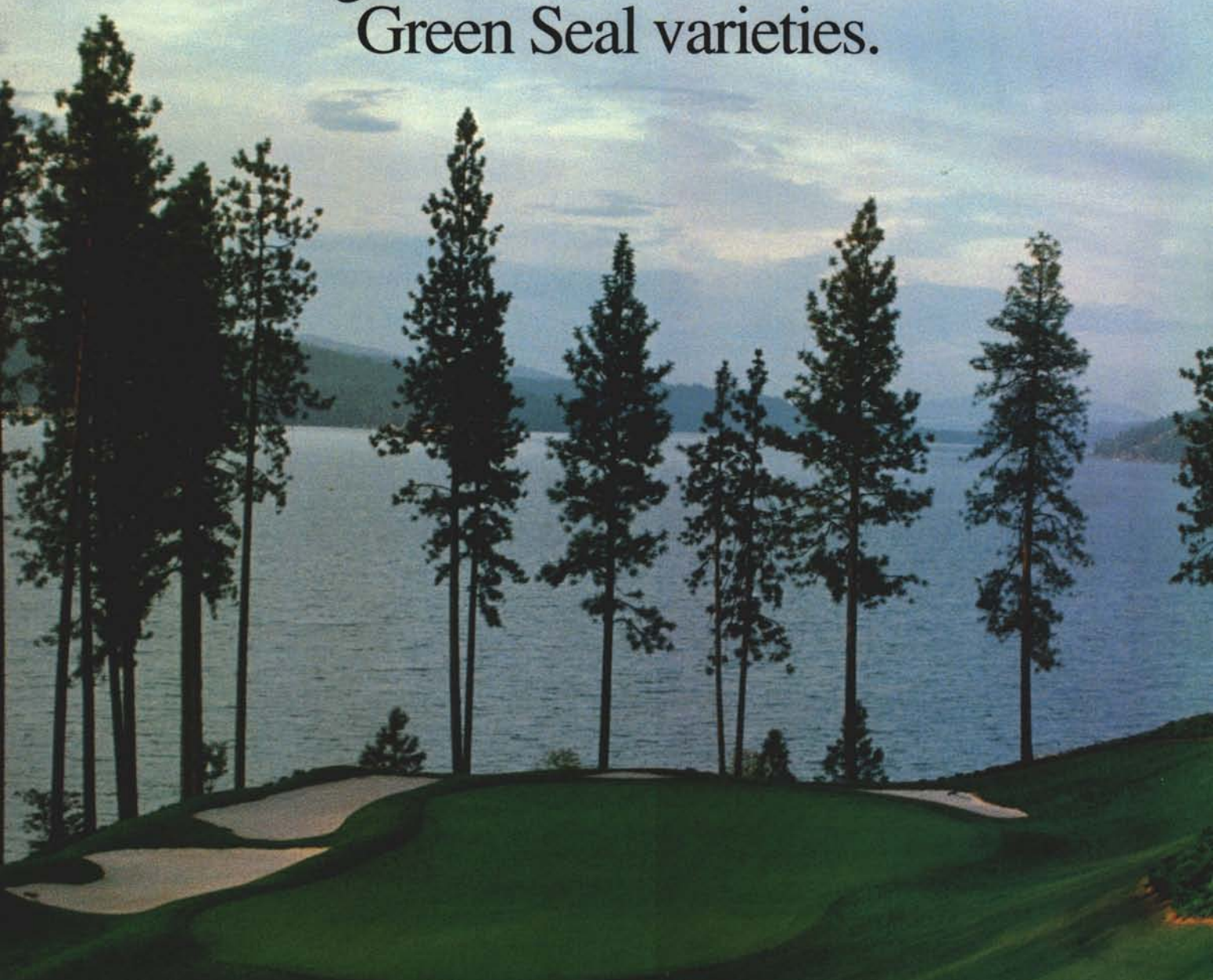


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VOLUME EIGHT, NUMBER ONE

JANUARY 1992

## MAIN EVENTS

### 7 CYPRESS GOLF CLUB INSTALLS BUFFALOGRASS TO HELP SAVE WATER

Golf course architect Perry Dye wanted Cypress Golf Club to be a memorable course that was also in harmony with environmental concerns. Anticipating water restrictions, Dye specified Prairie buffalograss for 42 of the course's 105 acres. Tom Buzbee, project construction manager says Cypress Golf Club now uses only half the water of the other courses in the area.

### 16 SUPER BOWL XXVI: MINNEAPOLIS METRODOME TAKES SPOTLIGHT

Super Bowl XXVI will host the Super Bowl for the first time. However, for stadium superintendent Dick Ericson, it's just one of three major sporting events in the dome in a six month period.

### 18 1991 MAN OF THE YEAR: GEORGE TOMA

Starting in Pennsylvania as groundskeeper for the Wilkes-Barre Barons, George Toma has since traveled the world and quarterbacked field preparations for all 26 Super Bowls. He likes the title Nitty Gritty Dirt Man.

### 22 FIELD MAINTENANCE IMPROVES PLAY AT OHIO WESLEYAN

Top-ranked Ohio Wesleyan University's soccer team played on poor fields until athletic director Jay Martin drafted Scotts' Dennis Kasper to improve the school's practice and game fields.

## LINE-UP

6	FRONT OFFICE	22	CHEMICAL LOG
6	EVENTS	11	CHALKBOARD
21	EXPLORING EQUIPMENT	31	ROOKIES
		34	SCOREBOARD

**COVER:** Frequent aeration has vastly improved the stadium and practice fields for Coach Howard Schnellenberger's Fighting Cardinals at the University of Louisville.



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*Kubota's FZ2100 with Auto Assist Differential and Zero Diameter Turning Radius.*

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### UNITY RESTORED



Seven years ago, this magazine was launched with the goal of organizing the sports turf industry. The original title of sportsTURF was intended to recognize the untapped potential of the high-use recreational turf market and to promote unity among groundskeepers of stadiums, parks, schools, and universities. We shared this mission with the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) and therefore received its official endorsement.

Our relationship with STMA went through a series of ups and downs for various reasons. In 1990, STMA pulled its endorsement, one reason being the change in the magazine's name to Golf & sportsTURF. I'm happy to report that effective next month, STMA and sportsTURF magazine are together again.

Our logic in changing the name to Golf & sportsTURF was flawed.

Knowing full well that the golf course superintendent was served admirably by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), our original goal was to create a medium for the superintendent's advanced knowledge of turf management to cross over to all other sports. This knowledge could then be mixed with the expertise of leading groundskeepers to provide other managers of recreational turf with the best of both worlds.

This goal, however, was not understood by many of the advertising agencies representing turf manufacturers. To them, golf was far easier to comprehend and quantify than the rest of the sports turf industry. Rather than to work with STMA and get the message about the huge athletic field market across to agencies, we made a decision to be more of a golf publication. It seemed the right thing to do at the time since we were having difficulty working with STMA as a team.

There have been significant changes at both STMA and Adams Publishing Corporation, the publisher of Golf & sportsTURF. After months of soul searching and negotiations, the two organizations have discovered that they can once again work together to help the industry achieve its potential.

Next month, this magazine will carry the sportsTURF logo and will be the official publication of STMA. It will continue to cover golf, as it always has, to permit the crossover of important turf management information. But it will refocus its energies on building the foundation for the rest of the sports turf industry. That's where a magazine is needed and that's where we will be from now on.

*Bruce F. Shank*

### JANUARY

**20-22** Michigan Turfgrass Conference, Michigan State University, Holiday Inn, Lansing, MI. Contact: Michael Saffel, Crop and Soil Science Department, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824-1325, (517) 353-9022.

**29-30** Turf And Landscape Exposition, Northern California Turfgrass Council, Santa Clara Convention Center, Santa Clara, CA. Contact: NCTC, 425 Oak St., Brentwood, CA 94513, (510) 516-0146.

### FEBRUARY

**5-7** Mid-Winter Conference and Exposition, American Sod Producers Association, Bally's Casino & Resort, Las Vegas, NV. Contact: ASPA, 1855 Hicks Road, Rolling Meadows, IL 60008, (708) 705-9898.

**10-17** 63rd International Golf Course Conference and Show, Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, New Orleans Convention Center, New Orleans, LA. Contact: John Schilling, GCSAA executive director, 1421 Research Park Drive, Lawrence, KS 66049-3859, (913) 841-2240.

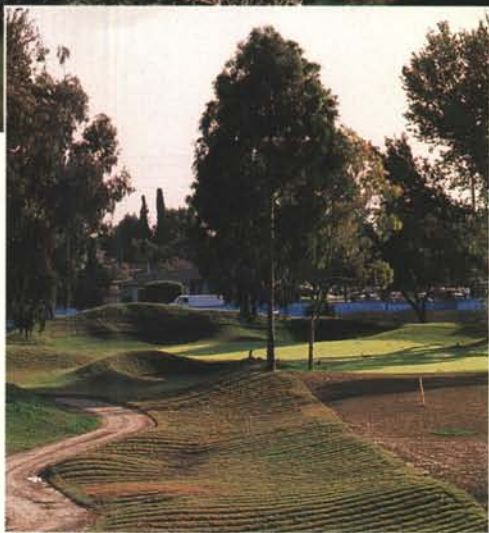
**13** Connecticut Turf and Landscape Conference, Connecticut Groundskeepers Association, Hartford Civic Center-Exhibition Hall, Hartford, CT. Contact: Elizabeth Maisano, Connecticut Groundskeepers Association, P.O. Box 876, Bethel, CT 06801, (203) 791-8615.





Two views approaching first green at Cypress Golf Club. Forty-two of the courses's 105 acres are Prairie Buffalograss (strip sodded on left).

## Cypress Golf Club Installs Buffalograss to Help Save Water



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*Having devised a course filled with dramatic mounds, Dye's next challenge was to find a turf that would thrive in Southern California's drought-stricken environment.*

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The challenge facing developers at Cypress Golf Club was how to construct an 18-hole championship golf course on just 105 acres. The site is in the city of Cypress, CA, surrounded by urban development.

The owner, Fuji Country Ltd. (FJC) of Tokyo, Japan, hired Perry Dye of Dye Designs, Inc., Denver, CO, to design the course. He wanted a memorable course that was also in harmony with environmental concerns. With his legendary flair, Dye used railroad ties and mounding to create an amphitheater effect.

In all, there are more than 20,000 railroad ties on the course. Of that number, more than 10,000 ties form the lake edges for the series of nine interconnected lakes. Special drainage funnels runoff water into the lakes where pumps use the water to irrigate the course.

The mounds range from small, undulating swells to severe vertical drops that accent greens and fairways. "He did some very dramatic mounding," said Tom Buzbee, project manager for Kajima Engineering & Construction, Pasadena, CA, the course's construction contractor.

*continued on page 8*



## Cypress Golf Club

*continued from page 7*

The radically sloped mounds also serve a safety function. They keep errant shots from sailing off course, Buzbee said. On some holes, if a golfer hits an approach that looks as if it will fly past its target, a mound catches the ball and rolls it back toward the green.

Having devised a course filled with dramatic mounds that rise and dive, Dye's next challenge was to find a turf that would thrive in Southern California's drought-stricken environment. Although Cypress is not yet under mandatory water reductions, most Southern California water districts have required 10- or 20-percent reductions, said Alan Andreasen, golf course superintendent for Cypress Golf Club.

After examining the different turf options, Dye decided to go with Prairie buffalograss. Dr. Milt Engelke of Texas A&M University developed Prairie, one of the newer buffalograss varieties.

### History of Buffalograss

Native buffalograsses thrived on the country's vast arid prairies. They provided

---

***What attracted Dye to Prairie was its low growth habit. It grows about 5- to 6-inches high and stops growing.***

---

a food source to giant herds of buffalo and sod for little houses on the prairie.

Researchers originally developed buffalograss as a forage grass. Buffalograss is naturally adapted to areas with 12 to 35 inches of annual rainfall, according to the Bamert Seed Company. It also has the ability to survive long periods of drought.

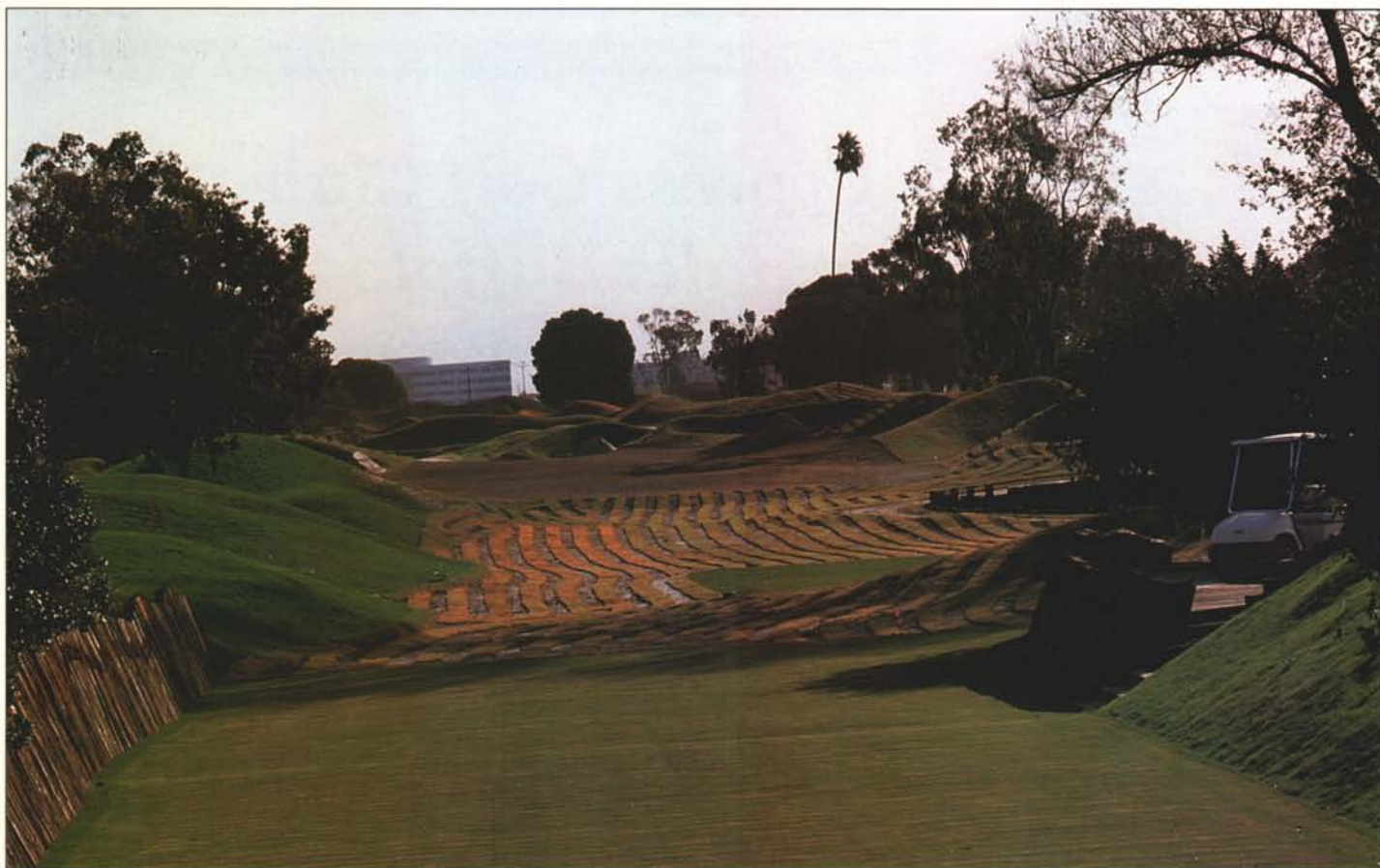
Texoka, Sharp's Improved and common seeds have been available to turf managers and agricultural growers for years. Newer varieties designed for turf use are gradually becoming available.

Topgun and Plains are two varieties Bamert Seed Company is hoping to have available for 1992 or 1993. At the University of Oklahoma, researchers are working on Bison, a variety they hope will be available soon.

Prairie and 609 are the two most available of the newer buffalograss varieties. Prairie is being grown by six producers, of which two have the right to sublicense. Crenshaw & Doguet Turfgrass, Austin, TX, is one of the producers with the right to sublicense. David Doguet, president of Crenshaw & Doguet Turfgrass, estimates that 400 acres of Prairie will be commercially available in Texas in 1992. There will also be 10 acres in California, five in Arizona, five in New Mexico and 10 in Oklahoma, he said.

The variety 609 was developed by the University of Nebraska under the direction of Dr. Terry Riorden. Crenshaw & Doguet Turfgrass is the exclusive producer of 609. Doguet estimates that in 1992 there will be 200 acres of 609 in Texas, 10 acres in California, five acres

*continued on page 12*



View from tee on the eighth hole with Buffalograss strip sodded in fairway. Photos courtesy: Kenneth May, Dye Designs.