

Tifway II Bermudagrass Released

by **DR. GLENN W. BURTON**, Research Geneticist, USDA, SEA/AR
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TIFWAY II is an improved mutant of Tifway turf bermudagrass, developed cooperatively by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, SEA/AR, the Georgia Coastal Plain Station, the United States Golf Association Green Section, and the Department of Energy. It was created by exposing dormant sprigs of Tifway to 9,000 rads of gamma irradiation, growing plants from the treated sprigs, and selecting plants or sectors of plants that appeared to be different. Produced in 1971, it has been subjected along with other promising mutants to numerous tests. These tests show that Tifway II looks like Tifway and has the same desirable characteristics, but it makes a denser, more weed-free turf, is more resistant to root knot, ring and sting nematodes, is more frost tolerant, exhibits a little better quality, and often greens up a little earlier in the spring. It

is the combination of these traits, none of which can be used for identification, that warrant the release of Tifway II.

Tifway II, like Tifway, is a sterile triploid and must be propagated vegetatively. It will be suited for lawns, fairways, tees, and football fields throughout the South and the rest of the world where Tifway is presently grown.

Tifway II will be released only to people who qualify as certified growers. To qualify they must have their land inspected and approved by their State Crop Improvement Association. Foundation stock is limited, but Georgia Crop Improvement Association registered stock is available to plant certified acreages.

Those interested in producing Tifway II for sale should contact the Georgia Seed Development Commission, Whitehall Road, Athens, Georgia 30602.

The Toronto C-15 Bentgrass Syndrome

by **ALEXANDER M. RADKO**
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FOR MANY YEARS, Toronto C-15 creeping bentgrass provided some of the finest putting surfaces in the Midwest. However, for several years now, and with no specific pattern of occurrence, many Toronto C-15 greens have become thin, weak and in some instances failed to survive.

Last year was an especially difficult year for Toronto C-15 greens in the Chicago area. As a result, the Chicago District Golf Association, the GCSAA and the USGA decided to sponsor jointly a research project to determine the reasons for this puzzling loss of Toronto bentgrass. The project coordinator is

Dr. Houston B. Couch, professor of Plant Pathology, Virginia Polytechnic Institute. Other scientists involved are Dr. Charles Krauss, USDA Research Laboratory, Delaware, Ohio; Dr. Phil Larsen, Ohio State University; Dr. Malcolm Shurtleff and Dr. David Wehner, University of Illinois. The USGA is pleased to enter into this joint research support effort with the Chicago District Golf Association and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, which, hopefully, will correct this problem so that healthy Toronto C-15 greens can once more be enjoyed throughout the Midwest.