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Grower Profile

Modern Turf Grows SeaDwarf®

"My mission is finding environmentally friendly or responsible grasses of the future," said Hank Kerfoot, owner of Modern Turf in Rembert, South Carolina. And it was this "mission" that influenced Kerfoot's decision to become a licensed grower of SeaDwarf® Seashore Paspalum.

"I see great potential for that grass," he said. "The interesting thing about the paspalums is, it's both environmentally friendly and esthetically pleasing."

Kerfoot began his career as a very young man. By age 12, he was a caddy at a local golf course. By 15-years-old, he was a laborer at the golf course. After earning his degree in golf course management at Lake City Community College in Florida, Kerfoot spent eight years as a golf course superintendent in the Carolinas and Caribbean.

Kerfoot launched Modern Turf six years ago. His farm currently has 420 acres overall of turf in production with another 100 acres coming online soon. Modern Turf ships within the US and internationally.

Two years ago, Modern Turf added SeaDwarf® to its portfolio of grasses.

"I chose SeaDwarf® because of quality of the grass and the marketing behind it," Kerfoot said.

He said he sees a bright future for SeaDwarf®.

(Continued...)



The Modern Turf farm in Rembert, South Carolina



Owner of Modern Turf, Hank Kerfoot

Industry Insights

"The Paspalum grasses are coming on right now. They look pretty good. There's a Paspalum golf course in Spain that they grew in with seawater. It will take a lot of salt. It will take low water quality. Paspalum will be a great application for reused water quality."

Patrick Watson, CGCS
Southern Nevada Water Authority
Speaking about Water Efficient Turf Types at the Desert Green conference
Las Vegas, Nevada
October 6, 2006

"If you're thinking about planting Bermuda, you should plant Paspalum."

Stewart T. Bennett, CGCS
Speaking at the Paspalum Seminar hosted by Lucks Sales Group
Cordele, Georgia
September 20, 2006

"Seashore Paspalum can take cloudy, low light levels."

Patrick M. O'Brien, Director
USGA, Green Section, Southeast Region
Speaking at the Paspalum Seminar hosted by Lucks Sales Group
Cordele, Georgia
September 20, 2006



"I see it marching up the coast. It's snowballed in Florida, now in Georgia and South Carolina, and next year to the North Carolina coast. We certainly will see it along the coast and coming inland to golf courses, sports fields and home lawns. We did a Parade of Homes house in Columbia, SC, with a SeaDwarf lawn. Because it's a true dwarf, it's more homeowner friendly."



A parachute lands at the Modern Turf farm carrying an American flag

Awards & Honors

Park Grassed With SeaDwarf® & Aloha® Wins National Award

The Professional Grounds Management Society, a national organization of grounds management professionals, recognized Central Winds Park in the City of Winter Springs, Florida, with a Grand Award in the Society's 2006 Green Star Awards competition in November.

Central Winds Park is a complex that includes 20 acres of ball fields grassed with SeaDwarf® Seashore Paspalum and Aloha® Seashore Paspalum.

The park also includes two playgrounds, a nature trail, two sand volleyball courts, an outdoor basketball court, two large pavilions, and a 10-acre amphitheater.

A statement from the City of Winter Springs noted that the park "is a place where the community as a whole can come together thanks to the hard work of Central Winds' eight-person grounds team."

That team is spearheaded by award recipient Alan Greene, parks and recreation superintendent. Greene said it was "very exciting" to be recognized with such a prestigious honor.

The Professional Grounds Management Society is the oldest national grounds organization in the county and was formed in 1911. The PGMS is a non-profit, volunteer-run organization dedicated to serving and advancing managers of grounds for all specialties and disciplines. The award was given in the "Park, Recreation Area, or Playground" category for exceptional grounds maintenance.



Alan Greene accepts the award from the president of PGMS



A SeaDwarf® ball field at the award winning park.

Industry Insights

"What an incredible golf course. I could play it every day. The design and lush turf are fabulous. I don't know if I've ever seen a course so green, without one spot of discolored turf, without ballmarks, and without weeds. I had the impression that the course was private... turns out, Hammock Bay takes daily fee play. I paid the greens fee, which was ONLY \$65! That is beyond a great deal. I couldn't believe it. I would have paid \$165 for that course. I played a resort course the previous day, and it was getting \$210. It was nice, but the turf conditions didn't come close to Hammock Bay... I played Royal St. Kitts last week. It too has SeaDwarf greens. Loved them, too... The greens were spotless. I can't believe how resilient it is. No ball marks. None. I don't think I ever repaired a ball mark on St. Kitts or Hammock Bay."

Mike Boslet, editor of Golf Life Orlando, a luxury golf lifestyle publication via email, November 2, 2006, after having played both Hammock Bay Golf & Country Club in Naples, Florida, a golf course grassed 100% with SeaDwarf® and Royal St. Kitts on the island of St. Kitts, a course grassed with SeaDwarf® greens



Abaco Club On Winding Bay, Grassed with SeaDwarf® Greens, Ranked 6th In the World

The Toronto Star's 2006 Golf Preview Magazine ranks the Abaco Club on Winding Bay in the Bahamas as the Number Six golf course in the world. All 18 greens at the Abaco Club are grassed with SeaDwarf® Seashore Paspalum.

The course was designed by Scottish Architect Donald Steel with construction supervised by Stewart T. Bennett, CGCS, a consultant and expert in Seashore Paspalum turfgrass.

The Abaco Club at Winding Bay was built in 2004. Bennett said he expected the course would need to be able to withstand salt spray, drought and other inclement weather. But he never expected the course, grassed tee-to-green with paspalum, would have to survive not one, but two hurricanes during grow-in.

"We needed a grass that was both drought and salt tolerant and could flourish in an environment not fit for man, nor beast. The location receives about 20" of rain annually and is located on an island, with many of the golf holes running parallel to the coast. The course design was such that many holes would undoubtedly receive salt spray on a regular basis just from normal winds, and the entire area in general is prone to storms that would cause salt water flooding. We needed to guard ourselves to all of the above problems, but at the same time, have a fine textured turf," Bennett said.

The course and its SeaDwarf® Seashore Paspalum greens would be tested before the first golf club was swung.

"We began grassing the end of February, 2004. We were nearing the end of a 4-year 'drought' and I remember planting the first grass and watching the wind blow sand all over the place. We'd had about 4-inches of rain in the previous eight months and I remember thinking to myself: 'I'm nervous, and if I were planting Bermudagrass right now, I'd probably be nauseated,'" he said. Hurricane Frances hit the island on September 3rd, 2004, packing 120 mph winds that threw rocks the size of basketballs all over #17 & #18, and caused billions of gallons of salt water flooding.

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18th SeaDwarf® Green at Abaco



Abaco #7 hole has a SeaDwarf® green

Recent SeaDwarf® Sports Field & Golf Course Projects:

Caracas, Venezuela: Estadio Metropolitano De Beisbol & Estadio Futbol 12 De Febrero

Miami Lakes, Florida: Royal Oaks Park sports fields

Republic of Panama: Vista Mar golf course

Miami Beach, Florida: Turnberry Isles golf course

Richmond Hill, Georgia: Richmond Hill Plantation golf course

St. Petersburg, Florida: St. Pete Country Club

Naples, Florida: Twin Eagles golf course

Fort Myers, Florida: Somerset golf course

Naples, Florida: The Quarry golf course

Longboat Key, Florida: Longboat Key Club

Key West, Florida: Key West Golf Club



“The grass browned a bit after 2-3 days. We irrigated with fresher water and two weeks later there was no noticeable difference from before storm,” Bennett said.

Frances also covered holes 4, 5 and 6 in about three-feet of sand. Bennett’s crew used heavy equipment, then shovels to remove the sand. Again, he remembers, “We irrigated and two-weeks later, no noticeable difference.”

Just three weeks after Frances, Hurricane Jeanne payed a visit to Abaco on September 25th, 2004. Jeanne brought with her 115 mph winds and 30-inches of rain in 24-hours.

Jeanne left similar damage to Frances, and the paspalum rebounded just as quickly.

“The grass performed beyond my expectations. It was our original thought that this type grass would be needed in the event of a hurricane. We had no idea we would get one, much less two before we were even done with construction. The owner was very pleased and he recalled the time I stated that we need a “hurricane proof golf course”. The architect said we had proved all that we said we could do,” Bennet said.

The par-72 championship Abaco Club at Winding Bay plays to a length of 7,183 yards and is designed in a ‘tropical links’ style. The Toronto Star’s ranking puts the Abaco Club and SeaDwarf® in the very prestigious company of some of the most storied courses in the world including Turnberry Scotland, Pinehurst, Pebble Beach and the Old Course, St. Andrews, Scotland.



SeaDwarf® on 1st green at Abaco

Grasses from Environmental Turf

Golf & Sports Grasses

- SeaDwarf® Seashore Paspalum
- Aloha® Seashore Paspalum
- PristineFlora® Zoysia

Lawn Grasses

- UltimateFlora™ Zoysia
- Hammock® Centipede
- DeltaShade™ St. Augustine

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.

Research

Zinn Chairs More Than \$150,000 In Research & Scholarship Funding

As Chair of the Research & Scholarship Committee for the Florida Turfgrass Association, Environmental Turf’s Stacie Zinn had a hand this past year in funding in excess of \$150,000 for turfgrass research and another \$7,500 in scholarships to Florida turfgrass students.

“It’s a great honor to have the opportunity to work with all of the members of the FTGA Research & Scholarship Committee, along with our friends at several allied



Stacie Zinn shakes hands with FTGA scholarship winner Michael Bolles

(Continued...)



associations, in order to have such a positive impact on the turfgrass industry," Zinn said.

The FTGA, in cooperation with several allied turf and golf industry associations, funded research projects at the University of Florida and at Lake City Community College. Cooperating associations include: Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association, (FGCSA); Florida Sod Growers Cooperative, (FSGC); Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, (GCSAA); and the Club Managers Association of America, (CMAA).

The grants will advance research in the turfgrass industry. Funding recipients are Florida-based researchers at the University of Florida and at Lake City Community College. Projects funded are as follows:

- Rapid Turfgrass Disease Diagnosis Assistantship
- Best Management Practices for a Culturally Diverse Workforce
- Breeding Turfgrass for Improved Performance & Reduced Maintenance
- Evaluation of Soil Moisture & Evapotranspiration Irrigation Control to Reduce Turfgrass Irrigation Water Use
- Effect of Nitrogen on the Southern Chinch Bug
- Field Evaluation of Bioherbicidal Control of Tropical Signalgrass
- The Billbug Species Complex, Seasonality and Management in Florida
- Root-Knot Nematodes on Turf in Florida

Zinn also had the distinction of announcing the 2006 FTGA Scholarship Winners. The scholarship recipients are turfgrass undergrad and graduate students at the University of Florida and Lake City Community College. Recipients are as follows:

University of Florida

- Col. Frank Ward Memorial Scholarship for \$1,500: Olga Kostromytska, turfgrass entomology researcher
- Max J. McQuade Memorial Scholarship for \$1,000: Troy Abbott, studying to become a golf course superintendent
- General FTGA Scholarship for \$1,000: Nicholas Greene, turfgrass breeder/researcher



PristineFlora Zoysia research plot at UF



Paspalum research plots at University of Florida

Where to Buy SeaDwarf®

Our Growers Ship World-Wide!

South Carolina: Modern Turf

Georgia: Phillip Jennings Turf,
Pike Creek Turf,
Lucks Sales Group

Florida: Emerald Island Turf

California: Am-Sod Inc.

Hawaii: Ali'i Turf

Mexico: Berentsen Jardineria,
SA de CV.

Panama: Jardines Urbanos

Call 772-460-5575 for more information.



Lake City Community College

- Hans Schmeisser Memorial Scholarship \$1,500: Michael Bolles, golf course operations student
- James L. Blackledge Memorial Scholarship \$1,500: Kyle McCarty, golf course operations student
- General FTGA Scholarship for \$1,000: Christopher Knox Mack, golf course operations student



☉ 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.

Showcase

UltimateFlora™ Zoysia Chosen for FNATS Demonstration Lawn

Build a park inside a building? That's exactly what experts from Walt Disney World's Horticulture Department did this past fall during the Florida Nursery & Allied Trades Show (FNATS) at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida.



The Art in the Park display was designed to look like an art show, complete with painters and sculptors exhibiting their creations, set up in a park-like setting. Constructed by Disney's elite staff, the display included topiaries, trees and park benches placed in a lawn of UltimateFlora Zoysia. Throughout the conference, attendees were encouraged to take off their shoes and rest their toes in the grass. Many of the 10,500 people who attended FNATS did just that!

UltimateFlora™ Zoysia was also used as the base for a sculpture of two children on a park bench.

In all, several hundred square feet of this environmentally friendly turfgrass was on display during the event.



ET's Rex Cunningham inspects the UltimateFlora™ Zoysia display



Attendees enjoy the UltimateFlora™ Zoysia lawn at FNATS



Seminars

Need A Speaker? Paspalum Seminar Certified For CEUs

At the recent Mississippi Turfgrass Association conference held in Hattiesburg in November, Mike Vanatta, Director of Sales for Environmental Turf, presented a seminar on the history, use and maintenance of Seashore Paspalum turfgrass for golf courses and sports fields.

Dr. Wayne Wells of Mississippi State University, helped organize the conference.

"Mike did a great job presenting information on seashore paspalums," Wells said. "One thing I particularly liked was he kept it pretty much non-commercial. Mike was special. We don't generally have industry people speak unless they can keep it generic, not an advertisement, and I think Mike did a good job of that."

Wells said it was also helpful to the audience that Vanatta's speech was certified for CEUs through the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

"It was beneficial," Wells said. "Mike had excellent participation during the question and answer session following his presentation."

Environmental Turf provides speakers free of charge to associations, industry groups and interested firms on the subject of Seashore Paspalum. Vanatta's seminar is certified for CEUs through the GCSAA and several other certifying agencies. To book a seminar for your group or organization, please email us at: info@environmentalturf.com.



Mike Vanatta speaks at a seminar in Mississippi



External Education Provider

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. Be sure to provide your name, address, plus phone or email. We'll ship it right out, FREE of charge.

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

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