



Photo by Tom Voigt

Warm-season native grasses for Midwestern roughs

Many Midwestern superintendents are interested in establishing unmowed roughs in which golfers can find and play their golf balls. Our previous research showed that blue grama created a high-quality unmowed playable rough. The objectives of this research are to evaluate the survival, aesthetics, weed invasion and playability of three cultivars of blue grama alone or mixed with buffalograss and/or purple lovegrass; to evaluate chemical weed control in these plantings; and to evaluate burning and mowing practices in order to identify the best method of removing dead plant material. Research plots of blue grama alone or mixed with buffalograss and/or purple lovegrass will be established in the Chicago area and in Urbana, Ill. Plots will be treated with several pre- and post-emergence herbicides and maintained using different combinations of burning and mowing. Plots will be evaluated for turf performance and weed invasion. The results will help superintendents by identifying the best blue grama, weed control and management information for unmowed roughs. This research is funded in part by the Central Illinois GCSA, the Midwest Association of GCS and The Environmental Institute for Golf. — Tom Voigt, Ph.D. (tvoigt@uiuc.edu), University of Illinois

Seasonality and management of billbugs in Florida

Billbugs are increasing in importance as pests of bermudagrass on Florida golf courses. The life cycle and species of turf-inhabiting billbugs are unknown in Florida, and traditional control products have not provided acceptable control. The objectives of this research are to determine the activity period of adult billbugs, which billbug species are present on golf courses and the impact of overseeding with endophytic perennial ryegrass on billbug populations. Weekly population sampling using linear pitfall traps will be conducted on two golf courses each in southern and northern Florida. Billbugs collected will be counted for each sampling date and identified by species, gender and stage of life cycle. Endophytic and nonendophytic perennial ryegrass



Photo by Eileen Buss

will be overseeded on a golf course in fall, and samples will be collected during the winter to determine the number of billbug larvae present. These studies will help superintendents by determining the timing for optimal control based on susceptible life stages and the value of overseeding with endophytic perennial ryegrass. Additional insecticide testing will demonstrate product efficacy. This research is funded in part by the Florida GCSA and The Environmental Institute for Golf. — Eileen Buss, Ph.D. (eabuss@ifas.ufl.edu), University of Florida



2006 GCSAA research grants

The Research Proposal Review Task Group approved funding for seven new research projects to begin in 2006, with total funding of more than \$137,000 over the next three years. Of the seven new projects, five are Chapter Cooperative Research Program projects, one is a National Research Program project and one is a Mark Kizziar Research Grant project. All the funded projects focus on applied research, which is problem-solving research yielding results that can be put into practice by superintendents. Two of the seven new projects are profiled in this month's Cutting Edge, and the others will be featured over the next two months. GCSAA received 24 proposals requesting more than \$500,000 in funding over a three-year period. The Environmental Institute for Golf provides funding for GCSAA's share of the projects. The Institute is a collaborative effort of the environmental and golf communities dedicated to strengthening golf's compatibility with the natural environment. — Clark Throssell, Ph.D. (cthrossell@gcsaa.org), Director of Research, GCSAA

Clark Throssell, Ph.D., is GCSAA's director of research.