



## 2012/13 Palm Desert Winter Overseeding Trial Results

by Doug Brede



From October to April of this past year, Jacklin Seed and Simplot Partners cooperated in planting and evaluating an experimental winter overseeding trial on the First Tee golf course in Palm Desert, CA. The trial contained over 300 plots, most of which were breeding experimentals in various stages of development. However, the trial also contained named benchmark varieties, the results of which are shown in the table below.

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**Results of the 2012/13 winter overseeding trial on the First Tee course in Palm Desert, CA. Quality ratings were taken monthly from November to April and averaged in the last column. Identities of three underperforming ryegrasses were labeled "Past generation variety" to avoid disparaging competitors' products.**

| Variety        | Color |      | % Living |      | Frost |      | Poa  |      | % |  | Quality |
|----------------|-------|------|----------|------|-------|------|------|------|---|--|---------|
|                | Dec.  | Mar. | Dec.     | Jan. | Jan.  | Feb. | Apr. | Avg. |   |  |         |
| CSI            | 7.0   | 6.0  | 85       | 7.5  | 6.0   | 48   | 6.5  |      |   |  |         |
| JR-178         | 7.0   | 6.0  | 75       | 6.5  | 4.5   | 35   | 6.4  |      |   |  |         |
| 2-Streams      | 6.0   | 7.5  | 76       | 4.3  | 7.0   | 68   | 6.0  |      |   |  |         |
| Sunrise        | 6.7   | 5.3  | 85       | 6.0  | 5.0   | 35   | 5.9  |      |   |  |         |
| Monterey 4     | 7.0   | 5.5  | 78       | 6.0  | 4.0   | 40   | 5.9  |      |   |  |         |
| Revenge GLX    | 6.0   | 5.5  | 80       | 7.5  | 4.5   | 35   | 5.7  |      |   |  |         |
| Accent II      | 6.0   | 6.0  | 98       | 8.0  | 7.0   | 99   | 5.5  |      |   |  |         |
| Gly-Rye        | 6.0   | 6.0  | 73       | 5.5  | 6.5   | 53   | 5.2  |      |   |  |         |
| Past gen. var. | 4.0   | 5.7  | 80       | 5.0  | 6.3   | 73   | 4.6  |      |   |  |         |
| Past gen. var. | 3.7   | 6.0  | 83       | 5.7  | 6.3   | 68   | 4.4  |      |   |  |         |
| Past gen. var. | 4.5   | 6.0  | 80       | 6.0  | 6.0   | 28   | 4.4  |      |   |  |         |

## Checking Fairway-Height Bentgrasses for Thatch

by Katie Dodson

When a tight budget (or inflexible membership) won't allow a golf course manager to implement a strong topdressing and aeration program, managers are often left with puffy, difficult-to-manage bentgrass stands. This year we decided to limit the topdressing and aerification on our tee/fairway height bentgrass area at Jacklin Seed to one annual event to see how the various varieties coped.

This bentgrass area was planted in 2011 at a seeding rate of 1 lb/1000 ft<sup>2</sup> and has been maintained at 3/8" (9.5mm) over the past two growing seasons. For the fertility program a total of 4 lbs N/1000 ft<sup>2</sup> (20 g N/m<sup>2</sup>) were applied between the months of April through the end of September. Greens King 18-2-24 fertilizer was the base of the program and was supplemented with foliar urea (46-0-0) to keep the turf actively growing during the study. Eighteen bentgrasses were evaluated for overall quality, organic matter build-up, visual thatch accumulation, and mow scalping injury.

Thatch is considered to be both the living and decaying organic matter, including stems (stolons), roots and clippings that accumulate between the living green canopy and the soil surface. Therefore an easy method to determine thatch accumulation is to measure the amount of organic matter that is building up in the top layer of your turfgrass stand. Percent organic matter was determined by taking samples with a soil probe, and cutting each sample

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**Checking for thatch in the variety T-1 in a tee/fairway height trial in Idaho.**

Overseeding, continued

The First Tee of the Coachella Valley is a youth development organization dedicated to “impacting the lives of young people by providing learning facilities and educational programs that promote character development,” and of course, the game of golf. The First Tee course is located right on Cook Street – the main drag in Palm Desert and nearby the home office of Simplot Partners. The golf facility is a par-3 nine-hole course with fabulous western mountain vistas. The course was recently renovated with new tee boxes and greens. The overseeding experiment was located in the center of the dual-ended driving range, mowed at fairway height.

CSI creeping ryegrass led the trial in overall turf quality, followed closely by JR-178, a Jacklin experimental that is in NTEP trialing right now. The Simplot Partners ‘2-Streams’ blend came in third, with a strong showing in resistance to *Poa annua* and fine leaf texture.

Accent II displayed the greatest ground coverage in the trial, the best frost tolerance in January, and the quickest return to bermudagrass by April. Jacklin’s new varieties, **Sunrise** and **Monterey 4**, showed excellent genetic color and quality. In addition to the perennial rye, the trial included two *Poa trivialis* varieties, **Havana** and Sabre 4. The results showed a sizable advantage in *Poa annua* resistance in the **Havana**. 🏠

conditions. This does suggest that when topdressing and aerification events are limited, choosing an ‘older’ variety to prevent thatch accumulation is not going to be beneficial. In fact when we look at overall quality, picking the older varieties may reduce your course’s potential.

Quality and mower injury

One side-effect of thatch is the creation of ‘puffy’ stands that become easily injured from mowing. Turf injury was measured visually by first rating the overall quality before mowing and then determining injury after mowing. The measurement day was timed so that the plots received irrigation three hours before mowing. Moisture causes thatch to expand, creating the tell-tale puffiness that can increase the likelihood of mower injury. What was most surprising from this investigation was that mower injury was not in complete accordance with thatch weight. This suggests that a cultivar’s growth habit plays a larger role than actual thatch accu-

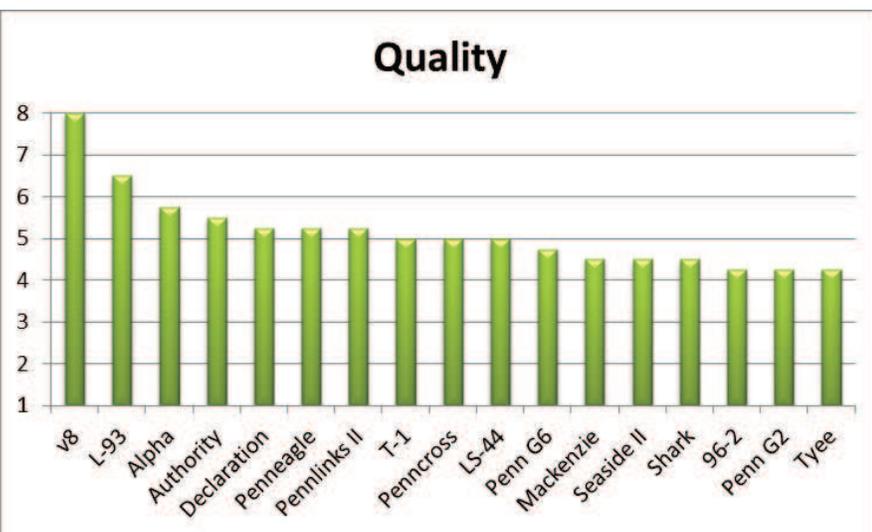
*“These results show that V8 is not just for putting greens any more.”*

mulation in mower damage. Cultivars that begin to elongate and form stemmy false crowns have a greater potential for mower injury.

Among the 18 cultivars, **V8** was able to maintain its density and quality throughout the study. It had almost no mower injury, some of the highest chlorophyll readings, while being intermediate in organic matter accumulation. This suggests that **V8’s** growth habit is less prone to mower injury than those that had lower quality ratings such as Penn A-4 and Tyee. Not only did **V8** perform well here in Idaho, it is currently topping the charts in the latest NTEP studies being performed at universities nationwide. Our runners up for quality were **L-93** and **Alpha**. Both were able to maintain good quality under these fairway conditions. This is not so surprising, as we have seen **T-1** and **Alpha** amongst the top performers in the low-input green NTEP trial at Bethpage State Park, NY. When it comes to resistance to mower injury, and providing a good quality playing surface Jacklin has a strong roster with **L-93**, **T-1**, **Alpha** and its newest star **V8**. 🏠

Thatch, continued

to a depth of 10 cm and weighing the samples before and after all the organic matter was burned off. What we found was in accordance with previous studies done at greens height both here at Jacklin and at universities. In general there were relatively few differences between cultivars when it comes to thatch; however we did see that Penn A-4 had the highest amount of organic matter accumulation under the fairway



(below) Mower damage to fairway height turf is typical of what you see from thatch accumulation. Results suggest that plant growth habit may play a key role.

(left) Season-long turf quality in the tee/fairway height trial as influenced by thatch and growth habit.

