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turfgrass arm of CSSA, at the urging of the Turf Breeders Association (TBA), did vote to use *Festuca arundinacea*. Score one — maybe two — for the breeders.

In fact, there is a strong argument to be made that recent CSSA guidelines say the scientific name to use for tall fescue is *Lolium arundinaceum* (Schreb.) Darbysh.

Some observers suspect this may be a New Age versus Old Age situation. The standard reference for turfgrass on the Web, "The Grass Manual," says fescue is now *Schedonorus arundinaceus*.

Those who use hard-copy books like the standard "Manual of the Grasses of the United States" by A.S. Hitchcock (and revised by Agnes Chase), point out that it uses *Festuca arundinacea* — and the editors reached that decision after looking at all the options for many years. Vickie Bradley says her portion of GRIN (the U.S. Department of Agriculture's research group known as the Germplasm Information Network) still calls it *Festuca*.

Those favoring the change note that GRIN, even though part of the Agricultural Research Service, is not an official site for nomenclature. Supporters of the new name say they suspect GRIN is still using the old binomial only because they have worldwide clientele and many folks, who are not privy to current literature, don't know about the name change.

Actually, GRIN does recognize *Schedonorus phoenix* (Scop.) Holub as the official binomial on-line (<http://www.ars-grin.gov/cgi-bin/npgs/html/taxonpl?429056>) but also uses *Festuca arundinacea*.

Many turf agronomists say the change took them aback, but they were willing to accept it because someone has to be the naming authority.

If you need to point to one person responsible for the change in taxonomy, it likely would be Barkworth. She chose the name *Schedonorus* from among four proposed alternatives and put it in her recent revision of Flora North America. In effect, that made it the official name for fescue, at least here in the United States.

To throw some fat onto the fire, she says she has questions on *Volpia* (foxtail or Zorro fescue), too. Barkworth notes that its name is based on European conventions that simply were imported with little question. But she is firm that *Festuca* is not where the broadleaf fescues belong.

"In my honest opinion, I consider them *Lolium*, but I'll go along with either *Lolium* or

Schedonorus," she says.

Many turf agronomists say the change took them aback, but they were willing to accept it because someone has to be the naming authority and Barkworth, given her position of prominence in the field — coupled with her knowledge and stature — is the logical person to make that decision. Supporters say CSSA should be using the name *Schedonorus*, not *Lolium* and *Festuca*.

If you're keeping score, it might be safe to discount *Lolium*. *Lolium arundinaceum* hasn't been an accepted name for tall fescue historically. While it received some attention, it seems to be a transient name.

The conflict between CSSA and Inter-mountain Herbarium over use of *Schedonorus* and *Festuca* is likely to go a few more rounds. Referees in the fight will be the editors of the many reports done by researchers in all areas — genetics, chemicals, fertility and mowing. Each time one refers to tall fescue another gong will sound and an editor will stand up and score points for one side or the other.

On the golf course, however, it will likely remain plain, old tall fescue.

Curt Harler is managing editor of *Golfdom's* TurfGrass Trends section.

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