

The University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI 02881-0804 Department of Plant Sciences, College of Resource Development

Nov. 16, 1990

Mr. Mike Kenna P.O. Box 2227 Stillwater, OK 74076

Dear Mike:

My annual report this year will be brief. I retired at the end of last January and the search for a successor is still in progress. I have been volunteering to keep my program going but have not initiated anthing new.

My report is attached.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

C. Richard Skogley Professor Emeritus

C Richard Shoply

P.S. Material mailed to all committee members.

CRS:jlm

enclosures

TURFGRASS RESEARCH Executive Summary Rhode Island C.R. Skogley

USGA grant support has continued to be utilized primarily for selection and development of golf turf grasses that will perform well under reduced levels of maintenance. Several hundred collected grasses are currently in field trials for evaluation. Seed has been produced of about 600 recently collected materials for future evaluation. Improved Colonial and velvet bents and a creeping red fescue were released for the market in 1990. Studies are continuing, to gain further knowledge of characteristics that influence drought tolerance.

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- 1. Trial evaluation of Creeping, Colonial and Velvet bents and various fine fescues, collected through the past several years, were continued. They are being screened in field trials for turf performance under reduced maintenance. During 1990 two improved Colonial bents, a velvet bent and a creeping red fescue were released for further development and marketing.
- 2. A second year seed crop was produced on about 300 bentgrasses and 300 fine fescues collected during 1987. It is planned to start field evaluation of these materials in 1991
- 3. "National" trials of fine fescue, bentgrasses for greens and bentgrasses for fairways, seeded in autumn, 1989, or spring, 1990, were evaluated through this season.
- 4. Studies continued (Ph.D. Grad Asst.) on our effort to define characteristics that impact drought tolerance to fine fescues and bentgrasses.
- 5. Our pathologists and entomologists have continued their studies on diseases and insects of golf turf with increasing effort on biological controls.