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- Contains a high level of endophyte that enhances insect resistance.
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- Rich dark green color with good mowing quality.
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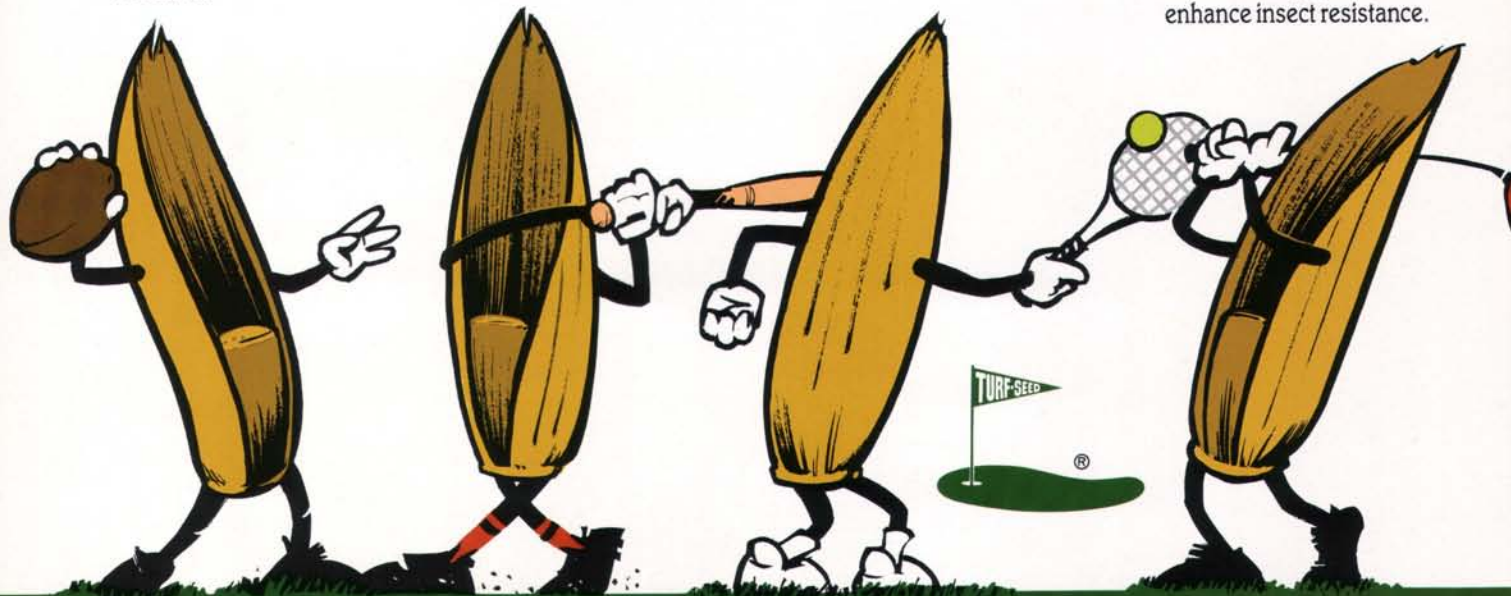
- The number 1 variety in the 1986 National perennial ryegrass trial.
- Dark blue-green colored low growing variety.
- Improved heat tolerance, and resistance to leaf spot, brown patch and stem rust.
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Charger

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246 Sunrye

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VOLUME SEVEN, NUMBER EIGHT

AUGUST 1991

MAIN EVENTS

8 SPORTS FIELD CONSTRUCTION: THE CLASS OF 1990-1991

Sports field construction technology is on the rise and more sports turf managers are getting involved at the design level. Yet some things remain crucial, such as proper drainage and follow-up maintenance. Here's a look at six new, state-of-the-art fields and the thinking behind them.

17 SHREVEPORT COUNTRY CLUB BENDS TRADITION

Said to be the oldest golf course in Louisiana, Shreveport Country Club has a long tradition. It broke tradition last fall when the club switched to bentgrass greens. Superintendent Jim Brown reveals what it took to make the break from bermuda and the challenge of raising bent in the South.

20 WINTER OVERSEEDING: GAINING CONTROL OVER TRANSITION

Overseeding has changed considerably since the days of annual ryegrass. Improved varieties and different turf species come into play. To avoid problems with transition, the turf manager needs to know the characteristics of each type of cool-season grass in overseeding mixtures and blends.

22 GROWING NATURAL TURF INDOORS: PROTOTYPE LOOKS PROMISING

Research conducted at Michigan State University about growing natural turfgrass indoors has been promising enough to cause a British investor to build a par 3 golf course in Flint, MI. The results of traffic and fertility studies are presented by members of the research team.

LINE-UP

- 6 FRONT OFFICE
- 6 EVENTS
- 29 ROOKIES
- 34 SCOREBOARD

COVER: Michael Thompson's indoor par 3 golf course in Flint, MI.

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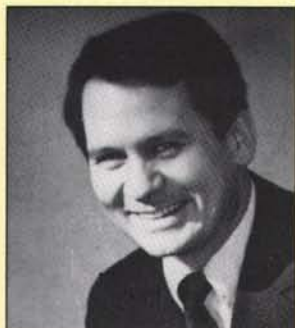
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THE FRONT OFFICE

OPINION PAGE

WATER SHORTAGE BRINGS OUT IMPORTANCE OF PUBLIC TURF



As water continues to be a scarce commodity in the Southwest and its price continues to rise, it's interesting to see where schools, golf courses, and parks spend their water dollars.

After five years of inadequate rainfall, athletic fields and golf courses remain green and in play. That says a great deal about the value of sports turf in this country.

To really appreciate the value of water, you have to experience water rationing personally. For the past two years, I have had to shut off the sprinklers for my lawn. That's a tough thing for a turf editor to do, but there was no choice if I hoped to protect my trees and plant beds. I painted the scorched turf last year. This year, there wasn't enough turf left to paint.

During the past two years however, the School Board and the baseball and soccer leagues have worked closely together to build new fields and to improve the irrigation systems at our schools and parks. Residents have chipped in to add new laterals, upgrade sprinkler heads, and buy seed and maintenance equipment. Use of all facilities for games and practices is closely monitored and coordinated among community groups. Fences have been installed to guard against overuse or vandalism.

The community as a whole has sent a clear message to its elected leaders that our parks and school fields must have priority at budget time. Even though our own lawns are brown, we will not tolerate poor turf conditions at our parks and schools.

If anything, the quality of our facilities has improved during these trying times. We no longer take our public sports facilities for granted. Attendance is up at games. Parents don't balk at sticking around after games or volunteering their time on the weekends to work on the fields. Even the kids have learned not to abuse the fields and equipment.

The planning board has gotten the message. No new development will be approved without setbacks for parks, schools, and public golf courses. That requirement needs to be extended to include water as well as land.

As water becomes scarce, the condition of public turf facilities gains in importance. People will make the sacrifices necessary to protect their community athletic facilities. They aren't amenities, they are necessities. People will fight for them if challenged. Water shortages may be the challenge we've needed to support what the turf industry has been saying all along.

Bruce Shank

EVENTS

CALENDAR

AUGUST

21 Turfgrass Field Day, University of Rhode Island, Turfgrass Research Farm, Kingston, RI. Contact: Dr. N. Jackson, Plant Sciences Department, Woodward Hall, Kingston, RI 02881.

SEPTEMBER

12-14 Golf Development Expo, The Peabody Hotel, Orlando, FL. Contact: Crittenden Research Institute, P.O. Box 1150, Novato, CA 94948, (415) 382-2486 or (800) 443-8318.

15-17 Annual Alabama Turf Conference, Alabama Cooperative Extension Service, Auburn University Conference Center, Auburn, AL. Contact: Dr. Coleman Y. Ward, (205) 844-5475, fax (205) 844-9022.

17 Professional Turfgrass Field Day, Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association, Inc., Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY. Contact: Bob Lippman, (914) 248-7476 or Byron Johnson, (203) 748-5069.

17-19 Virginia Tech Turf and Landscape Field Days, Virginia Cooperative Extension Service, Virginia Tech Campus, Blacksburg, VA. Contact: J.R. Hall, III, (703) 231-5795

OCTOBER

2-3 Southern California Turfgrass Expo, Southern California Turfgrass Council, Orange County Fairgrounds, Costa Mesa, CA. Contact: Chuck Wilson, Expo chairman, (714) 951-8547.

13-16 Florida Turfgrass Conference And Show, Florida Turfgrass Association, Prime F. Osborn III Convention Center, Jacksonville, FL. Contact: FTA, 302 S. Graham Avenue, Orlando, FL 32803-6399, (407) 898-6721.

16-17 Texas Turfgrass Conference, West Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association. Contact: George Fugitt, WTGSSA, 5402 21st Street, Lubbock, Texas 79407, (806) 792-7442.

NOVEMBER

3-5 Annual Meeting, Georgia Golf Course Supt. Assoc., Jekyll Island, GA. Contact: Karen White, GGCSA, P.O. Box 683, Watkinsville, GA 30677, (404) 769-4076.

Send announcements on your events two months in advance to editor, *Golf & SportsTURF*, P.O. Box 8420, Van Nuys, CA 91409. Fax: (818) 781-8517.

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The New Comiskey Park.

Sports Field Construction: The Class of 1990 -

By Matthew Trulio

By most accounts, business has been steady in the sports field construction and renovation business during the last year-and-a-half, despite the current recession. Credit the flux to increased demand for playing fields, a renewed focus on quality and aesthetics, or even sports turf liability issues (and when a million dollar field may protect the knees of a \$10 million athlete, those issues become large indeed). The result is more top-notch facilities. And that's a good, healthy sign for field builders and sports turf managers.

If a single trend or focus emerges from the fields of 1990-91, it is *not* a particular type of field construction system, irrigation set-up, fertilizer program, or grass variety.

No new technology has broken from the pack to lead all others. What they do have in common, however, is a heavy emphasis on *drainage*. All facilities in this article listed drainage as a key goal in their construction. This may be because a growing number of superintendents and grounds managers, who realize how drainage dramatically affects turf health and day-to-day field playability, are getting involved in the construction of the fields they manage, *at the design level*.

Here is an overview of a half-dozen fields at the collegiate and professional levels. Far from a complete list of all the natural turf (another growing trend) facilities constructed in the last year-and-a-half, this ar-

ticle chronicles only six high-quality, state-of-the-art fields. Many more top-notch diamonds and gridirons were constructed in 1990-1991. Undoubtedly, many more will follow.

University Of Florida: Quality Within The Budget

After a number of years with an artificial surface in Hill Griffin Stadium-Florida Field, University of Florida, Gainesville officials decided it was time for a change, but a change within their financial means. They reviewed several field systems before making their final decision.

"Economically speaking, the USGA sand-based field we put in at Hill Griffin Stadium-Florida Field offered considerable