

From Tee-2-Green

# Penn Pals Profile:

*A portfolio of creeping bentgrasses perfect for your plans... from the world's foremost marketer*

Scientific name:	Growth habit:	Shade tolerance:	Heat tolerance:	Cold tolerance:	Traffic and wear tolerance:	Seeding rate, greens:	Seeding rate, fairways:
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Spread by aggressive stolons	Fair	Good	Excellent	Very good	1 to 1 1/2 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft.	Up to 50 lbs. per acre

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- Wolf Run Golf Club
- Eagle Crest Golf Course
- Kananaskis Country Golf course



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- The Merit Club
- Inverness Club (Toledo)
- DesMoines Country Club



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- SandPines Resort
- Prairie Dunes Golf Club
- Baltimore Country Club
- Wild Wing Plantation



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## AS WE SEE IT

JERRY ROCHE, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



## On line with LM a 'net' gain for many readers

It probably won't be long before there's a discussion group for turfgrass on the Internet. It seems like every other subject under the sun is being bantered back and forth in cyberspace.

The only reason that you haven't read about such computer-based communication systems in LM (until now) is because many of you, we've found out, don't have computers equipped with the modem technology that makes inter-computer communication possible.

This year already, we've visited your offices in Spokane, in Houston, in San Francisco and in Washington. We've seen computers on your desks nearly everywhere we've been. Yet most of them are for billing customers or scheduling irrigation or figuring out job costs.

Four months ago in this space, we wrote:

"Try adding a fax/modem to your computer so you can subscribe to information services like those offered by the Turfgrass Information File or the American Society of Landscape Architects." This month, we're giving you another reason to add a modem to your computer: so you can "talk" to us.

Beginning immediately, you can send the LM editorial staff letters, comments, opinions and suggestions via the Internet's e-mail system, which is offered through most online computer services (CompuServe, Prodigy, America Online, etc.).

Our new experimental e-mail address:  
75553.502@compuserve.com.

The e-mail system might come in especially handy for:

● Commenting on an article you read in the magazine.

● Asking a question about an article you saw in the magazine. *How do I get in touch with that author? Has any research been done on that product?*

● Asking a technical question that we can forward to Dr. Bal Rao of "Ask the Expert" fame. *What are the most heat tolerant turfgrass species? What herbicides control crabgrass best?*

● Requesting information about the industry. *How many lawn care companies are there in the country? What is the biggest U.S. landscape company? What is the square footage of the average golf green?*

● Requesting information from our annual Buyer's Guide. *Who manufactures landscape florgy tubes? What's their address and telephone number?*

● Finding out more about the books we market. *Is there a chapter on containment system design? What are the author's credentials?*

However, please remember that you can still contact us in the standard manner: by writing us a letter, faxing us a letter or note, or phoning us directly.

We hope you'll take us up on this standing offer. To quote Drs. Venkman, Stantz and Spengler (in "Ghostbusters"): "We are here to serve YOU!"

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# LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

AUGUST 1995 VOL. 34, NO. 8

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*Jerry Roche*

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*James E. Guyette*

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*Phillip M. Perry*

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Another 'spin' on that most controversial topic, this from the reel technician at Jacaranda Country Club in Florida.

*Paul Fox*



1G



4G

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Natural cultural practices help keep the Oregon Golf Club one of the sharpest in the Pacific Northwest—if not the entire country.

*Jerry Roche*

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Make sure that the rootzone soil is rich in oxygen, control the amount of water used and relieve any physical problems in the soil.

*Dr. W. Lee Berndt*

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*Terry McIver*

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LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT (ISSN 0894-1254) is published monthly by Advanstar Communications, Inc. Corporate and editorial offices: 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44130. Advertising, accounting, advertising production and circulation offices: 131 West First St., Duluth, MN 55802; 1333 N.W. Norcross, Seattle, WA 98177.

Subscription rates: one year, \$39, two years \$58 in the U.S.; one year \$66, two years \$99 in Canada. All other countries: one year \$130, two years \$195. Current issue single copies (pre-paid only): \$4 in the U.S.; \$7 in Canada; \$12 elsewhere; add \$3.50 per order for shipping and handling. Back issues, if available, \$10; add \$3.50 per order for shipping and handling (pre-paid orders only).

Office of publication: Advanstar Communications, Inc., 131 W. First St., Duluth, MN 55802. Second class postage paid at Duluth, Minnesota 55806 and additional mailing offices.

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**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to *Landscape Management*, P.O. Box 6198, Duluth, MN 55806.



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Circle No. 120 on Reader Inquiry Card

# ASK THE EXPERT

DR. BALAKRISHNA RAO



## Liquid enhancers defined

**Problem:** What is the difference between spreaders, stickers, anti-desiccants, wetting agents, adjuvants and surfactants? An explanation would help us in using some of these products. (Pennsylvania)

**Solution:** The following definitions should help you better understand these products:

**Spreader:** a substance which increases the area that a given volume of liquid will cover on a solid or on another liquid.

**Sticker:** a material added to a pesticide to increase tenacity rather than to increase initial deposit.

**Anti-desiccant:** a chemical applied directly to a plant which reduces the rate of transpiration or water loss by the plant.

**Wetting agent:** a compound which reduces surface tension and causes a liquid to contact plant surfaces more thoroughly.

**Adjuvant:** a substance added to a product to aid the activity of the main ingredient; said product may be formulated to have one or more surfactants, solvents or co-solvents, solubilizers, buffering agents, film formers and other materials to provide specific functions.

**Surfactant:** a "surface active agent" whose function may be as a wetting agent or a component of an emulsifier or a spray adjuvant; some have been used successfully to enhance herbicidal activity.

Before choosing and/or using any of the above products, make sure what function you would like them to perform and check whether their stated function fills your need. Also, read and follow label specifications for best results.

## Cultural control of rot fungus

**Problem:** Once in a while, we find large, reddish, thick, fleshy-type mushroom growth at the base of trees. They also have a varnish-like coating on them. The mushroom growth doesn't appear to be an "umbrella" like most mushrooms. They are normally found on red and Norway maples, which show decline and have dieback. Is there any fungicide to prevent and/or manage the problem? (Kentucky)

**Solution:** The problem appears to be related to ganoderma rot. This fungus is known to affect red and Norway maples, which appear to be most susceptible.

No fungicide treatment will manage the problem. Perhaps carefully removing the fungal growth and letting it air dry might help prolong the life of affected trees. Provide proper watering, fertilizing and mulching as needed to help improve plant health. Also, avoid basal bark and/or root injury.

## Juggle control windows for grubs, worms

**Problem:** We are thinking of using Sevin insecticide to control white grubs. We also have residential and com-

mercial properties with sod webworm problems. If we go after grubs, can we also control sod webworm? (West Virginia)

**Solution:** The following recommendations come from Dr. Doug Caldwell, our landscape entomologist and technical advisor:

First, concentrate on the most damaging pest group, the grub species. Your best "window of control" to minimize grub root-feeding damage is in mid-August through September. Most currently registered grubicides will only provide three to six days of effective residual; so if egg-producing adults are still flying, there will be more grubs appearing later after your grubicide has worn off.

Don't make your application too early in this window of control if you have sold just one application. In heavy grub years, two applications may be needed.

Now, overlay the windows of control for the sod webworm species in your area. This gets complex—there are at least 14 species of sod webworms.

The three most troublesome in turf have two to three generations per year. These species have fairly similar lifecycles with three larval peaks: (1) from mid-June to early August and (2) again in late August through September. They overwinter as larvae. If numerous, or if you are dealing with a previously untreated property, sod webworms could cause damage from March through April; this is the third window of control. However, usually grass is growing rapidly due to spring rains and damage is outgrown.

Sevin will control grubs and sod webworm larvae, but there is only about six days residual. You may get some of the sod webworms of the last generation with your mid-August through September treatment, but monitor for larval population peaks; don't count on being lucky.

The first summer generation of sod webworms (mid-June to early August) may require a separate application. Do not make pesticide applications without finding the sod webworm larvae and determine how vigorously the turf is growing.

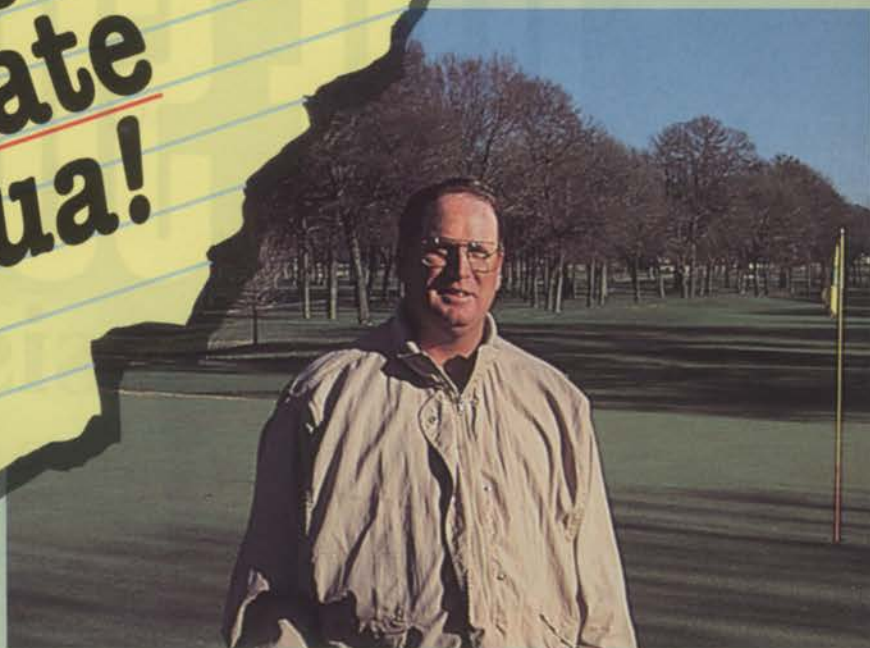
Unnecessary pesticide applications can severely reduce predator insects, spiders and mites, which can reduce sod webworm populations by as much as 75 percent. Follow local cooperative extension newsletters that monitor and predict the development of these pests.

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*Dr. Balakrishna Rao is Manager of Research and Technical Development for the Davey Tree Co., Kent, Ohio.*

*Mail questions to "Ask the Expert," LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT, 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44130. Please allow two to three months for an answer to appear in the magazine.*

# The most economical way to eliminate Poa annua!



**Ken Small, G.C.S.**  
Royal Oaks Country Club  
Dallas, TX (shown above)

There are plenty of products that provide preemergent control of crabgrass, goosegrass, and other unwanted grass weeds. But if your problem is *Poa annua* on putting greens, your choice is limited.

Proven weed control and a high level of turfgrass tolerance have made Bensumec 4LF the most widely trusted preemergent herbicide for greens and other highly maintained turf areas. It is also compatible for tankmixing with many other turf products.

And compared to some of the newer *Poa* control programs, Bensumec 4LF is very economical.

*Always read and follow instructions on the product container.*



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**Mitchell Shaw, G.C.S.**  
Cowan's Ford Country Club  
Stanley, NC

"To control *Poa annua*, we spray our bentgrass greens with Bensumec at 3.5 gallons per acre in late September. After 6 years, the *Poa* population is near zero."

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# DUE SOON:

## Insect-resistant bentgrasses and Kentucky blues?

**Lessons from the field: don't fool with Mother Nature, and don't put all your eggs in one basket.**

**BY JERRY ROCHE  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

■ These are exciting times for the turfseed industry. But they're also times that try men's souls.

"We've been able to get endophyte infected into creeping bentgrass and Kentucky bluegrass, so we're very excited that we'll have some product in the market soon," comments Dr. Eric Nelson of Medalist America.

Endophytes are those little critters that make grasses more insect-resistant and cut down on the landscape manager's

need for costly pesticides. Until now, they've been found in perennial ryegrasses, fine fescues and tall fescues, but scientists have not been able to inject the same quality into the two most-used golf course and home lawn grasses in the U.S., to which Dr. Nelson refers.

"Endophytes are the single most beneficial and important biological turf development on the market today," says Dr. Peter Landschoot of Penn State University. "They are like an insurance



policy: you pay more, but you get less insect damage."

All news from the turfgrass seed producing industry, however, is not rosy.

**Uh-oh**—"Perennial ryegrass prices will be up considerably over last year," notes Dr. Jerry Pepin of Pickseed West. "The Perennial Ryegrass Bargaining Association—a growers' group—is a factor this year. But I don't know how long they will be able to keep prices up, because this is a supply-and-demand industry."

Bob Richardson of Lofts/Great Western says the ryegrass supply is down, too, creating further havoc. "Lower carryover and an average crop, plus farmers demanding higher prices and no competition from foreign sources means ryegrass price increases," he observes.

Yet ryegrass can be had—if you want to pay the price. "Perennial ryegrasses should be in adequate supply, though not yet determined," notes Zenon Lis of E. F. Burlingham & Sons.

A shadow, too, has been cast over fine fescue growers, though circumstances will probably benefit landscape managers in the long run. While stem rust disease is forcing prices of U.S.-grown fine fescues up, low-priced fescues grown in Canada are strangling the domestic market.



**Nelson: endophyte-enhanced bentgrass available soon.**



**Stanley: look for value in fine fescues this year.**

"Stem rust started affecting yields in 1993 and has become an ever-increasing production challenge," observes Lesco's Art Wick. "Fungicide applications appear to be the only solution, thus increasing production costs. This may widen the price gap between the commodity 'creeper' prices from Canada and the proprietary varieties from western Oregon."

Adds Tom Stanley of Turf-Seed: "The pricing on fine fescue is probably going to remain depressed through 1995. The Canadians have had several big, back-to-

back crops. When they have a product on the market for 35-40 cents, it's pretty tough for us to get 60-65 cents. So I think through 1995 prices will be low.

"Fine fescues are going to be an exceptional value this coming year. For a very nominal price, you're going to get some excellent, excellent products."

Back to the really bad news: if you want large amounts of tall fescue seed, you're out of luck.

"Back in 1989-90, Oregon was producing about 95,000 acres of certified turf-type tall fescue," notes Stanley. "In 1995 we will produce about 55,000 acres. The good varieties are sold out or non-existent. We will see high prices on tall fescue and some spot shortages in July, August and September."

**A Wet Willie**—The weather, always a topic of conversation in the Pacific Northwest's seed production areas, has supplied its share of surprises.

"Continued rain showers and cool temperatures have raised the potential for quality problems for the 1996 crop," remarks Steve Tubbs of Turf Merchants. "There has never been a long enough break in the weather for spot spraying, and the flush of growth happened too quickly to keep up with."




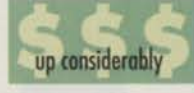




Turf Merchants estimates that 10 percent of the bluegrass crop was lost in the Pacific Northwest.

And Scott Harer of Advanta West agrees:

"The bluegrass crop looks to be light. The early-maturing grasses are coming in at less than expected. We believe that prices are at their lowest now. The only prices changing [going up] are the common and mid-range Kentucky blues; prices of the elite Kentucky bluegrasses won't change from last year."

Notes Steve Jerhoff of Finelawn Research: "The market's a little nervous because of concern about the size of the

## TURFSEED OUTLOOK

	AVAILABILITY	PRICES
<b>Kentucky Bluegrass</b>	 adequate supply	 up slightly
<b>Perennial Ryegrass</b>	 adequate supply	 up considerably
<b>Tall Fescue</b>	 shortages	 up considerably
<b>Fine Fescue</b>	 surplus	 no change
<b>Bentgrass</b>	 adequate supply	 no change

(Kentucky bluegrass crop). If we have a year like last fall, it's going to be a tight market again."

The annual ryegrass crop, meanwhile, is "average or above," even though it's off 10-15 percent from last year—largely due to rain shatter.

Tall fescues are starting to come in with a broad range of yields, but seedhead populations are disappointing. "Late rains help tall fescue the most," notes Tubbs, "so yields would have been far worse without the last-minute help from the precipitation."

All the talk about this crop or that crop, however, might be a moot point. It's more a mixed bag that's being offered

to landscape managers.

"We now emphasize diversity," notes Dr. Landschoot. "That means planting species and blends [rather than a monostand] so a variety will dominate where it's best adapted. It's the same thing as working with an investment counselor, who will tell you not to put all your money in one company."

—Jerry Roche

continued on page 10



**Dr. Rich Hurley of Loft's informs field day attendees of seed availability.**

## NEW VARIETIES:

- Barcelona Kentucky bluegrass (Barenbrug USA): one of the most aggressive bluegrasses ever developed; perfect for athletic fields and parks because of high wear tolerance; fine leaf texture, dark green color and a short growth pattern, which makes less mowing possible.
- Belmont Kentucky bluegrass

- (Lofts): available in limited quantities.
  - Confederate tall fescue blend (Turf-Seed): adds Apache II to Tomahawk and Safari; sales are growing at 20-25 percent per year.
  - Crenshaw creeping bentgrass (Lofts): introduced in 1994, but supply is now greater.
  - Endure zoysiagrass (Lesco): for

use with tall fescues in the transition zone; limited quantities available in fall.

- L-93 creeping bentgrass (Lofts): developed to perform well below a 1/8-inch cut; excellent color and disease resistance, fine texture, and good density through the summer months; available in sample quantities.

- Midway intermediate ryegrass (Lesco): for overseeding in warm-season areas where improved spring transition is needed; moderately fine textured, darker green, rapid germination, but lacks heat tolerance.

- P-105 Kentucky bluegrass (Lofts): available in limited quantities.

- Preakness Kentucky bluegrass (Lofts): available in limited quantities.

- Rebel III tall fescue (Lofts): a darker green than Rebel II, introduced last year, more readily available this year.

- Salty alkaligrass (Lofts): for sea-coasts, roadsides with salt damage or saline soil/water areas; in good supply.

- Shademark creeping red fescue (Lesco): dark green, fine textured, high endophyte with excellent density and good recuperative ability.

- Sultan seeded bermudagrass (Farmer's Marketing): fairway-quality; one of highest ranking seeded entries in NTEP trials; developed by Dr. Arden Baltensperger, New Mexico State University.

- SunStar bermudagrass (Lesco): cold tolerant, fine leaf texture, more decumbent growth than common; seed for evaluation available this fall.

- Wildwood Kentucky bluegrass (Lesco): introduced in 1994, but supply is now greater.

- Williamsburg perennial rye (Lesco): dark green color, fine texture, excellent mowing characteristics, moderate endophyte level and high seed yield; primarily for winter overseeding in warm-season areas.

- Yuma seeded bermudagrass (Pennington): drought tolerant, low growing, excellent turf density, rich green color; quick germination and rapid recovery from mechanical injury; less water required after establishment.

(NOTE: List is not all-inclusive. These are companies that responded to an LM survey by deadline.)

—J.R.



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