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INTERNATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

SeaDwarf® Takes Off in Panama

Two major projects are currently underway in Panama with SeaDwarf® Seashore Paspalum turfgrass as their centerpiece.

Along Avenida Balboa, the most famous avenue in the Panamanian capital, Panama City, a 15-hectare (approximately 37 acres) park is under construction. SeaDwarf® is the grass of choice for the waterfront park called Cinta Costera, which in English translates to 'coastal belt'.

"The project objective is to decrease traffic through one of the most popular zones in the city and create a new 'lung' for the city with huge parks," said Xavier Mora of Jardines Urbanos, the licensed SeaDwarf® producer in Panama. Framed by Panama's ever-expanding skyline, the park's SeaDwarf® lawns create much-needed green space in an upscale urban environment. Mora said even the Panamanian President Martín Torrijos is keeping an eye on Cinta Costera. "This project will be in a lot of postcards of the city," Mora said.

At another high profile project in Panama, the Sante Fe community development near Panama City, the first stages of construction include a polo field grassed with SeaDwarf® Seashore Paspalum. The facility will host an international polo event later this year, with players and horses arriving from all over the world.

According to Gary Lucks of Lucks Sales Group, who coordinated the sale of the grass with the project's developers, SeaDwarf® was chosen for the project because of the dwarf paspalum's "texture, color and low irrigation needs."



SeaDwarf® at the waterfront park in Panama City



A closer view of the SeaDwarf® park in Panama City



New SeaDwarf® sod is installed at the Sante Fe polo field

Industry Insights

"It's revolutionary in golf. It's a salt-tolerant grass that can be mowed to all heights: for greens, tees, fairways and roughs."

Golf Course Architect Craig Schreiner talking about the SeaDwarf® Seashore Paspalum used on all surfaces of the newly renovated Pine Lakes Country Club in Myrtle Beach, SC, as quoted Thursday, March 12, 2009, on Myrtle Beach Online

"It was incredible how fast it took the rye out of it."

Chuck Pula, Parks & Recreation Director for the City of Winter Springs, Florida, talking about how easy spring transition out of overseed was on his paspalum fields as quoted in the February 2009 issue of Sports Turf magazine

"I would love to see a golf tournament played here."

PGA Tour Player Ernie Els, as quoted in the Triangle Business Journal on Monday, January 12, 2009, at the grand opening of the golf course he designed using SeaDwarf® Seashore Paspalum at Hoakalei Country Club, the first new golf club to built on the island of O'ahu, Hawaii, in 30 years.



Goosen Wins Africa Open on SeaDwarf®

Two-time U.S. Open Champion Retief Goosen won the very first professional golf tournament to be played on SeaDwarf® greens in South Africa. Goosen won the Sunshine Tour's Africa Open in January with a 7-under score of 65 for a one-stroke victory over European PGA Tour Star Darren Clarke. The tournament was played at East London Golf Club in East London, South Africa.

East London Golf Club is the first golf course in South Africa to be grassed with SeaDwarf® on all 18 greens.

The decision to go with SeaDwarf®, said East London Superintendent Cameron van Niekerk, was made as "a result of our effluent water and proximity to the ocean and the fact that the climatic conditions are more suitable for a warm season grass."

According to news reports, the Africa Open will be hosted at East London Golf Club for at least the next two years and negotiations are underway for the 2010 Africa Open to be co-sanctioned by the European PGA Tour.



African Open played at East London Golf Club on SeaDwarf®



A close-up of a SeaDwarf® green at East London Golf Club in South Africa

UltimateFlora® Zoysia & PristineFlora® Zoysia in Anguilla

Situated on Rendezvous Bay on the southern shore of the island of Anguilla, in the Caribbean's Leeward Island chain, CuisinArt Resort & Spa is a luxury vacation destination. Set amid a botanical oasis, there are more than 37,000 plants, flowering trees and shrubs on the 35-acre property. Everette Clarke, director of the resort's landscape department, said the landscaping at CuisinArt is extremely important to the quality of the resort guest's experience.

"It's one of the first things that they see when they come in. If the landscaping is looking good, it means that the interior of the villas is also looking good. It creates a first impression," Clarke said.

The front entrance at CuisinArt is grassed with PristineFlora® Zoysia. The fine-textured grass creates an elegant look. And, said Brian Corbett, assistant manager of the landscape department at CuisinArt, the PristineFlora® Zoysia "creates a thick mat" and "chokes out weeds," which helps the resort's 16-man maintenance crew cut down on some of their weeding duties.

Onshore breezes from the Caribbean regularly carry high levels of salt air and salt spray onto the resort property.

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Brian Corbett, Assistant Manager of Landscape Department at CuisinArt, (left) and Everette Clarke, Director of Landscape Department, (right) stand on a lawn of UltimateFlora® Zoysia near the hydroponic farm at the resort on the island of Anguilla

Industry Insights

"Bermudagrass down here grows sideways and kind of lays down, whereas paspalum is more like a Northern grass in that it grows straight up... The ball doesn't settle down to the bottom like it does with Bermuda... You can switch up club selection a lot more... You don't necessarily just have to gouge out a sand wedge. You can pitch-and-run much more easily out of paspalum — it's easier to be confident that you'll make good contact... Because the ball's sitting up higher, you can spin the ball pretty easily in the short-cut areas of paspalum. That's something amateurs very much enjoy, but you have to plan the shot accordingly."

Cory Schaub, head golf professional at Hammock Bay Golf & Country Club in Naples, FL, as quoted in the December 6-13, 2008, issue of Golfweek magazine.

"Our course is located directly on Biscayne Bay, and during the dry winter and spring months, turf quality would suffer. We were a perfect fit for paspalum. After much research, and test plots, SeaDwarf® was chosen as the grass for our entire course... I have had no problem achieving the same green speed with paspalum as our Bermuda."

Robert Wethy, golf course superintendent at Deering Bay Yacht & Country Club in Coral Gables, FL, as quoted in the Summer 2008 issue of The Florida Green magazine



Corbett said UltimateFlora® Zoysia, with its fairly strong salt tolerance, has performed very well in the lawns that frame the villa guest rooms.

"We get sea brine come up and you'd find that the sea brine would do a lot of damage to plants. But with the grass in that area now, you don't find that would happen. You find the grass would stay green. What we do, when it kind of looks gray, we water it with our gray water system. You notice, once it gets dry, that means the salt brine itself is dried up on the leaves," Corbett said. "The UltimateFlora® Zoysia grass can really take that kind of a weather beating."

Corbett said the UltimateFlora® Zoysia gets less fungus and has fewer problems with insects than other grasses he's tried at the resort. "It's very easy to maintain," Corbett said.

Stu Raskin of Plantas Verdes, a company that specializes in shipping plant material to the Caribbean, worked with Florida licensed producer Emerald Island Turf to import both grasses to the resort.

CuisinArt Resort features the award-winning Venus Spa & Fitness Center, offering world-class spa treatments and experiences. The resort also boasts the only hydroponic farm and organic garden complex at a resort in the Caribbean. Vegetables grown and harvested on-site are served in the resort's restaurants.



An aerial photo of the PristineFlora® Zoysia lawn at the front entrance to CuisinArt Resort on the island of Anguilla



UltimateFlora® Zoysia at CuisinArt Resort in Anguilla, near the hydroponic farm



Old Palm in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, is grassed 100% with SeaDwarf®

AWARDS & HONORS

SeaDwarf® Courses Earn National Rankings

Golf courses grassed with SeaDwarf® continue to earn national recognition.

Four golf courses in Florida grassed with SeaDwarf® Seashore Paspalum are ranked among Travel and Leisure Golf's Top 100 Golf Communities. In the national magazine's January/February issue, Tuscany Reserve and TwinEagles in Naples, Old Palm in Palm Beach Gardens, and The Medalist Golf Club in Hobe Sound, all earned the national ranking. In California, The Bridges in Rancho Santa Fe, which has a test tee grassed with SeaDwarf®, also made the prestigious list.

The article announcing the national ranking, which authors David Gould and Lauren Kay called "Our Annual

(Continued...)

Industry Insights

"In addition to prompting more research to increase the salt tolerance and reduce the care needed for popular existing varieties like Bermudagrass, critical and chronic water shortages in many regions have joined with the 'green' movement to lend momentum to the 'hottest' new grass variety, paspalum. Currently making a big name for itself in warmer regions such as Florida, the Caribbean and Hawaii, paspalum has been displaying remarkable salt tolerance and an ability to thrive even after continued irrigation with recycled water, (something that Bermudagrass, to date, has not been able to take in large doses)."

Tony Dear, contributing editor, writing in the January 2009 issue of Club and Resort Business magazine

Did You Know?

There are now 7,000 acres of paspalum on American golf courses, according to an article in the December 6-13, 2008, issue of Golfweek magazine



List of the Best Places to Live—and Live Well”, outlined the criteria by which the golf course communities were selected. Among the characteristics essential to making the cut were “golf that brims with beauty and challenge” and elements of the community that are “sustainably green.” SeaDwarf®, which creates environmentally friendly golf courses with low water and low fertilizer requirements along with highly playable golf course surfaces, undoubtedly figured into the communities that earned the ranking.

In addition, Turnberry Isle Resort & Club (Soffer course) in Aventura, Florida, was named to Golfweek’s 2009 List of the Best Courses You Can Play. The ranking names the best public-access courses in the United States. Turnberry Isle is grassed with SeaDwarf® from tee-to-green.



Turnberry Isle Resort in Aventura, Florida

SeaDwarf® Superintendent Wins Environmental Award

Congratulations to Jeff Burgoyne who earned the 2008 Environmental Leaders in Golf Award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association and Golf Digest magazine. Burgoyne, Director of Golf Course Operations at The Club at Twin Eagles in Naples, Florida, manages two golf courses at his facility. The Aerie course at Twin Eagles, designed by Gary Player, is grassed with SeaDwarf® on the fairways, tees and rough.

Award entrants were judged in five categories: water management, resource conservation, integrated pest management, wildlife/habitat preservation and education/outreach. Each category required documentation of sustainability, criticality, originality and technology used.



Jeff Burgoyne

RESEARCH

Latest Research on ET’s Grasses Presented at UF Field Day

Held at the University of Florida’s Fort Lauderdale Research & Education Center in March, the 2009 South Florida Turf Expo yielded some interesting research information.

Graduate Student Neil Young explained his findings in a project that examines establishment of fairway height bermudagrass & seashore paspalum. Included



Grad Student Neil Young at the SeaDwarf® test plot in Ft. Lauderdale

(Continued...)

Overheard at the Puerto Rico Open

“Excellence in condition again as it was last year.”

Announcer Jerry Foltz

“Pretty good surfaces though they’re fairly young. This paspalum is putting better ever year.”

Announcer Curt Byrum to D. A. Points, PGA Tour Player

“I agree, I like it.”

D. A. Points response to Curt Byrum

“Greens roll very nicely, don’t they, D.A.?”

Jerry Foltz to D.A. Points

“They really do and this surface doesn’t really spike up too bad, you’ve gotta really drag your feet to see much wear and tear on it. It makes these little ones (putts) more comfortable.”

D.A. Points response to Jerry Foltz

Announcer’s commentary on the Golf Channel during the television coverage at the Puerto Rico Open, Trump International Golf Club, March 12 – 15, 2009, Rio Grand Puerto Rico, grassed with SeaDwarf® greens



in the study were SeaDwarf® Seashore Paspalum, Celebration® Bermudagrass, TifSport® Bermudagrass and TifWay® Bermudagrass.

Young said the tests revealed that a 1N:0P:2K fertilizer mix worked best for SeaDwarf®, noting that “high levels of phosphorus inhibit uptake of nitrate” in the paspalum. The bermudagrasses, by comparison, seemed to do best with a 1N:1P:4K rate.

“Root and shoot growth were not influenced by fertility treatments but inherent differences between grasses demonstrated SeaDwarf® possesses the greatest shoot density,” Young said.

His findings, he said, explained some of the playability benefits of SeaDwarf® in a golf course setting. “The ball sits up higher, we contribute that to the shoot density,” Young said. “Your members will love it.”

John Rowland presented the findings of a study he’s working on with several UF colleagues on the establishment of warm season putting green cultivars with various nitrogen/potassium fertilizer rates. In the study with TifDwarf® and TifEagle® bermudagrasses are SeaDwarf® Seashore Paspalum and PristineFlora® Zoysia.

Highlights of the research so far:

- PristineFlora® Zoysia had the firmest surface and minimal mower scalping. Rowland said the PristineFlora® Zoysia is “very promising at greens height” because it is “tight” and “upright,” noting that its cold tolerance and shade tolerance are also positive benefits of the grass.
- Rhizoctonia Solani, which exists in the soil, was more severe in SeaDwarf® at lower N rates. Rowland said this was a surprise because the general assumption is that more nitrogen would cause disease during grow-in. Rowland speculates that at higher rates of N, “faster growing SeaDwarf® had less rhizoctonia because it was stronger to fight off” the disease.
- SeaDwarf® and TifDwarf® were fastest to establish in the test. SeaDwarf® achieved 50% cover fastest with 0.75 and 1.0 lb./N/wk though there was no difference between 0.5, 0.75 and 1.0 lb. N/wk at 90% cover.

Rowland said the testing will continue this summer where an emphasis will be on drought tolerance and water use.

All four grasses were mowed as low as .110-inch during the study.



John Rowland presents his talk at UF research plots



Spray paint marks the spot at a PristineFlora® Zoysia test plot

Grasses from Environmental Turf

GOLF & SPORTS GRASSES

Premium SeaDwarf® Seashore Paspalum

- Only TRUE DWARF Paspalum
- Greens put true, virtually no grain
- Use tee-to-green
- Drought Tolerant
- Salt Tolerant
- Less Water
- Less Fertilizer
- Irrigate with varied water sources

Aloha® Seashore Paspalum

- Heals Fast
- Wear Tolerant Sports Fields
- Longer Roughs
- Deeper Green Color
- Drought Tolerant
- Salt Tolerant
- Less Water
- Less Fertilizer
- Irrigate with varied water sources

PristineFlora® Zoysia

- Shade Tolerant
- Golf tees, fairways, greens
- Croquet Lawns
- High-end lawns
- Less Water
- Chinch Bug Resistant

LAWN GRASSES

UltimateFlora® Zoysia

- Less Water
- Less Fertilizer
- Chinch Bug Resistant
- Soft Underfoot
- Luxurious Look & Feel

Hammock® Centipede

- Extremely Low Maintenance
- Less Mowing
- Less Fertilizer
- Less Water

DeltaShade® St. Augustine

- Shade Tolerant
- Cold Tolerant
- Semi-Dwarf



Auburn University Works on Replacement for Methylbromide

Dr. Harold Walker of Auburn University recently presented the latest research on his work in finding a replacement for methylbromide fumigant in sod production. Dr. Walker made the presentation in February at the Alabama Turfgrass Association's Sod Producers field day in Bon Secour, Alabama.

Dr. Walker's research examines several pest management tools:

- Mechanical: primary and secondary tillage
- Biological: using Velvetbean to ward off nematodes
- Chemical: Selective & non-selective herbicides
- Cultural: using 2 seeding rates in seeded turfgrass production

Of all of the methods tested, Dr. Walker reported that a combination of chemical herbicides Basamid and Eptam yielded the best results.

"I think that combination could work for a number of sod producers," Dr. Walker said. Though it did not quite achieve 100-percent suppression, Dr. Walker said the level of control of Common Bermudagrass achieved when using both herbicides together was "very promising." His research continues in order to fine-tune the combination to use the lowest rates of Basamid possible in the mix because of cost considerations.

Dr. Walker also offered estimated timetables for safe sprigging of certain grass varieties after using Eptam as a pest control:

- St. Augustinegrass: sprig 5-6 weeks after treatment
- Zoysiagrass: sprig 6 weeks after treatment
- Bermudagrass: spring 6 weeks after treatment



Dr. Harold Walker



Dr. Harold Walker, ET President Stacie Zinn, Dr. David Han at field day

Resources

LSU OFFERS RAPID TURF DIAGNOSIS SERVICE

Researchers at Louisiana State University now offer rapid turfgrass disease diagnosis services to the turfgrass industry. The new lab provides preliminary disease diagnosis and recommendations within 24 to 48 hours of receiving a sample. Along with disease diagnosis, the service also includes insect, pest and nematode diagnosis.

For more information call Dr. Nick Singh at 225-578-4562 or email: rsingh@agcenter.lsu.edu.

Industry Insights

"It grew in a lot faster than we anticipated and than we were told it would... The color and density going into the winter were just wonderful. So far we're impressed with it and like it. I can't wait for this summer because I'm expecting great things from it based on what we saw last summer."

Superintendent Alan Jarvis on the SeaDwarf® planted at his newly renovated golf course, Pine Lakes Country Club in Myrtle Beach, SC, as quoted on Thursday, March 12, 2009, at Myrtle Beach Online

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