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## JB VISITATIONS

### October-Japan.

Presented two half-day seminars sponsored by Nichino Ryokka Co.. Visited Tokyo and Hakodate horse race tracks. Both were composed of *Zoysia japonica*. Observed mesh root-zone tests under 4 starting gate sites at Tokyo and a species/cultivar/mesh study at Hakodate. Initial mesh performance was good, but too early to draw final conclusions. Severe rust disease on susceptible cultivars at Hakodate.

Visited mesh + high-sand root zone tests (mesh treated versus untreated) on (1) a *Agrostis stolonifera* subsp. *stolonifera* (creeping bentgrass) putting green and (2) a *Poa pratensis* (Kentucky bluegrass) + *Lolium perenne* (perennial ryegrass) tee on a 36-hole golf course near Mt. Fuji. Comparative studies established properly and off to a good start, thanks to Hideaki Tonogi. Too early to draw conclusions. They also have completed reconstruction of 6 putting greens utilizing the Texas-USGA Method. The superintendent, a 30-year veteran, stated they were the easiest *Agrostis stolonifera* (creeping bentgrass) greens to maintain that he has ever experienced.

Visited a mountainous golf course near the sea. Had one of the most severe fog-low light problems for turf culture that I have seen.

### October-Italy.

Visited golf course outside Roma. A rapidly developing, serious takeall patch (*Gaeumannomyces graminis* var. *avenae*) disease problem observed in July on *Agrostis stolonifera* (creeping bentgrass) greens was fully controlled via propiconazole.

Near Torino, evaluated the Italian Golf Federation sponsored research. Sixteen of the newer *Agrostis* (bentgrass) cultivars are being evaluated on a Texas-USGA high-sand constructed putting green in three replications. Research off to a very good start, possibly the best in Europe, thanks to Paolo Croce. Density counts made in September; plus turf quality assessments every 15 days. Putter plus several PSU experimentals showing very high shoot densities. Stay tuned for final conclusions in four years.

### October-Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Participated in C-5 Turfgrass Division Technical Meetings of the American Society of Agronomy. There were 112 turfgrass research papers presented.

### November-Stockholm, Sweden.

Presented 3-day Basic Turfgrass Seminar to greenkeepers sponsored by the Swedish Golf Association. Their SGA Green Section Agronomists were well represented and a very active group.

### November-Melbourne, Australia.

Presented half-day seminars on high-sand root zones and mesh element research findings at Moonee Valley Racing Club. Also, visited the historic Melbourne Cricket Ground where they had just completed installation of a mesh element + high-sand root zone, with *Cynodon* (bermudagrass) washed-sod turfing. This is a two-sports facility, cricket and Australian rules football, that hosts very intense year-round play with 90 football games alone. First cricket event was scheduled 2 weeks after installation.