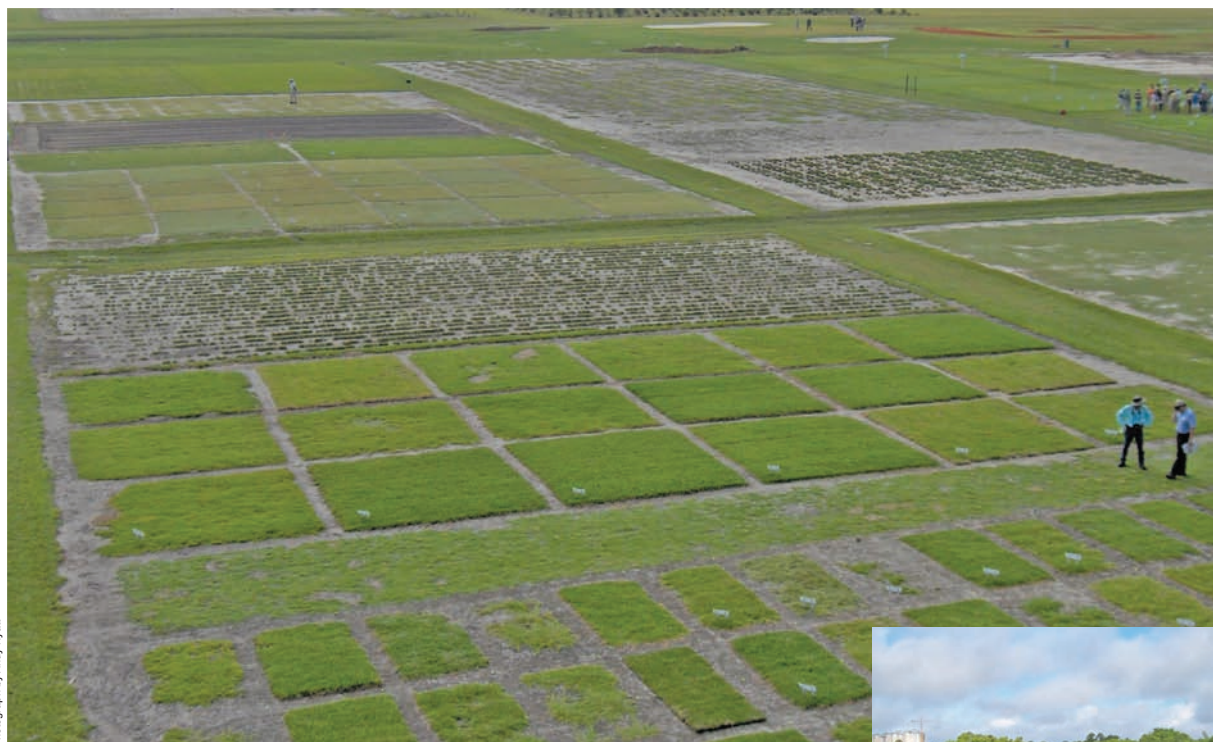


CUTTING EDGE

Clark Throssell, Ph.D.



Photograph by Andy Hyatt

Turfgrass breeding at the University of Florida

The turfgrass breeding program at the University of Florida will be developing both warm- and cool-season turfgrass cultivars. Germplasm of zoysiagrass, common bermudagrass, African bermudagrass, centipedegrass, bahiagrass, seashore paspalum and common carpetgrass are available at the university. Specific objectives are to enhance shade tolerance, herbicide tolerance, nematode resistance and rhizoctonia resistance and to reduce water and fertility requirements of warm-season turfgrass species. Breeding of tall fescue and perennial ryegrass will focus on improving summer persistence and rust resistance. — Kevin Kenworthy, Ph.D. (kkenworthy@ifas.ufl.edu), University of Florida

Salinity monitoring of golf courses

Soil salinity is expected to become a predominant stress as more golf courses are irrigated with saline water. Salt accumulation can lead to physiological drought and specific ion toxicities. Because soluble salt concentration varies greatly by season, soil depth and location on the golf course, a rapid means of assessing soil salinity would be beneficial. A study funded by The Toro Co. was conducted on the Old Collier Golf Club in Naples, Fla., which irrigates with highly saline water, to determine whether hand-held mobile sensors can be used to accurately, quickly and easily measure soluble salt content in soil. In 2006 and 2007, researchers will evaluate a cart-mounted device that measures soil salinity over time, by depth and across the landscape. Spatial salinity information can be used to develop efficient leaching programs and to identify highly saline sites (indicator spots) for placement of soil sensors. — Robert N. Carrow, Ph.D. (rcarrow@griffin.uga.edu), University of Georgia

Turf Weeds Web site

Shawn Askew of Virginia Tech University has developed the Turf Weeds Web site (www.turfweeds.net) to provide weed management information and research



Photograph by R. Carrow



Photograph by S. Askew

reports to turfgrass managers. The site contains information on identification of more than 230 weeds, including multiple images and a written description of each weed, chemical and cultural management of each weed and current topics related to weed management in professional turf. — Shawn Askew, Ph.D. (saskew@vt.edu), Virginia Tech University

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