron J. Baker and Steven T. Craig.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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