

moderate shade. Repell is also useful for the winter overseeding of dormant warm season turfs. Seed of Repell containing high levels of viable endophyte has demonstrated good resistance to damage caused by chewing insects such as sod webworm and billbug.

Tara is a leafy, turf-type perennial ryegrass of medium maturity marketed by Hubbard Seed and Supply, Hubbard, OR. It is capable of producing a persistent, moderately dense, very attractive, medium low-growing, fine-textured turf with a bright, medium dark green color. Tara has improved mowing qualities, good heat tolerance, and above average summer performance and winter hardiness ratings in New Jersey trials. It has shown good resistance to many races of crown rust incited by *Puccinia coronata* and good resistance to the large brown patch disease caused by *Rhizoctonia solani*. Tara has also shown good resistance to the winter netblotch disease caused by *Drechslera dictyoides*. Tara was the highest rated cultivar for 1983 in the national ryegrass tests seeded in 1982.

Yorktown II is a medium late variety developed by Lofts Seed Inc. of Bound Brook, NJ. It has an attractive, dark green color, a fine texture, high density and a leafy, low-growing, turf-type growth habit. It has shown good heat and cold tolerance. Yorktown-II has good resistance to brown patch and moderately good resistance to Fusarium patch and some races of crown rust. It mows well. □

exhibit enhanced turf performance.

A poor variety with endophyte is still a poor variety. However, a good cultivar containing endophyte may at times be superior to an equally good

In the next 20 years, turf breeders hope to develop ryegrasses that creep, grow lower and slower, resist insect damage, and tolerate herbicides better.

cultivar that does not contain endophyte.

The "Endophyte Enhanced Performance" program has been proposed by Dr. Rich Hurley of Lofts Seed and Dr. Reed Funk of Rutgers. The intent of this program is to make clear to consumers the benefits of endophyte containing seed. This program is available to all companies wishing to

participate. A special tag will be attached to seed bags of all cultivars of participating companies containing at least 80 percent live endophyte at harvest. This special tag would explain what the endophyte is and what benefits the consumer might expect if the seed is used properly. It is not yet clear how extensively this proposed program will be used.

Future

The past 20 years have been very exciting and productive for turf breeders working with ryegrass. The improvements in all aspects of ryegrass turf utilization have been great. Fortunately, ryegrass is a very genetically diverse species and continued improvement, though at a slower rate, can be expected.

Some of the more promising areas of potential improvements are insect and disease resistance, increased tolerance to herbicides, the development of lower and slower growing types, and the development of creeping varieties.

Ryegrass breeders have successfully met the challenges of the last 20 years and there is every indication they will be equally successful in the future. **WT&T**

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A GREAT MEDIUM TO GROW PROFITS IN.

That silver lining

Optimism seems to be going the way of carrier pigeons and buggy whips.

For the past few years, the economy has had most industries in an ever-tightening half nelson; the future cast in different shades of gloom and doom.

In March, we began research on a story on water use, conservation, quality and quantity in the Green Industry. You will find the first part of it in this issue.

"Oh, no. More bad news," some of you may be thinking. On the contrary. Optimism has again found a niche.

In fact, after three months of traveling, doing over 50 interviews from California to Florida and more than 10,000 air miles, we found the most prevalent aspect was not that we are going to dry up and blow away, but that farsightedness may be the life preserver of an industry that could have been awash in apathy.

Right now, there is no immediate water shortage in this country. It's what could happen down the road, though, that golf course superintendents, landscape and golf course architects, other landscaping professionals and industry associations are trying to nip in the bud now before an industry-wide disaster hits.

The USGA Green Section is at the forefront contributing \$5 million in funds in the next 10 to 15 years for research on various levels dealing with water problems. Industry professionals on an individual basis, are making contributions, that, when added together, can produce a groundswell of progress.

The awareness of the problem is there and it is building momentum.

For once an industry is *acting* instead of *reacting* to a potentially serious problem.

One final note. I had the privilege of interviewing Dr. Victor Youngner of the University of California, Riverside, for this story. On April 18, a day before his 62nd birthday, he died. His comments and observations from our interview have remained in the story. We feel Dr. Youngner's valuable contributions over the years to the turfgrass industry, and specifically his research in low-water-use turfgrasses, are the best tribute to a scientist who gave so much to his profession.



Maureen Hrehocik

Maureen Hrehocik, managing editor

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