

A different kind of **OVERSEEDING**

In this turfgrass 'role reversal' Doug Rudolph and Randy Mueller of Pauma Valley Country Club overseeded improved turf-type bermudagrass into established perennial ryegrass.



By BRENDA DOSSEY & RUSS NICHOLSON, CPAg

The term overseeding is usually associated with the fall overseeding of perennial ryegrass into bermudagrass for "year-round" green color. When the bermudagrass goes dormant in the winter, perennial ryegrass provides an attractive appearance that entices golfers to head to the Sun Belt.

When winter is over and spring is headed into summer, the ryegrass gives way and the bermudagrass comes back green for the summer. This period, when the perennial ryegrass fades into the background and the bermudagrass comes back into play is known as "transition".

What if summer is coming, you have perennial ryegrass and there is no bermudagrass beneath to transition to? What if

time ran out and you did not have enough summer left last season to establish bermudagrass? Perennial ryegrass was your only option last fall. What do you do now?

Or perhaps the existing bermudagrass is not something you particularly want to transition to. It may be old and in need of replacement. Is there a way to improve it?

Transition or no, summer, in even the temperate areas of the semi-tropical climate zones, can be quite hot and dry. This can be challenging to even the most enduring of perennial ryegrass varieties. In contrast, bermudagrass has a highly developed system of above-ground stems and runners called stolons and below-ground stems called rhizomes with a very deep root system. Most agronomists and turfgrass managers recommend a bermudagrass base for withstanding heat and drought conditions and enduring the wear

and tear of high-use conditions found on golf courses, driving ranges, sports fields and premium home lawns.

So, how do you establish a bermudagrass base in a stand of perennial ryegrass and keep interruption of play and loss of turf usage to a minimum?

Doug Rudolph, superintendent of Pauma Valley Country Club, Pauma Valley, CA, along with his assistant, Randy Mueller, feels like he has devised a plan of overseeding improved turf-type bermudagrass into established perennial ryegrass that is truly a "win/win" situation. You may be relieved to know that there is a relatively easy method that keeps disruption of play and

Close up of the seeded area.

limitation of turfgrass use to a minimum. Here is their story.

Time to renovate

Barely visible from the hus-



Superintendent Doug Rudolph, right, checks on calibration of the planter.

tle and bustle of Interstate 15, Pauma Valley Country Club is tucked in the northern part of San Diego County where groves of avocado trees grace the surrounding hills. The



Aerification and verticutting on the fairway.

course was designed by Robert Trent Jones, Sr., and built in the early 1960s. The fairways are a mixture of perennial ryegrass and common bermudagrass. It was decided that it

was time to renovate the fairways. In early June 1996, Rudolph and his crew began their bermudagrass overseeding project. Fairways 10 through 18 were selected for

initial renovation.

1) They applied Primo growth regulator at label rates to retard competitive growth from the existing grasses.

2) Then the turf was aerified and verticut prior to seeding. Verticutting is done twice in different directions to open the turf and allow for seed-to-soil contact.

3) After the aerification and verticutting was complete, the debris and thatch were removed from the fairways. Debris and thatch were removed with a straight vacuum and a Goosen Rake A Vac. At this point, there was little green turf left in the fairways.

4) Certified Yuma bermudagrass was planted at a rate of 3 pounds per 1000 square feet on the country club. A billion-type seeder was used to plant the Yuma on the fairways. Care was taken to calibrate the seeder correctly before and during seeding.

5) The fairways were closed for two weeks. Play was resumed with carts 14 days after seeding, with the fairways

roped off. The players placed their golf balls along the side of the ropes in specially-prepared roughs to simulate fairway conditions. Normal play with carts resumed within one month of seeding.

Others take a cue from PVCC

Pauma Valley Country Club has been very pleased with the positive results of their bermudagrass overseeding project. In fact, they overseeded the balance of their fairways with certified Yuma bermudagrass seed during the summer of 1997. Their success has prompted other courses to begin their own bermudagrass overseeding programs.

"We are very pleased with the success of our bermudagrass overseeding project. We learned that there are two very important keys to successful bermudagrass overseeding. The first key is to follow proper watering procedures. It is essential that the overseeded area must be kept moist through the germination period. The second key is keeping the carts completely off the fairways for the month following seeding. The specially prepared roughs helped us accomplish this while still allowing play. Proper watering procedures and keeping the carts off during the grow-in period are critical to the success of the overseeding. In addition, the certified Yuma bermudagrass has really performed well for us." □



Attention Small Landscapers

Get a real HydroSeeder® for just \$149 a month*

Don't settle for less than the real thing for small hydroseeding applications. Only a genuine FINN T-30 HydroSeeder® gives you all this:

- Durable 300 gallon steel tank
- Hydraulic reversible agitator for thorough mixing
- Simple one-man controls
- Patented FINN centrifugal pump to handle the thickest slurries with ease

Ideal for use at:

- Residences
- Cemeteries
- Golf courses
- Sports fields
- Office complexes
- Apartment complexes
- Parks, and more

FINN CORPORATION

Equipment innovations enhancing the world's landscape

1-800-543-7166

* Based on list price, 15% down, 48 month lease-purchase, 10% buyout. HydroSeeder® is a registered trademark of FINN Corporation.

9281 LeSaint Drive, Fairfield, OH 45014 • Web site: <http://www.finncorp.com>