

# UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

## IFAS EXTENSION

Seashore paspalum is a warm-season grass selected for excellent tolerance to saline or recycled water and it requires relatively low fertility and pesticide inputs. However, seashore paspalum possesses heightened sensitivity to many common herbicides and is prone to increased thatch production, particularly when over-fertilized and over-irrigated. Furthermore, little unbiased information on seashore paspalum germplasm is available. Researchers at the UF/IFAS West Florida REC were awarded a grant from the United States Golf Association (USGA) to evaluate seashore paspalum varieties for golf course use. Our research will provide an



*Seashore Paspalum in a landscape setting.*

evaluation of seashore paspalum germplasm grown under saline and non-saline irrigation and determine the influence of verticutting frequency and depth on greens height seashore paspalum thatch accumulation when grown under saline and non-saline irrigation.

### Paspalum Varieties

**Adalayd/Excalibre** is the original, improved turf-type variety released in the United States from an Australian import (being originally a South African selection). Adalayd is a moderately fine-textured turf with outstanding turf qualities in a low salinity regime (<5,000 ppm TDS). It is susceptible to several disease organisms when cultured under a fresh water irrigation regime. 'Futurf' is another cultivar name synonymous with this variety.

**Aloha** seashore paspalum is a new selection from

## Seashore Paspalum Varieties for Golf Course Use

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Environmental Turf, Inc. It is slightly more coarse textured than the greens-height paspalums.

**Salam** a proprietary cultivar grown by Southern Turf Nurseries. It was released in the 1990s and is suited for athletic, golf course, and landscape use. It has many qualities similar to Sea Isle I.

**SeaDwarf** is a dwarf paspalum which seldom exceeds two inches in height even when unmown. Improved winter color and salinity tolerance over SeaGreen.

**SeaGreen** is a dense fine turf suitable for tees and greens maintained at mowing heights of 0.25 inches or less. A traffic tolerant putting green surface can be produced with this turf at salinities of 15,000 ppm TDS. Excellent winter color. Resistant to ball marks on the putting surface.

**Sea Isle I** is the cultivar with the most university testing. Released by the University of Georgia in 1999, it is a fine-leaved, dense growing selection from Argentina, intended for use in commercial or residential landscapes or athletic use in fairways or sports fields. It produces a dark green, dense grass with excellent salinity tolerance and good tolerance to drought and wear.

**Sea Isle 2000** was one of the first commercially available greens varieties which can tolerate close mowing.

**SeaWay** - a fairway and lawn type turf with mowing heights from 0.25 - 1.5 inches. Enhanced salinity tolerance up to 20,000 ppm for golf courses and sports fields. Fine-textured and dark green in color. Similar in appearance to SeaIsle I.

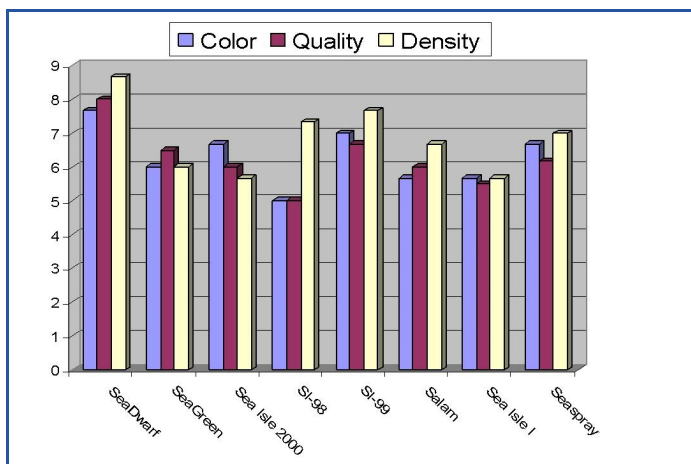


## Preliminary Results

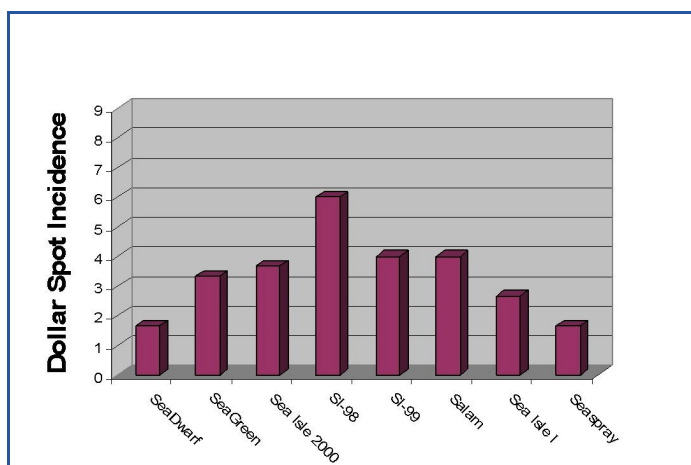
### - Establishment Period -

During the initial grow-in phase of fresh-water grown greens and fairway-height seashore paspalum, significant differences were evident in color, quality, density, and dollar spot (*Sclerotinia homoeocarpa*) incidence. Textural differences in greens-height accessions were not significant, however, they were in fairway-height accessions.

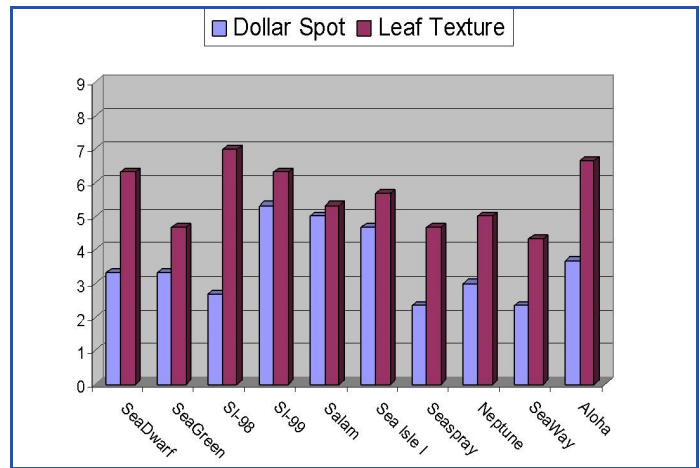
In early September 2004, whole-plots of both greens- and fairway-height were subdivided and sub-plots will receive varying levels of nitrogen to determine fertility differences between the accessions. Plots receiving salt-water have yet to be established.



**Initial color, quality, and density of greens-height seashore paspalum germplasm accessions (1-9 scale; 1=worst, 9=best).**



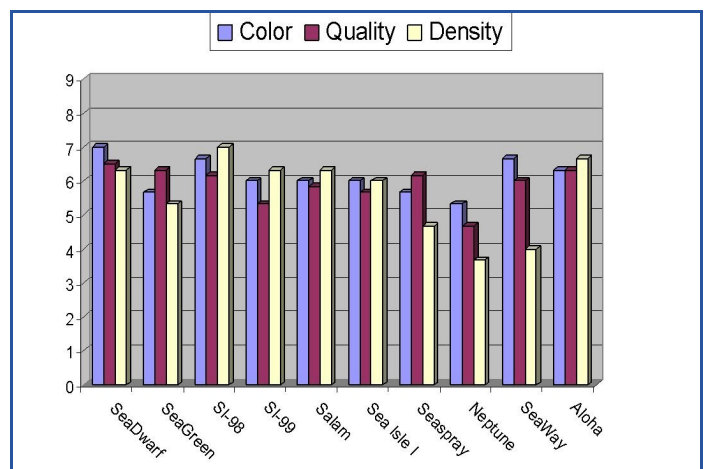
**Dollar spot incidence during grow-in of seashore paspalum greens-height germplasm accessions (1-9 scale; 1=least disease, 9=most disease).**



**Dollar spot incidence and leaf texture during grow-in of seashore paspalum fairway-height germplasm accessions (1-9 scale; 1=least disease/coarse texture, 9=most disease/very fine texture).**



**Fairway Height Seashore Paspalum Germplasm Accessions at the UF/IFAS West Florida REC.**



**Initial color, quality, and density of fairway-height seashore paspalum germplasm accessions (1-9 scale; 1=worst, 9=best).**

Funded by:

**USGA**

