

2016 – Tifton – Partnership Between UGA and GGEF to Develop Environmentally Sustainable, High Quality Turfgrasses Through On-Site Golf Course Research Trials

History

We began testing new hybrid bermudagrasses and zoysiagrasses during 2012 as a way for me to develop relationships with golf course superintendents who had collaborated with the Tifton program in the past. Since then, we have had research greens at the Atlanta Athletic Club, the Ford Plantation, the Country Club of Columbus, the Landings Club, the Valdosta Country Club, and the Atlanta Country Club. In addition to the 2 ongoing trials planted at the Country Club of Columbus and the Landings Club in 2015, we established new tests at the Valdosta Country Club and the Atlanta Country Club during 2016.

Country Club of Columbus

William Smith renovated the old research green prior to planting on July 15th, 2015. All three bermudagrasses (TifEagle, 12-TG-101, and 12-TG-143) established very quickly. A picture of the green during the fall of 2016 is below, as well as a summary of the 5 stimp measurements taken to-date.

C.C. of Columbus (5 Stimp Measurements)			
(2015 – 2016)		Fastest Date	Overall Avg.
Bermuda	TifEagle	12.0'	9.6'
	12-TG-101	12.1'	10.1'
	12-TG-143	11.7'	9.5'
	TifEagle Green	12.0'	10.9'



The Landings Club

Chris Steigelman renovated a portion of the old practice green prior to planting on July 21st, 2015. All three bermudagrasses (12-TG-39, 12-TG-101, and 12-TG-143) established very quickly. A picture of the green during the fall of 2016 is below, as well as a summary of the 5 stimp measurements taken to-date.

The Landings Club (5 Stimp Measurements)			
(2015 – 2016)		Fastest Date	Overall Avg.
Bermuda	TifEagle	11.3'	9.5'
	TifGrand	12.5'	9.0'
	12-TG-39	11.4'	9.9'
	12-TG-101	12.2'	9.7'
	12-TG-143	10.5'	9.7'
	11-T-358	11.8'	10.3'
	11-T-861	12.4'	9.6'
Paspalum	SeaStar	10.8'	8.7'



The Valdosta Country Club

Barry Bennett renovated the old practice green prior to planting on May 25th, 2016. Randall Bice managed the green for most of 2016, and now it is under the supervision of Tom Howard. All five bermudagrasses (Tifdwarf, TifEagle, 12-TG-39, 12-TG-101, and 12-TG-143) established fairly quickly. A picture of the green during the fall of 2016 is below, as well as a summary of the 3 stimp measurements taken to-date.

Valdosta C.C. (3 Stimp Measurements)			
(2016 – 2016)		Fastest Date	Overall Avg.
Bermuda	Tifdwarf	9.6'	8.4'
	TifEagle	9.2'	8.5'
	12-TG-39	9.9'	9.1'
	12-TG-101	9.6'	8.8'
	12-TG-143	9.8'	8.7'



The Atlanta Country

Mark Esoda constructed a new research green adjacent to his bentgrass research green prior to planting on June 16th, 2016. All three bermudagrasses (TifEagle, 12-TG-101, and 12-TG-143) established quickly, but six large trees surrounding the green were removed September 6th, 2016 because the green was only getting 2 hours of sunlight. Accordingly, the mowing height was only taken down to 0.190" last year. A picture of the green during the fall of 2016 is below, as well as a summary of the 2 stimp measurements taken to-date.

Atlanta Country Club (2 Stimp Measurements)			
(2016 – 2016)		Fastest Date	Overall Avg.
Bermuda	TifEagle	-	7.5'
	12-TG-101	-	7.3'
	12-TG-143	-	7.8'
Bent	A-1	-	9.2'



The University of Georgia Golf Course

Scott Griffith built a research green with partial funding from the GGEF/GGCSA grant prior to planting 10-TZ-74 zoysiagrass sod on July 29th, 2015. The sod rooted relatively quickly and was ready for putting green evaluations before a short drought in early July 2016 which resulted in unacceptable levels of plant death. Tentative plans to establish another trial during 2017 on this research green have been discussed. Pictures of the green during June and July of 2016 are below.

