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Last Call for PDI

Yea

Continued from page 50

tary program. If one elects not to meet the new requirements of Class A membership, that person will be a general superintendent member. The person will still have access to all the benefits he or she now has as a GCSAA member, including education, career development and information services.

GCSAA is not Big Brother working against you. It is you and I working together to enhance our place in golf. It's time to stop telling ourselves how wonderful we are. It is time to take our story to the rest of the golfing world and secure our position as a major force in the sport.

I support PDI because it can help us achieve these goals. Is it the only answer? No. Will it solve every problem? No. Just as we use varied techniques and tools to be successful at our own facility, PDI is part of a program to achieve the goals it was intended to — security, value and marketing.

Downing is director of golf course operations at Barefoot Resort & GC in North Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Nay

Continued from page 50

as an equal, not a "less-than." What gives the association the right to tell a new member that he or she must meet its expectations?

The association must meet the expectations of a potential member. The new member pays for services that the association provides. The association must attract new members by being able to help them succeed and by offering beneficial services, rather than demanding compliance.

Thank you for the PDR (formerly the HR web) as a voluntary tool to better understand our strengths and weaknesses. This is what the association should be about, and it's a benefit of membership. It's about providing *for*, not demanding *of*.

We need to promote the association by what we do *for* each other, *for* golf and *for* the environment.

Do not implement a program of segregation like the PDI. Do what is right for the membership, not what is right for the association. They are not the same.

Hiles, a superintendent and consultant in eastern Canada, is an active board member for various turfgrass associations.



Scott Wilke Superintendent Firethorne Golf Course Lincoln, NE

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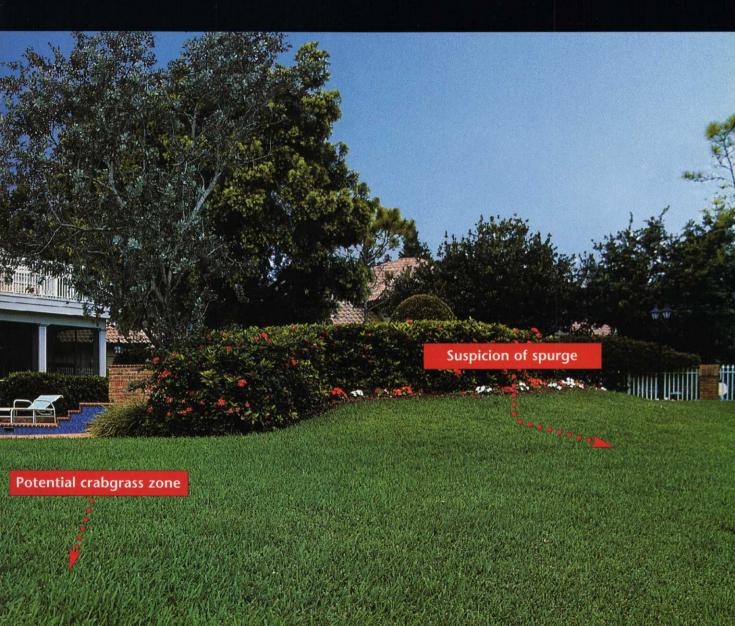
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WEED IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

Successful weed identification is a combination of timing and user-friendly data. Timing in relation to the maturity of the plant (the older, the easier) and user-friendly data, meaning an identification guide that is designed to facilitate the identification process. Both were considered in the design of this guide.

Timing: When identifying either monocot (grassy) weeds or dicot (broadleaf) weeds, studying a mature or flowering sample is very important. All of the most easily identifiable traits flowers, seeds, leaves and roots—are present then, so take some time to find a mature specimen to examine.

User-friendly data: For ease of use, this guide concentrates on those plant characteristics that differentiate one species from another rather than those traits each has in common. These differences are represented visually with added text to refine the distinctions between similar plants.

Understanding the terms used in this guide

Understanding the parts of a grass plant are essential to accurately identify monocot weeds. In the example shown, pay particular attention to the seedhead, the ligule and the collar. They are the plant parts which have the most differentiating traits.

Abbreviations

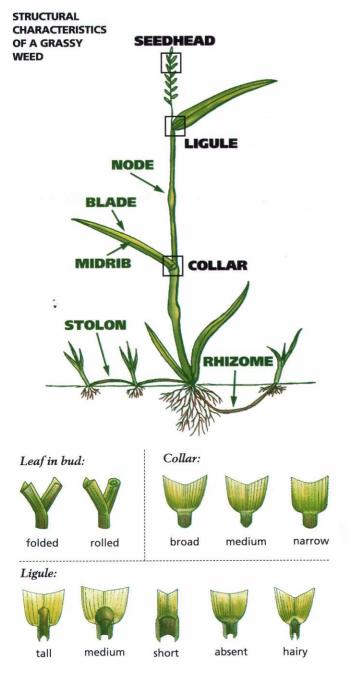
aka = "also known as" (different common names are popular in different parts of the U.S.)

Further help

The use of this guide was designed to help managers substantially reduce the number of possible weed species identifications. However, variations in a plant's vegetative characteristics or distribution may require that managers forward samples to their local extension service for confirmation. BASF's local technical representatives can also be contacted for further help at 800/545-9525 or on the Web at www.turffacts.com.

Sources

Information was compiled from the Scotts "Guide to the Identification of Grasses," the Southern Weed Science Society's "Weed Identification Guide," A.S. Hitchcock's "Manual of the Grasses of the United States" and the extension department at Cornell University.



Monocot weeds

Because of natural variations within grasses and differences that occur under varying environments, the illustrations included herein are meant to be representative but not definitive. Users need to consider all of the information—seedhead, in-bud, ligule, collar, descriptive text, tips and distribution—to accurately identify a weed.

As you proceed, keep in mind that you should not rely on an individual characteristic to be conclusive, rather total the number of similar characteristics between the sample and the guide to help narrow the number of possibilities.

The monocot weed species illustrated herein were selected for their likelihood of appearing in turf and their latest reported distribution.

Identifying a monocot weed

Once a mature sample has been selected, check each of the listed plant parts as follows:

- seedhead—size, shape, openness and number, size and shape of branches and seeds
- in-bud—cut through a leaf stem and determine if it is folded or rolled
- ligule—remove a leaf from its stem and with a hand lens check the size, shape and texture
- collar—lay the leaf flat, underside up and check the size, shape and top and bottom edges
- tips—check for additional vegetative plant characteristics
- distribution—confirm that this weed species has been identified in your state

ANNUAL BLUEGRASS

aka Poa annua, poa

DIAGNOSTIC TIPS:

Very persistent self-seeding winter annual or biennial

Short, narrow leaf blades with parallel edges and boat-shaped tip

Some leaf blades wavy

Germinates in late summer/early fall

Shallow-rooted, dying under heat or moisture stress



STRUCTURAL CHARACTERISTICS:



Leaf in bud:

folded



narrow

top pinched



Ligule: medium pointed



SANDBUR

DIAGNOSTIC TIPS:

A mostly prostrate, narrow-leafed summer annual that likes sandy soils

Distinctive yellow seedhead contains 6-20 large, sharplyburred seeds

Burred seeds can cause painful injury to unprotected feet or ankles



Ligule:

hairy

STRUCTURAL CHARACTERISTICS:



Leaf in bud: folded



Collar: broad bottom pinched

DISTRIBUTION:



FOXTAIL BARLEY aka squirreltail bar-

aka squirreltail barley

DIAGNOSTIC TIPS:

A narrow-leafed prostrate summer annual

Leaf blades coarse to touch, often with sparse, stiff hairs

Seedhead is a single tufted spike

Seed has a 2-3-inch-long hair at pointed end

STRUCTURAL CHARACTERISTICS:







Leaf in bud: folded

Collar: broad bottom pinched

Ligule: tall toothed





GOOSEGRASS aka silver crabgrass

A narrow-leafed dense prostrate summer annual

Leaf color is darker green than most annual monocots

Collar area has sparse long hairs

Seedhead has 2-13 branches which are white to silver in color

STRUCTURAL CHARACTERISTICS:



Leaf in bud: folded



Collar: broad continuous

DISTRIBUTION:





Ligule:

short

toothed & divided

BARNYARDGRASS aka billion dollargrass, watergrass

A very wide-bladed semiprostrate summer annual

Stems may be branched at nodes and frequently bent upright

Seedhead has multiple short perpendicular branches

Seeds are coarse with short burrs

STRUCTURAL CHARACTERISTICS:





broad



Collar width: Ligule height: absent





CHEATGRASS

aka chess, rye bromegrass

A narrow-leafed, mostly erect winter annual

Underside of leaf is often hairy

Seedhead is open with multiple semi-erect branches carrying 1-4 seed clusters

Seeds look like cultivated wheat or rye



Ligule:

short

toothed

GREEN FOXTAIL aka green bristlegrass

A wide-leafed mounded summer annual

Leaf blades are limp, bright green and sharply pointed

Stems bent upright at nodes

Seedhead cylindrical with tufted pale green seeds



STRUCTURAL CHARACTERISTICS:



Leaf in bud: rolled



Collar: broad bottom pinched

DISTRIBUTION:



STRUCTURAL CHARACTERISTICS:







hairy

Collar: narrow

narrow continuous

DISTRIBUTION:

rolled



LARGE CRABGRASS aka hairy fingergrass

A wide-bladed prostrate summer annual

Leaves are hairy on both surfaces with a prominent midrib

Older nodes are often branched and rooted where contacting soil

Seedhead open with 4-6 slender branches

STRUCTURAL CHARACTERISTICS:



Leaf in bud: rolled



Ligule:

tall

toothed & pointed

Collar: broad top pinched

DISTRIBUTION:



RESCUEGRASS aka prairiegrass, rescue brome

A wide-leafed winter annual or biennial

Leaves are hairy at edges and on upper surface

Seedhead is open with bending slender side branches

Seed clusters look like cultivated wheat or rye

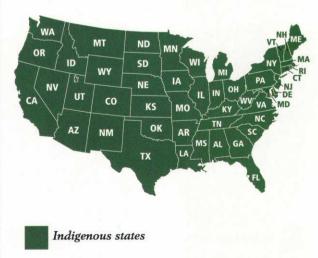






Collar: broad bottom pinched

Ligule: tall toothed & pointed



Leaf in bud: rolled

WEED IDENTIFICATION GUIDE W 9

SMOOTH CRABGRASS

aka *fingergrass*

A narrow-leafed prostrate summer annual

Leaves are not hairy except sparsely haired in collar area

Stems branch at nodes, but do not root

Seedhead has 2-6 slender upright branches



Ligule:

tall

rounded

STRUCTURAL CHARACTERISTICS:

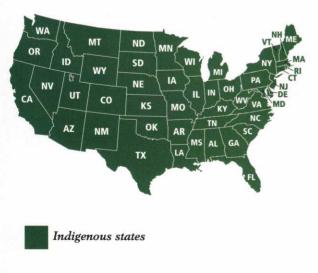


Leaf in bud: rolled



Collar: broad bottom pinched

DISTRIBUTION:



STINKGRASS

A narrow-leafed annual

Leaves are dull on upper surface and glossy on underside

Collar area has sparse long hairs

Plant has a very disagreeable odor when cut or damaged



STRUCTURAL CHARACTERISTICS:





Collar: narrow continuous



Ligule: hairy

DISTRIBUTION:

rolled



WITCHGRASS

An erect wide-bladed summer annual

Leaves are densely haired on both surfaces

Emerging seedhead is fountainlike

Mature seedhead is large and very open with slender branches carrying single seeds



Ligule:

hairy

YELLOW FOXTAIL

An erect wide-bladed summer annual

Upper leaf surface has long hairs in collar area

Leaves are often slightly twisted in an open spiral



STRUCTURAL CHARACTERISTICS:



Leaf in bud: rolled



Collar: broad continuous

DISTRIBUTION:



STRUCTURAL CHARACTERISTICS:





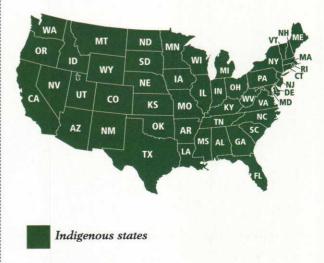


hairy

Leaf in bud: rolled

Collar: narrow

top pinched





TERMINATION



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BASF

Poa annua alert

DOWNY BROME

aka drooping bromegrass

An erect narrow-bladed winter annual

Leaves have dense soft hairs on both surfaces

Seedhead is open with drooping branches

Seed clusters are tufted and look like cultivated wheat or rye



Ligule:

medium

toothed & pointed

STRUCTURAL CHARACTERISTICS:



Leaf in bud: rolled



Collar: narrow bottom pinched

DISTRIBUTION:



Indigenous states

FALL PANICUM aka smooth witchgrass

A very wide-bladed mostly prostrate summer annual

Leaves may be hairy on upper surface, are glossy beneath and sharply pointed

Stems branched at nodes and bent upright

Seedhead is open with multiple very slender branches

STRUCTURAL CHARACTERISTICS:







Leaf in bud: rolled

Collar: broad continuous

Ligule height: hairy



wild oats

An erect wide-bladed annual

Plant often turns brown in summer as seed matures

Collar area has sparse short hairs

Stems are stiff

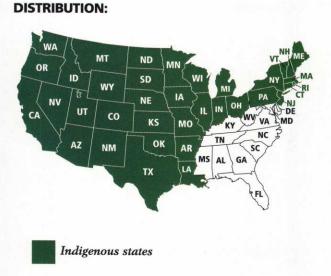
Seedhead is open with multiple branches carrying many single drooping seeds

STRUCTURAL CHARACTERISTICS:



Collar:

rolled



bottom pinched



Ligule:

tall

toothed

southern crabgrass aka summergrass

A wide-bladed prostrate summer annual

Leaves may be hairy on upper surface

Stems will root at nodes

Collar area has sparse long hairs

Seedhead has 2-9 slender branches

STRUCTURAL CHARACTERISTICS:



rolled

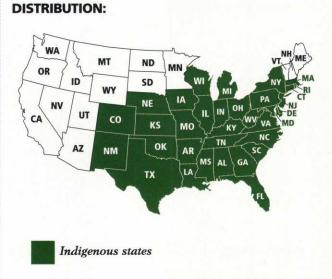


Collar:

broad



Ligule: medium toothed & pointed



DALLISGRASS aka *paspalum*

A warm-season coarse semi-erect spreading perennial

Collar area has hairs on upper leaf surface and at leaf edges

Seedhead has 3-7 rightangled slender branches

Roots may have short rhizomes

STRUCTURAL CHARACTERISTICS:



Leaf in bud: rolled

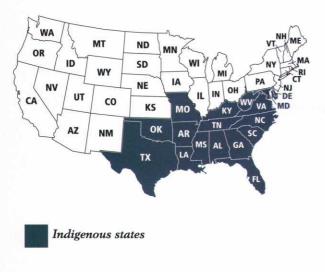


Collar: broad

Ligule:

tall

DISTRIBUTION:





A very narrow-leafed erect perennial

Collar area has hairs on upper leaf surface and on leaf edges

Seedhead is upright with white feather-like tufts







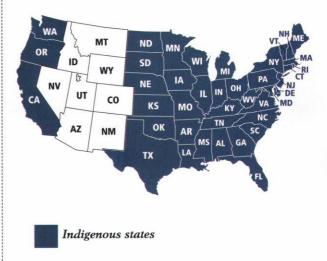


Collar: narrow continuous

Ligule: short with hairs

DISTRIBUTION:

folded



QUACKGRASS

An erect narrow-leafed aggressive perennial

Leaf is rough on upper surface

Collar area has claw-like fleshy appendages (auricles) that clasp stem

Plant develops multiple rhizomes from base of plant

Seedhead is a single slender spike

STRUCTURAL CHARACTERISTICS:



Leaf in bud: rolled



Collar: broad continuous

Ligule:

short

DISTRIBUTION:





A very wide-bladed aggressively spreading prostrate perennial

Collar area has short hairs on upper surface near ligule

Spreads by multiple ¼inch-thick rhizomes



STRUCTURAL CHARACTERISTICS:





Collar:

broad



Ligule: tall with hairs

Leaf in bud: rolled

bottom pinched



NIMBLEWILL

A very short-leafed stemmy spreading perennial herb

Leaves are short

Spreads by very slender stolons

On frequently mowed sites, plant often looks stemmy in fall

Turns off-white during winter

Collar area has long hairs at leaf edge

Seedhead has single, very slender spike

STRUCTURAL CHARACTERISTICS:



Leaf in bud: rolled



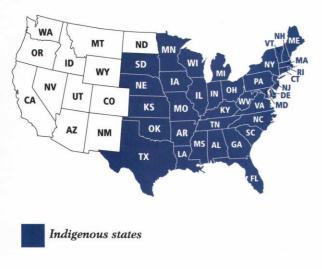
Collar: medium top pinched

Ł

Ligule:

short

DISTRIBUTION:



KNOTGRASS

A prostrate spreading perennial

Collar area has short hairs at leaf edges and near ligule

Seedhead has two slender upright branches



STRUCTURAL CHARACTERISTICS:





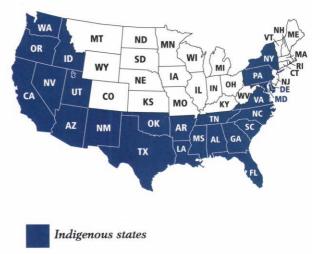


Collar: broad bottom pinched

Ligule: tall rounded

DISTRIBUTION:

rolled



YELLOW NUTSEDGE

aka yellow nutgrass

A very rapidly growing erect perennial herb

Spreads by rhizomes with underground tubers

Leaves are v-shaped with a prominent midrib tapering to a sharp point

Stems are triangular

OR

CA

Seedhead is semi-open, carrying yellow seeds

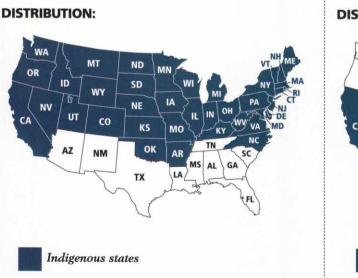
PURPLE NUTSEDGE aka purple nutgrass

Rapidly growing erect perennial herb

Spreads by rhizomes with underground tubers

Stems are triangular

Leaves are v-shaped, tapering to a sharp point Seedhead is open, carrying dark or purple seeds





KIKUYUGRASS

A low growing perennial that creeps with both stolons and rhizomes.

Flat leaf blades on light green leaves

Seedhead has 2 to 4 spikelets in upper sheath

Seeds are dark brown with large scars at the rounded base



TORPEDOGRASS

Aquatic grass with small leaves 1/16- to 1/4-in. wide

Leaves have hairs on top and often roll inward

Stems are stiff; often 1to 3-ft. tall

Grows from underground rhizomes with hard, pointed tips



STRUCTURAL CHARACTERISTICS:



folded



Collar: medium w/ fine hairs

N

Ligule: hairy

DISTRIBUTION:





STRUCTURAL CHARACTERISTICS:



rolled



Ligule: hairy

Collar: narrow (a pale band)



DICOTS

DICOT WEEDS

In a universe of hundreds of dicot weeds, a limited number can tolerate repeated mowing of managed turf sites. In order to provide a broader representation of turf weeds, we have included a select number of these dicot weeds. Those presented herein were chosen for their ability to survive in turf, often as a continuing pest. Several of the species can persist even at fairly short mowing heights; others are active in cool weather.

Identifying a dicot weed

Unlike the prototypical size and shape of monocot weeds, the shape and vegetative growth habits of many dicot weed groups are visually unique. Also, the distinctive traits of monocots—seedheads, ligules and collars—are not always present, making visual identification more important. We suggest the following process for identifying dicot weeds:

- Look for a sample flower if available
- Leaves: check for identifying characteristics (size, shape, notches, venation or coloration)
- Stems: check how the leaves are held (opposite or alternate), shape and color
- Flowers: check color, size and composition (single, double or compound)
- Location: take note of the conditions in which the weed is growing (shade, compacted soil, etc.)
- Distribution: confirm that this weed species has been identified in your state

DANDELION

aka common dandelion

A large rosette-type perennial herb

Leaves growing from plant base are long, narrow and deeply notched

Points of leaf lobes point backward toward base of plant

Has large, slightly mounded yellow flowers on hollow stems

Mature seedhead is a round puffball with seeds that are easily dislodged



HENBIT aka *dead-nettle*

A mostly erect winter annual or biennial

Leaves are similar to mint: rounded, toothed, heavily veined with soft hairs on top, held opposite on square stems



Single flowers are trumpetshaped, pale purple and project from ends of stems

Seen primarily in spring, dying with heat

DISTRIBUTION:





DICOTS

KNOTWEED

aka prostrate knotweed

- A persistent lowgrowing summer annual
- Prefers compacted soil of pathways and along drives



• Leaves are blue-green, up to 1 inch long and ¼-inch wide

DISTRIBUTION:

• Small single white to pink flowers are found at the junction of the leaves and the stem

PURSLANE aka common purslane

A prostrate, succulent summer annual

Leaves are shiny green, wedgeshaped, thick and up to 1 inch long

Stems are thick, fleshy and purple to brown in color

Plants are are very drought-resistant

Small, single yellow flowers may appear in the leaf clusters at end of stems



DISTRIBUTION:



Indigenous states

DICOTS

common chickweed aka starwort, winterweed

A low-growing winter annual

Plant prefers shaded moist sites

Opposite small leaves are carried on tender stems

Stems may root at leaf nodes

Small compound flower composed of 5 pairs of two pale purple petals

Plants die back with summer heat, but can survive year round at cool sites

SPOTTED SPURGE

A prostrate fleshy summer annual herb

Leaves are opposite, oblong, and up to ¾-inch long

Upper leaf surface has a purple to brown blotch along center vein



Hairy stems produce a milky-white sap when broken



DISTRIBUTION:



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This guide was written and compiled by Chris Sann of Turf Information Group, Inc., Wilmington, Delaware and the editors of *Landscape Management* and *Golfdom*. Graphic design, execution and illustrations by graphic designers Lisa Bodnar, Jeff Landis and Dan Beedy.

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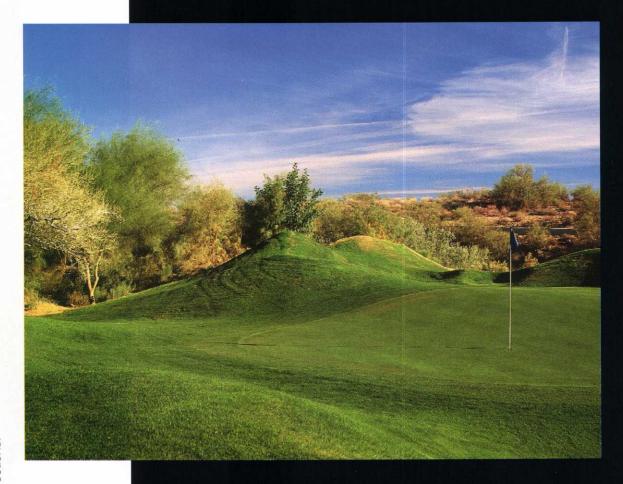
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BASF PROFESSIONAL TURF





Golfdom provides its guide on how to enjoy Dallas 'when yer not doin' bidness'

What t

BY MARK LUCE CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

an, everything is bigger in Texas, including Dallas, with its metroplex area spanning more than 100 miles. So hop in that rental car, head downtown and use our handy guide to make your trip 10 gallons of fun— that is, when "yer not conductin" bidness."

Getting there

If you're flying into Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport and staying the entire week, a rental car is probably your best bet. Call early for a good rate. If you're hoofin' it, a cab from the airport to downtown will run about \$35. There are also shuttles from the airport to downtown, such as Classic Shuttle or Supershuttle, which cost about \$15 to \$20. Look for signs in the airport. Once at the hotel, make sure to get a good city map — you'll need it, since nothing is close.

Are you game?

Golfing isn't the only sport that should be on your mind, since hockey's Dallas Stars and basketball's Dallas Mavericks play several games at Reunion Arena the week of the big show, Feb. 11 through Feb. 18. For tickets, call 214-939-2800. The Mavs play at home Feb. 15 against the Cleveland Cavaliers and Feb. 17 against the Washington Wizards. And, yes, they do know hockey in Dallas. The 1999 Stanley Cup champs play four times at home: Feb. 11 against the St. Louis Blues, Feb. 14 against the Los Angeles Kings, Feb. 16 against the Anaheim Mighty Ducks and Feb. 18 against the Detroit Red Wings.

Vittles

The best place to get a nice meal, especially if your boss is paying, is the Mansion on *Continued on page 56*



Continued from page 55

Turtle Creek, 2821 Turtle Creek Blvd. It's Dallas' most popular restaurant and features wonderful Southwestern fare in a classy, but not-toopretentious setting.

Another town favorite is The French Room, in the Adolphus Hotel, 1321 Commerce. It couples beautiful décor with equally beautiful food. If you're with your significant other, you can't get more romantic than this.

Seafood lovers may want to take in the chowder at Café Pacific, 24 Highland Park Village, which is très swanky. A newer hotspot is Voltaire, 5150 Keller Springs Road, which is an exercise in stylish New American cuisine.

Texas is cattle country, so you'll want to be sure to sample some seared cow. The best of the best are, in no particular order: Del Frisco's Double Eagle Steakhouse, 5251 Spring Valley Road; Bob's Steak & Chop House, 4300 Lemmon St., which also has great lamb; Fogo de Chao, 4300 Belt Line Road, a Brazilian Steakhouse that gets raves for its generous servings; and Lawry's The Prime Rib, 14655 Dallas Parkway, known for succulent prime rib. Those who aren't as adventurous may stick with Morton's of Chicago, 501 Elm St., also a Midwestern staple.

Tex-Mex fans may want to flock to Mi

Everything is bigger in Texas, including Dallas' skyline.

Cocina in the Galleria or Matt's Rancho Martinez, 6312 La Vista, to enjoy chow

and margaritas. The ad-

venturous may want to take in Medieval Times, 2021 N. Stemmons, where patrons are treated to jousting contests. Eating with your fingers is encouraged.

Not-so-swanky-but-cheaper eats

Instead of starting a civil war, we will list the two places in Dallas to get the real-deal chili. One is Ruth's Tamales, 6412 Lemmon, which is tucked inside Smokey John's depot. It uses shoulder pork instead of beef, but the chili is hotter than all get out. The other joint is Tolbert's Texas Chili Parlor, home of the original five-alarm Texas chili, which of course means without beans.

Other places worth your time and stomach include Kuby's Sausage House, 6601 Snider Plaza, a German bonanza of meats; Highland Park Pharmacy, 3229 Knox, an old-fashioned lunch counter; and Sammy's Barbecue, 2126 Leonard, which many say is the best BBQ in town. If you're taking the family, try Bubba's, 6617 Hillcrest Road, a retro-diner that has yummy fried chicken but doesn't take plastic.

Finally, for a hearty breakfast, check out Mecca, 10422 Harry Hines Blvd., home of tasty blueberry pancakes.

Where to get a cigar

Ifs Ands Or Butts, 408 N. Bishop (just south of downtown) features a range of cigars and a leisurely environment in which to smoke them. It also features – get this – a variety of small-label sodas (think microbrew colas). Another good option is Tobacco Club Incorporated, which has a large selection of fine smokes. It's located at 4043 Trinity Mills.

Where to "git" some Western duds and where to wear them

If you have boots, wear them. If you don't, you better run to Justin Boots and Western Wear, 1505 Wycliff Ave., and get some. They have the boots, buckles and hats to make you look like a real Texan. Once duded up, you may want to visit Country 2000, 10707 Finnell; Cowboys Red River Dance Hall and Saloon, 10310 W. Technology Drive; or the classic Top Rail, 2110 West Northwest Highway. The Top Rail swings on Tuesday nights (the others are closed) and all three will teach you, for free, how to trip the light fantastic, Texas-style.

Where to hear good music and have a drink or three

If country's not your fancy, you may want to head to Deep Ellum, Dallas' most happenin' area. There you will find a ton of bars, *Continued on page 58*

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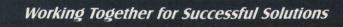
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A portion of the proceeds of Aquatrols Turf Products will be contributed to the Aquatrols Robert A. Moore Endowment Fund within the GCSAA Foundation.

Dallas

Continued from page 56

clubs, restaurants, shops and people watching. A must is Blue Cat Blues, 2617 Commerce, one of the best blues venues in the country. Other hot spots include: Bar of Soap, 3615 Parry; Art Bar/Blind Lemon/Club Clearview/ Red Complex, 2803-2805 Main Street, featuring four swinging bars/clubs in one place; The Rock, 2815 Main; Copper Tank Brewery, 2600 Main, a Texas-sized brewery; and the hip Lizard Lounge, 2424 Swiss, a former strip club.

Other groovy nightlife

The new MilkBar, 2001 Greenville, is getting raves lately for its icy-cool European décor. There's often jazz at the Balcony Club, 1825 Abrams, and Strictly Tabu, 4111 Lomo Alto.

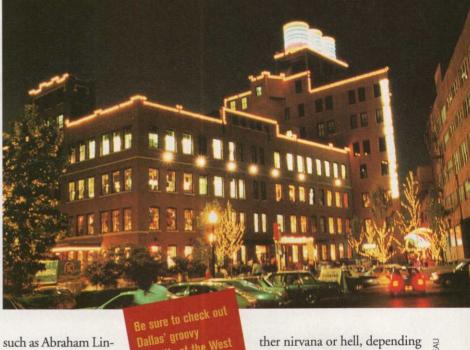
Stars flock to the upscale 8.0, 2800 Routh St. The Royal Rack, 1906 Lower Greenville, features the wonderful combination of reggae and pool.

But the two best bets might be The Dubliner, 2818 Lower Greenville, an intimate Irish bar, and Poor David's Pub. 1924 Lower Greenville, which ain't much to look at but is where blues and beers reign.

Other fun stuff

Those alive then will certainly remember where they were on Nov. 22, 1963, when they heard the news that President John F. Kennedy was assassinated while riding in an open-air limo through Dealey Plaza. The former Texas School Book Depository is located at 411 Elm and North Houston and on its 6th floor is the Sixth Floor Museum, which houses displays, documentaries and artifacts from that fateful Dallas day. The plaza also attracts swarms of visitors, from the grassy knoll to a Kennedy memorial.

Those convinced that Lee Harvey Oswald didn't act alone may want to stroll down the block to The Conspiracy Museum, 110 South Market at Commerce. The small museum isn't official, but it offers plenty of ideas of who might have killed Kennedy, along with a host of other conspiracies about other assassinations,



such as Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King Jr. and Bobby Kennedy.

The Arts District,

which has the Dallas Museum of Art, the Myerson Symphony Center and one of the Dallas Theater Center's facilities, is located in a small area just north of the financial district. The Museum of Art is good, but not spectacular. However, there's a wonderful sculpture garden across the street from the museum at the Trammell Crow Center.

If shopping is your bag, then you have to go to the Galleria at the LBJ Freeway and Dallas Parkway North. It's ei-

Texas Tongue

"All hat and no cattle." - Dumber than W. "Blue Norther." - A wind from the North "If you've done it, it ain't braggin"." "Like a calf lookin' at a new gate." -"Like a long-tailed cat in a room of

rockin' chairs." - Apprehensive. "Plumb gone." – Left the scene. "Plumb tuckered out." - Exhausted.

nightlife at the West End MarketPlace.

ther nirvana or hell, depending on your take. There are more than 200 shops and more than 30 eateries comprising its 1.7

million-square feet - big even by Texas standards. The Galleria covers four levels, has room to park 9,600 cars and has a place for ice skating. If you visit, be warned that traffic can be dreadful but shopping at Macy's, Nordstrom's and Saks Fifth Avenue under one roof may make the wait worth it.

You might want to check out Southfork Ranch. J.R., Bobby and Miss Ellie won't be there, but this shrine to the television family of the 1980s is one of Dallas visitors' favorite sites. It's yonder in Parker, so call 800-989-7800 for directions.

One last bit

The average temperatures in Dallas in February are highs of 59 degrees and lows of 38 degrees. Dress accordingly, leaving a 10-degree window on either side.

Crime does exist. Keep your money in your front pocket and know where you're going and how you are getting home before going out carousing.

People in Texas are friendly. If you have questions about a restaurant or bar or need directions, just ask someone. You'll have to listen carefully, though.

Also, mail literature back to yourself so you don't have to lug it on the plane. And don't wear your name tag on the street. It screams, "I'm visiting - so mug me!"

Happy trails - but remember not to mess with Texas.

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The 5-Minute Guide to GCSAA 2001

ell, it's that time again and you face the daunting task of trying to figure out what the big events and issues will be at the

GCSAA Conference & Show in Dallas from Feb. 11-Feb. 18. You can spend days laboriously going through the 9 million pages of stuff the association sent you or you can invest five minutes to find out the real nitty-gritty lowdown by reading this. Got your stopwatch? Ready? Go!

By Pat Jones, Publisher/Editorial Director

D as in dull ...

Remember last year in New Orleans? Easy to get around, lots of fun on Bourbon Street, great hotels. Get ready for a city where nothing is near anything else, cab rides cost a fortune and entertainment options are limited.

Also consider this: Dallas' No. 1 tourist attraction is Southfork Ranch, the fake location of a bad TV show that went off the air a million years ago. We love our superintendent friends in the Dallas area, but I'm afraid we already know who shot J.R.

It's the economy, stupid ...

Nobody's quite willing to use the "R" word yet, but the markets stink, money's getting tighter and it's hard to believe that it won't impact our happy little industry. A few examples:

• Marketing spending by many suppliers is being cut back. Look for more modest booths, fewer big blow-out parties and less swag around the show floor. Even if golf sales are still strong, corporate America is anticipating a downturn and getting conservative about spending lots of bucks on free booze and giveaway pens.

• Mergers driven by "economic efficiencies" continue to have a bigger impact on the chemical side of our business than FQPA or anything else. Fewer manufacturers means less investment in competitive research, and choices may be more limited in future.

• How long will it be before some of the high-end daily fees we've been building like crazy the past few years start to suffer? Will golfers with less disposable income continue to pay \$150 per round to beat their brains out on some ridiculous 7,100-yard track? Face it, we're building too many unaffordable, hard courses that Joe Sixpack won't be playing in tough times.

Predominately Dis-Interested ...

The much-debated Professional Development Initiative will probably pass, but not by the overwhelming mandate that supporters had hoped. The political landscape is roughly divided between those who vehemently want it, those who vehemently oppose it, those who can live with it and those who simply don't care because they're too busy working, raising kids and generally having a life outside of the profession. The last is by far the largest category.

The diamond jubilee ...

It's GCSAA's 75th anniversary! In September of 1926, a handful of committed greenkeepers came together at Sylvania CC in Ohio to create an association. I'm sure those pioneers would be thrilled to find a huge, sophisticated organization with a marvelous education program.

I'm sure they'd also appreciate the historical memorabilia and other tributes that will mark the occasion. However, I'm not so sure they'd appreciate spending a huge pile of hard-earned membership dues to sponsor multi-millionaire Jim Colbert's mediocre efforts on the Senior PGA Tour. Public relations is a wonderful thing, but am I the only one who doesn't think it's right to pay a tour player to promote the industry?

On a happier note ...

This is *Golfdom's* third GCSAA show since springing back to life in 1999. Drop by and see us at booth No. 1923.