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## Research

### Field Day Yields New Findings

The New Grasses Field Day held in December at Emerald Island Turf in Avon Park, Florida, presented a lot of new information and raised \$5,000 for turfgrass research.

Below are a few highlights of the research reports from University of Florida researchers.

#### • Shade Tolerance:

Dr. Laurie Trenholm delivered the preliminary findings from a study she's conducting on shade tolerance among several varieties of St. Augustine grass. DeltaShade™, a new St. Augustine available through Environmental Turf's network of licensed growers, tested better in up to 70 percent shade than Floratam and Palmetto in weekly quality shade scores.

#### • Insect Treatment/Aphids:

Dr. Russell Nagata and Dr. Gregg Nuessly delivered an update on their research on the green bug aphid in Seashore Paspalum. Nagata and Nuessly recommended that turfgrass managers begin scouting for aphids in October of each year. One tip they offered was to run a wet hand over a patch of turf suspected of an aphid infestation. "If the hand comes up with green spots," Nuessly said, "you've got aphids."

Nuessly's recommended treatments for the green bug aphid include Orthene, Talstar, Sevin SL, Tempo, Deltagard 5 SC, Merit 75 WP, Prelude and Scimitar CS. University tests showed that Safer Insect soap and Neem oil extract had little effect on aphids.

#### • New Grass Varieties:

Dr. Brian Scully discussed four new grasses developed by the University of Florida that are available through Environmental Turf's network of licensed growers.

UltimateFlora™ Zoysia, a medium-textured Zoysia japonica grass, was developed as an alternative to St. Augustine grass, Dr. Scully said. The grass was (Continued...)



UF's Dr. Russell Nagata shows a photo of aphids.



A sample of DeltaShade St. Augustine on display at the field day.

## ☉ Maintenance Tips for Zoysiagrass

- **MOWING HEIGHT:**  
*Varied by cultivar*

UltimateFlora™ Zoysia: May use a high speed rotary mower or reel mower with sharp blades. Suggested mowing heights from 1-1/2-inches to 3-inches with high speed rotary. 3/4-inch to 1-1/2-inch with reel mower.

PristineFlora™ Zoysia: Reel mower recommended. Suggested mowing heights from 1/4-inch to 1-inch.

- **TO AVOID SCALPING:** Grass should be installed on level soil. If uneven soil, mow at longer heights to protect against scalping.

- **FERTILIZER:** Use a complete fertilizer mix such as 16-4-8. Nitrogen should be slow release or organic. Soluble fertilizers may increase thatch. Approximately 3lbs. to 6lbs. of Nitrogen per 1,000 sq.ft. per year depending on soil type.

- **IRRIGATION:** Fairly drought tolerant. Irrigate as needed, as little as 1/2-inch of water per week.

- **TO AVOID THATCH:** Mow at recommended heights, avoid excessive amounts of nitrogen and water and collect clippings. Fall verticutting can be used if thatch occurs.

- **INSECTS:** Chinch bug resistant.

- **INSTALLATION:** Install as sod or sprigs. Grows in quicker than most other zoysias.



compared in research trials to Meyer, long considered the standard zoysiagrass cultivar. In University trials, Dr. Scully said UltimateFlora™ demonstrated visual qualities considered desirable over Meyer including a shorter leaf length, shorter node length, finer leaf width and darker color than Meyer. UltimateFlora™ developed significantly smaller and fewer seed heads than Meyer. UltimateFlora™ also demonstrated a faster grow-in rate for sod production than Meyer.

PristineFlora™ Zoysia, a fine-textured Zoysia japonica by Z. Tenifolia grass, was developed as an alternative to Emerald Zoysia, Dr. Scully said, for various uses including golf courses. In University trials, PristineFlora™ was found to have a refined leaf structure with shorter leaf length and node length than Emerald. It has a darker color than Emerald. PristineFlora™ produces fewer seed heads than Emerald and has a significantly faster grow-in rate for sod production than Emerald, Dr. Scully said.

Aloha™ Seashore Paspalum, paspalum vaginatum, is a distinguishable alternative to existing paspalums, Dr. Scully said. In University trials, Aloha™ was found to have the fastest grow-in rate of all paspalums tested. Aloha™ also demonstrated a strong resistance to the green bug aphid, and a slightly improved resistance to the sod webworm versus standard varieties. Aloha™ Seashore Paspalum is suitable for use on golf courses, sports fields and residential lawns, Dr. Scully said.

Hammock™ Centipede, Eremochloa ophiuroides (Munro) Hack, was developed as a more heat tolerant centipede than existing varieties. In University trials, Hammock™ was found to have a shorter leaf length and finer leaf width than Centennial and Common Centipede. Its slower vertical growth and better color than existing cultivars, Dr. Scully said, makes it well-suited for lawn and industrial use.

• **Paspalum for Sports Fields:**

Along with the UF Researchers, Chuck Pula, director of parks & recreation, and Alan Greene, superintendent of parks operations, offered a case study on using Seashore Paspalum on sports fields in the City of Winter Springs, Florida. Pula said though paspalum “looks like Bermudagrass,” the paspalum “can use plain salt for weed control,” and “has an excellent tolerance level, it’s very tough and bounces back quickly after abuse.” He characterized the SeaDwarf™ Seashore Paspalum on his sports fields as “steroid grass” in that he saw “approximately two-foot roots in less than two months.”



UF’s Dr. Brian Scully shows off samples of two new zoysia Varieties.



Chuck Pula, director of parks & recreation for City of Winter Springs.

## 🕒 Schedule a Seminar

Environmental Turf provides FREE SEMINARS on Seashore Paspalum for companies and organizations. The presentation covers the evolution, uses, and maintenance practices of Seashore Paspalum. Highlights include the latest research and actual case studies of locations using the grass. Our Seminars are Accredited for CEUs by several national and regional organizations.

If you’d like to schedule a seminar for your group, organization or company, email Mike Vanatta, Vice President/ International Sales today at: [mike@environmentalturf.com](mailto:mike@environmentalturf.com).

## 🕒 Become a Licensed Grower

A limited number of licensing opportunities are available in select regions. If you are a quality sod grower interested in expanding your inventory with some of the world’s finest new environmentally friendly varieties, we’d like to speak with you. Please call us directly at: (772) 460-5575 or drop us an email at: [info@environmentalturf.com](mailto:info@environmentalturf.com).



## Testimonial

### Becker Landscape & Irrigation Chooses SeaDwarf For National Convention

When Becker Landscape & Irrigation was planning their display booth last fall for the national convention of the American Society of Landscape Architects held in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, the well-respected landscape contractor chose SeaDwarf Seashore Paspalum as the booth's centerpiece to showcase their high-end services.

Becker Landscape & Irrigation's booth simulated a manicured garden decorated with potted plants, trees and white custom pillars placed at the corners. The floor surface was laid with white concrete squares alternated with identically-sized squares of bright green SeaDwarf turfgrass set in a checkerboard pattern.

"We know how manicured and how high-end the look is for this turf," said Charles Parker, vice president of Becker Landscape & Irrigation based in Hobe Sound, Florida. "It's just a perfect match for us to have that high-end turf in the booth because that's basically what we're selling is custom high-end landscaping and hardscaping and irrigation."

Parker added, "I think the SeaDwarf automatically gave us an elegance. The whole design concept of the booth was to show our higher end standards from our photographs to the custom made corners of our booth. The grass accented it all to show more like a luxury home than just a booth. Some people put grass in their booth and it's just sort of secondary, where this grass was as primary as the trees and the corner pieces we had."

The convention was not the first time Becker Landscape & Irrigation had worked with SeaDwarf. Parker said "we use it every week" as part of the roadway and homeowner lawn installations the company does for developer WCI at Old Palm Golf Club in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.

"SeaDwarf is great to work with. It gives us a great finished look at the end of a project. Because it's so nice and manicured and it butts up tight to itself, once you get it all tight and watered in, it looks like it's finished where other grasses have seams and they do not grow in nice tight pieces like that," Parker said. "As a landscaper, it's

(Continued...)



Environmental Turf's Rex Cunningham checks out the SeaDwarf in the Becker Landscape & Irrigation booth.

## SeaDwarf a Hit in China

Trick Shot Artist and Golf Instructor Mike Calbot, who endorses SeaDwarf Seashore Paspalum turfgrass for use on golf courses, recently returned from a two week working golf tour of the Peoples Republic of China. Internationally known as "The Golf Doctor" and based at Miromar Lakes Beach & Golf Club in Estero, Florida, Calbot performed several trick shot exhibitions, played golf at some of the country's finest golf facilities and promoted the grass while in China.







much easier to handle than it is a Floratam or a Bahia that falls apart half the time when you're trying to lay it and it looks that way. We enjoy it quite a bit. We wish more developers would spend the extra money to use SeaDwarf."



## Awards & Honors

### Two SeaDwarf Courses Named Among America's Top 100 Golf Communities

Two Florida golf courses grassed tee-to-green with SeaDwarf Seashore Paspalum were named to Travel & Leisure Golf's list of America's Top 100 Golf Communities. The January 2006 issue of the magazine named Old Palm Golf Club in Palm Beach Gardens and Tuscany Reserve in Naples to the prestigious list.

In compiling the list, the editors of T&L Golf "began with the premise that the golf needed to be great: top course designs, impeccable maintenance, easy access for members." Of the Top 100 selected for this honor, the editors noted those that made the list offer "extraordinary golf, a great location, attention to detail and paradigm-shifting service."

Old Palm was designed by Raymond Floyd. Tuscany Reserve is a joint design between Pete Dye and Greg Norman. Both Old Palm and Tuscany Reserve were developed by one of Florida's finest luxury developers, WCI.



Tuscany Reserve, one of two tee-to-green SeaDwarf golf course communities named to the Top 100.

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## Grasses from Environmental Turf

- SeaDwarf™ Seashore Paspalum
- Aloha™ Seashore Paspalum
- UltimateFlora™ Zoysia
- PristineFlora™ Zoysia
- Hammock™ Centipede
- DeltaShade™ St. Augustine

## Where to Buy SeaDwarf

**Our Growers Ship World-Wide!**

**South Carolina:** Modern Turf

**Georgia:** Phillip Jennings Turf, Pike Creek Turf

**Florida:** Emerald Island Turf

**California:** Am-Sod Inc.

**Call 772-460-5575 for more information.**

## FREE Book Offer

Yes, you can get a FREE copy of the book "Suggestions for the Care of Seashore Paspalum."

How?

A) Request a FREE copy be mailed to you. Just call us at 772-460-5575 or email us at [info@environmentalturf.com](mailto:info@environmentalturf.com). Be sure to provide your name, address, plus phone or email. We'll ship it right out, FREE of charge.

Or

B) Download a FREE copy direct from our website. You can download it at: [www.environmentalturf.com/maintenance.html](http://www.environmentalturf.com/maintenance.html).

IT'S THAT EASY.