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Research

Environmental Turf & Bayer Sponsor Paspalum Seminar

An experienced group of researchers, sod producers and golf course superintendents working with seashore paspalum gathered in Naples, Florida, recently to discuss best management practices for this increasingly popular turfgrass.

Environmental Turf and Bayer Environmental Science sponsored the event that drew more than 50 participants from Florida, South Carolina and Georgia. Included in the event was a tour of Tuscany Reserve, an 18-hole golf course in Naples grassed tee-to-green with SeaDwarf® seashore paspalum.

While discussing greens speeds in seashore paspalum, Scott Hamm, superintendent at The Colony Golf & Country Club in Bonita Springs, an 18-hole course grassed with SeaDwarf® greens, said, "You can take this grass to tournament levels 80 percent of the time when you can take Bermuda eight percent of the time."

During a conversation about paspalum roots, Dr. Bruce Martin of Clemson University said, "If there's anything I know about paspalum, it grows some roots and it grows some rhizomes."

Todd Lowe of the USGA Green Section Florida Region said, "Seashore paspalum has much deeper roots than bermudgrass."

And Rodney Whisman, golf course superintendent at the tee-to-green SeaDwarf® 18-hole golf course at Hammock Bay Golf & Country Club in Naples said, "In the fairway, I've got three-foot roots."

(Continued...)



Rex Cunningham, ET's Director of Agronomy, discusses insect control



Tuscany Reserve Superintendent Kevin Shields answers questions about the SeaDwarf® on his course

Industry Insights

"Pristine should do very well in a backyard putting green..."

"Ultimate, you'll start seeing this more as production increases..."

"Pristine makes an outstanding tee box..."

"Hammock has better color than Common Centipede..."

Dr. Kevin Kenworthy
Assistant Professor, Ag-Genetics
University of Florida

speaking at the Sod Educational Session, Florida Sod Growers Cooperative Annual Meeting held Thursday, April 27, 2006 in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida

"The UltimateFlora Zoysia was such a hit at the Inspiration Home in Vestavia Hills, Alabama, that three other neighbors on the same street wanted it. They had watched the turfgrass perform well during a level 2 drought situation and it remained lush and green. One of the neighbors had built a new home and the other two neighbors removed their existing turfgrass and installed the UltimateFlora."

Kenn Alan, host of Home Grown Tomatoes Radio Show

Saturday, September 16, 2006 on WDYE-FM "The Source" in Birmingham, Alabama



Tips and new developments that came out of the event include:

- The introduction of two new products from Bayer for use on seashore paspalum. Tartan is a new fungicide labeled to treat dollar spot, brown patch, anthracnose, gray leaf spot, summer patch, pink snow mold and leaf spot. Allectus is a new pesticide to control mole crickets, armyworms, cutworms, sod webworms, grubs and fire ants.
- Cold tolerance of seashore paspalum is similar to that of hybrid bermudagrass, according to Todd Lowe of the USGA Green Section.
- October is the best time to spray to control large patch disease in both Florida and the Transition Zone, according to Dr. Bruce Martin of Clemson University.
- Seashore paspalum reacts very well to top dressing in many instances where one might use nitrogen in bermudagrass, according to Dr. Bert McCarty of Clemson University.



A group tour of Tuscany Reserve

UF Citra Research Center Opens: Goal To Become the #1 Turf Program in United States

The overall goal in opening the new Turf Research Facility at the Plant Science Research and Education Unit, said the University of Florida's Dr. Jerry Sartain, is to help UF "become the number one turfgrass program in the country."

Several hundred turf industry professionals were in attendance for the dedication of the new G.C. Horn Turfgrass Research Plots during the Grand Opening of the facility in July, located just south of Gainesville in Citra, Florida.

What makes the 28.6-acre facility so special is the way in which the test plots are designed. In addition to the typical square plots of turf planted at the research facility, grasses are also tested in sports and lawn-type situations to create a true outdoor field laboratory.

Five grasses from Environmental Turf are in use in many of the research plots and test areas. Aloha® seashore paspalum is planted on a golf tee, fairway and baseball outfield. PristineFlora™ Zoysia is planted on a golf tee and baseball infield. SeaDwarf® is planted on a fairway and golf green. Hammock™ and UltimateFlora™ Zoysia are planted in lawn-type areas. These closer to real-world situations are sure to generate useful research and give



UltimateFlora™ Zoysia test plot at Citra



UF's Dr. Kevin Kenworthy at Hammock™ Centipede test plot in Citra



UF's Dr. Jimmy Cheek at Citra Grand Opening

🕒 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.



turfgrass scientists a variety of venues to conduct their tests.

Jan Weinbrecht, former coordinator of research programs at the Citra research center, said of all the grasses he helped to install at the facility, he is "very fond" of PristineFlora™ Zoysia.

"It is shade tolerant, has a fine texture, and I really like the way it looks," Weinbrecht said.

The event was capped off by a barbecue feast cooked by Wiley McCall and the staff of Environmental Turf.



UF's Jan Weinbrecht

Showcase

Two Showcase Homes Choose UltimateFlora™ Zoysia As Lawn

UltimateFlora™ Zoysia, a new environmentally friendly turfgrass developed by the University of Florida and marketed by Environmental Turf, has been selected for the home lawns of two nationally recognized showcase home projects.

UltimateFlora™ Zoysia was selected for the lawn at the Birmingham Home & Garden Inspiration Home in Vestavia Hills, (a suburb of Birmingham), Alabama, and at the 2006 New Southern Home in St. Cloud, Florida, (a suburb of Orlando).

In all, more than 30,000 people are expected to tour both homes while they are open to the public. Both homes opened for tours in August.

Showcase homes are generally defined as unique projects that are designed and built to "showcase" the latest facets of home design, landscape and construction, using the highest quality materials available.

The two-story, 4,000-square-foot Birmingham Home & Garden Inspiration Home is a project of Birmingham Home & Garden magazine. It is the premier home & garden magazine in the Birmingham area with an estimated readership of 67,500 people.

The landscaping of the Birmingham Home & Garden Inspiration Home was designed and installed by Peter Falkner, a licensed horticulturist from Auburn University and co-owner of Falkner Gardens in Birmingham. Of UltimateFlora™ Zoysia, Falker said "it's easy to maintain and good for kids because it's so soft."



UltimateFlora™ Zoysia lawn at New Southern Home



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. Soluable 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.



The two-story, 6,721-square-foot 2006 New Southern Home is the showcase home constructed as part of the 28th Annual Southeast Building Conference. The conference draws some of the nation's largest home builders doing business in 12 southern states.

An article in the SEBC Show Daily, published by the Florida Home Builders Association, described UltimateFlora™ Zoysia as "a new and improved environmentally friendly turf grass from Environmental Turf, Inc., that requires less water and less fertilizer than St. Augustine grass and is resistant to the bothersome chinch bug."

UltimateFlora™ Zoysia is available through Environmental Turf, Inc., and the company's network of licensed sod producers.



UltimateFlora™ Zoysia lawn at Birmingham Home & Garden Inspiration Home

Grower Profile

Best Florida Sod Grows UltimateFlora™

As a University of Florida graduate, Eilam Arad said he is "really very excited to be a licensed grower" of a grass developed by turfgrass breeders at his alma mater.

Arad, owner of Best Florida Sod in Earleton, a 215-acre sod farm located not far from the Gainesville campus of University of Florida, currently has 11 acres planted in UltimateFlora™ Zoysia. Arad's first crop was planted in July and by spring, he'll have expanded into several more fields on his farm, bringing his UltimateFlora™ Zoysia crop to about 40 acres.

"I believe in it," Arad said. "I think UltimateFlora Zoysia looks much better than any other grass out there today." Already, Arad said he's been getting calls from potential customers—so much so that he's considering planting his full 200+ acres in UltimateFlora™ Zoysia.

"The reason I went with zoysia on this farm is I think it will take a big chunk out of the St. Augustine market," Arad said. "It's more drought tolerant, more shade tolerant. It's cold tolerant, takes less water and less fertilizer."

He chose UltimateFlora™ Zoysia as the zoysia for his farm after a trip to the University of Florida's research plots in Citra.

"I went there to look at Empire Zoysia. But another grass looked much better," Arad said. "That grass was UltimateFlora Zoysia."



Arad holds a sprig of UltimateFlora™ Zoysia



Arad inspects the irrigation system in his newly planted field of UltimateFlora™ Zoysia



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.



Testimonial

Key West Golf Club Selects SeaDwarf®

In October 2005, Hurricane Wilma caused an eight-foot storm surge that flooded the 18-hole golf course at Key West Golf Club, the southernmost golf course in the continental United States. Four feet of seawater stood on the then Tifdwarf bermudagrass greens and inundated the irrigation ponds, leaving no real source for freshwater irrigation.

Club General Manager Doug Carter, along with Head Golf Professional Eric Favier and Head Superintendent Koby Minshall, called in Dr. Lee Berndt of William Berndt Associates, International Management Consulting, for help in the course's recovery.

Berndt advised them that "due to the location of Key West along with its harsh environment, SeaDwarf seashore paspalum is the best grass for Key West Golf Club."

Superintendent Minshall agreed.

"Paspalum will tolerate the salty environment in Key West. In the event of a future storm surge or heavy salts in tropical rain storms the paspalum will have a good chance of survival," Minshall said.

Regrassing the front nine with SeaDwarf® began on June 28, 2006. The course is slated to re-open October 1st. "Our grow-in time was expected to take 90 days," Minshall said, "and we're excited that the greens are ahead of schedule."

The back nine greens at Key West will be replaced with SeaDwarf® in June 2007.

The owners of Key West Golf Club are so proud of the first nine holes in their planned 18-hole renovation that they've posted a sign outside the golf shop detailing the many advantages of the SeaDwarf® seashore paspalum turfgrass they're using to regrass their course.

It reads:

Benefits of SeaDwarf® Seashore Paspalum

- Allow smooth quick greens on a year round basis
- Has a vibrant green color year round
- The only variety of Paspalum available in a dwarf which is suitable for putting surfaces
- The most salt tolerant variety of turf grass
- Has less grain than bermuda grass
- Ball marks will heal twice as fast as bermuda greens



Superintendent Koby Minshall & his dog "48" on a new SeaDwarf green at Key West Golf Club



The sign at Key West Golf Club

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 Jardinaria, SA de CV.
- Panama:** Jardines Urbanos

Call 772-460-5575 for more information.

Recent SeaDwarf® Sports Field & Golf Course Projects:

- *Caracas, Venezuela:* Estadio Metro-politano 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



On T.V.

SeaDwarf® on the Golf Channel

This summer, the Golf Channel aired three television shows featuring SeaDwarf® seashore paspalum turfgrass from Environmental Turf.

Famed PGA Golfer Raymond Floyd hosted two shows on the national cable channel from Old Palm Golf Club, an 18-hole private course in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, that was grassed tee-to-green with SeaDwarf®.

On "IBM's Playing Lessons From the Pros," Floyd, who was the architect of Old Palm, discussed the layout of the course and it's 33-acre practice facility which were all grassed entirely in SeaDwarf®.

On "Personal Lessons with the Pros," Floyd helped several amateurs with their game while playing on Old Palm's SeaDwarf® fairways and greens.

Floyd has long been a proponent of seashore pasplum grass. In fact, at the opening of Old Palm, the Palm Beach Post newspaper quoted Floyd as saying that paspalum is "the wave of the future in the sport."

PGA Tour Player Rocco Mediate hosted his version of "Personal Lessons with the Pros" from Tuscan Reserve located in Naples, Florida which was also grassed tee-to-green with SeaDwarf®. During a putting lesson on the show, Mediate instructed his student not to worry about looking for grain on the SeaDwarf® greens because "these greens aren't quite grainy with this kind of grass on them."



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.

Or

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

IT'S THAT EASY.

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Environmental Turf

info@environmentalturf.com

Phone: (772) 460-5575 • Fax: (772) 465-0659

P.O. Box 12369, Fort Pierce, FL 34981-2369

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