



## New Turfgrass Research Facilities at UGA

*Clint Waltz, Ph.D. • The University of Georgia (Griffin Campus)*

On the UGA Griffin Campus, the construction and use of the new Student Learning Center (SLC) and supporting parking lot are notable for many reasons. The new construction displaced both the turfgrass maintenance and storage facilities and a research putting green. The campus enhancements ultimately created an opportunity for turfgrass program facility upgrades and improvements.

During construction of the SLC, the UGA Turf Team built a new turfgrass maintenance facility and a warm-season research putting green. Both projects were collaborative efforts between the University, the UGA Turf Team and the turfgrass industry. For the construction of the maintenance and storage building, the University and College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences each provided approximately one-third of the funds. The remaining third came from UGA Turf Team faculty. These funds were enough to construct the facility but not fully outfit it for use. The Georgia Crop Improvement Association and Georgia Seed Development Commission, along with Arbor-Nomics Turf, Inc. and Carbrol Corporation, provided the necessary funds to complete the building, which opened in Summer 2009. The Turfgrass Maintenance

Facility has been a significant upgrade to the UGA Turf Team's programs and research and supports the maintenance and upkeep of all turfgrass research facilities. Many thanks to the University, our industry partners and many behind-the-scenes persons who helped make this facility a reality!

Once we realized we would lose our research putting green to the SLC parking lot, we found a site for a new green and dedicated it to the study of warm-season turfgrass to support ongoing seashore paspalum breeding efforts and compensate for a deficiency in putting green height bermudagrass. This project was an even greater collaborative effort between the UGA Turf Team and the turfgrass industry. The University was able to provide labor funds for the construction of a 16,000 ft<sup>2</sup> USGA specification putting green, but the UGA Turf Team was responsible for either raising funds or soliciting donations for the materials to construct the green. Bulk Aggregate Golf Inc., Butler Sand, Dakota Peat and Equipment, and Florida Potting Soils Inc. provided the gravel subgrade and greens mix. For drainage and irrigation materials, Ewing Irrigation, Jerry Pate Turf and Irrigation and the Toro Company assisted. Laser grading of the surface was performed by

Laserturf, and grass was donated from Pike Creek Turf, Modern Turf, and Champion Turf Farms. Many groups, including the GGCSA and the GGEF, provided funds to offset construction expenses. On June 19, 2009 the green was completed and sprigged. One-third of the green was established in seashore paspalum and the other two-thirds were planted in TifEagle, Champion, and MiniVerde bermudagrasses.

The green was built with a research project already in mind. It features two root zone mixtures (sand and Dakota peat), but half the green was filled with the mixture and pre-charged with a nutrient package. Soil samples are collected to monitor nutrient loss, and grow-in characteristics are observed. Additionally, a three-year seashore paspalum greens-grade grass study was initiated to aid the paspalum breeding program in selecting a cultivar specifically suited for putting greens. The 2010 winter has already helped identify paspalum cultivars and breeding lines that have better cold tolerance. Several studies have also evaluated various herbicides for their impact on bermudagrass and seashore paspalum during establishment from sprigs. Little information exists for weed control during greens establishment, and newer herbicides were includ-



Sprigging the UGA warm-season research putting green.

ed. In 2010, plant growth regulator studies and thatch management studies were installed on the green. This is just the beginning of the capabilities for research projects for this green.

The UGA Turf Team appreciates the support and confidence of the UGA administration and turfgrass industry. It is collaborative efforts like these that allow UGA Turf Team faculty to perform the research that helps keep Georgia's turfgrass industry strong and viable. Thank you!

### Turfgrass Maintenance Facility Contributors

Arbor-Nomics Turf, Inc.  
 Carbtrol Corporation  
 College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences  
 Department of Crop and Soil Sciences  
 Georgia Crop Improvement Association  
 Georgia Seed Development Commission  
 Trison Group, Inc.  
 The UGA Turf Team  
 The University of Georgia

### Warm-Season Research Putting Green Contributors

Atlanta Country Club  
 Bulk Aggregate Golf, Inc.  
 Butler Sand  
 Champion Turf Farms  
 Dakota Peat & Equipment  
 Dalton Turf & Irrigation  
 Eagle Golf & Landscape Products  
 East Lake Golf Club  
 Ewing Irrigation  
 Florida Potting Soils, Inc.  
 Georgia Crop Improvement Association  
 Georgia Golf Course Superintendents Association  
 Georgia Golf Environmental Foundation  
 Georgia Seed Development Commission  
 Georgia State Golf Association  
 Howard Chemical and Fertilizer  
 Jerry Pate Turf & Irrigation  
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