



Photo by B. Leinauer

Screening site for salinity-tolerant turfgrasses

Identifying salt-tolerant warm- and cool-season grasses is becoming increasingly important as superintendents continue to face pressure to conserve potable water by using saline water for irrigating turf areas. A 5-acre research center to assess the effects of saline water on the establishment and sustainability of turfgrasses is currently being developed at New Mexico State University. Sections within the research area can be irrigated either through a Toro DL 2000 subsurface drip-irrigation system or by means of a standard sprinkler system. Potable (0.6 deciSiemens/meter) and saline water (3.0 deciSiemens) are available at the site. Salinity can be increased by injecting saline concentrate into the irrigation water. Screening trials for tall fescue, Kentucky bluegrass, alkaligrass and perennial ryegrass already have been established. This project is funded in part by New Mexico State University's College of Agriculture and Office for Facilities and Services, The Toro Co. and the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program. — **Berd Leinauer, Ph.D., New Mexico State University**



Photo by A. Nichols

In-line drainage filters capture nutrient leachate

Nutrients contained in drainage water from

sand-based putting greens have the potential to become pollutants. Filtering the leachate in drain lines can remove nutrients before they reach surface water. The research objectives are to develop and test a rechargeable in-line drain filter to remove nitrates and phosphates. Field research will be conducted on four greens at each of two golf courses where nitrate and phosphate concentrations in drains with and without an in-line filter will be collected. Functional considerations such as the ease in recharging the filter and its potential effect on in-line water flow rates will also be evaluated. The research will help superintendents protect surface water and is part of the Chapter Cooperative Research Program, funded in part by the Virginia Turfgrass Foundation and The Environmental Institute for Golf. — **Erik Ervin, Ph.D. (ervin@vt.edu); Adam Nichols; Mike Goatley, Ph.D.; and Matt Eick, Ph.D., Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University**

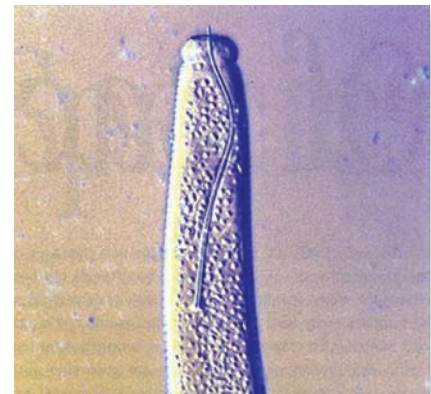


Photo by W. Crow

Controlling sting nematode with *Pasteuria usgae*

Sting nematodes can be a destructive pest on golf course turf, and few, if any, products on the market provide effective control. *Pasteuria usgae* is a naturally occurring bacterium that has been isolated from soil in Florida and other states and has been shown in small-scale trials to reduce sting nematode populations below damaging levels on putting greens. The objectives of this study are to determine the optimal quantity of *P. usgae* required to reduce sting nematode populations in turf and to develop techniques to successfully introduce *P. usgae* into golf course turf. This research project is funded in part by the Michael Hurdzan Endowment Fund and the Chapter Cooperative Research Program with funding from the Florida GCSA and The Environmental Institute for Golf. — **William T. Crow, Ph.D. (wtcr@ufl.edu), University of Florida**



Clark Throssell is GCSAA's director of research.

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