

# Golf course architects' guide

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**A comparison of colonial and creeping bentgrasses for 1/2- and 3/4-inch turf.**

R. E. Engel. Report on Turfgrass Research at Rutgers University. New Jersey Ag. Exp. Sta. Bulletin 816. pp. 45-47. 1966. (from the Department of Soils and Crops, Rutgers, the State University, New Brunswick, New Jersey).

The objective of this study was to compare the performance of colonial and creeping bentgrasses when mowed at fairway mowing heights. Five colonial bentgrasses (Astoria, Exeter, Highland, New Zealand browntop, and R. J. colonial) and four creeping bentgrasses (Arlington, Dahlgren, Penncross and Seaside) were maintained at cutting heights of 1/2 and 3/4 inches. Also included were two nitrogen treatments: two and four pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet per year. There were a maximum of four irrigations per year

with no fungicides applied. The length of the experiment was eight years.

For the first five years, the creeping bentgrasses ranked higher in turfgrass quality than the colonial bentgrasses. This advantage decreased after seven years. The advantage of the creeping bentgrasses was more apparent at a 1/2-inch cut than at 3/4-inch. The incidence of dandelions and annual bluegrass was less in the creeping bentgrasses than in the colonial types.

Thatch accumulation was greater at the higher (3/4 inch) and nitrogen level (four pounds nitrogen). The thatch accumulation was greater with the creeping bentgrasses, but it did not appear to offer unusual increases in trouble through eight years. The greater thatch accumulation was attributed, at least partially, to the greater natural density of growth of the creeping types.

Dollar spot incidence resulted in a late summer and early fall slump in turf performance greater in the creeping bentgrasses than in the colonials. Dollarspot infestations

were greater at the lower cut.

A comparison among the seven bentgrasses showed Arlington to give the best performance under fairway management and New Jersey conditions. Seaside showed no advantages over the colonial bentgrasses. In spite of the high cut and vigorous growth characteristics, Penncross had good overall quality. Among the colonial bentgrasses, Exeter and R. I. colonial had a decided advantage. At the 3/4-inch mowing height all the bentgrasses except Seaside, Arlington, and Penncross had good dollar-spot resistance.

*Comments*—These results indicate that some creeping bentgrass selections are just as desirable as the colonial types for use under fairway management. The creeping types have a greater thatching tendency but also have a greater density of growth and thus can compete more favorably against invading weeds such as *Poa annua*. The net result is better quality. One should not conclude from these

*Continued on next page*

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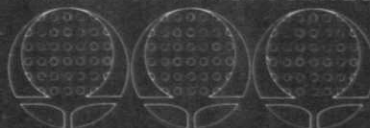
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