



A New Putting Green Variety Test for Bentgrass Spring Green-up

Researchers: CDGA collaborating with Tim Davis, Shoreacres and Ty McClellan USGA

Goal: Determine bentgrass varieties with best spring color near Lake Michigan.

Location: Shoreacres nursery green – Lake Bluff, Illinois [see photos](#)

Background: Lake Michigan moderates air temperatures. Given cool lake winds, the spring season can be cold for surrounding areas. Golf courses located near the lake need turfgrass varieties with good green-up following winter dormancy. While spring green-up is a concern near the lake, this trait is important for all golf courses. Early growth allows regular maintenance practices of golf greens sooner. It's also advantageous because it can speed recovery from winter injury.

Brief Material and Methods: This new bentgrass variety trial was seeded on 10 August 2009. Plots were 5 ft by 10 ft with 3 replications. Twenty four creeping and one velvet bentgrass variety were seeded at 1 lb/1000 ft² except LS-44, Shark, and G-2 (due to availability). The rootzone is a native soil with 2 inches of sand top-dressing. Ratings of establishment were taken fall, 2009. Spring green-up will be evaluated visually and by Normalized Difference Vegetative Index (NDVI). Visual quality ratings and disease incidence will be recorded monthly.

Expected Results: [see figures](#)

- Green-up. This test will determine which varieties can provide quickest green color in a cool microclimate in Chicago.
- Establishment. Initial cover may be influenced by spring green-up.
- Color. Given frost events in the spring and fall some bentgrass varieties have an objectionable purple to red color.
- Disease. Dollar spot remains our most chronic disease. Good resistance is now a standard genetic trait that plant breeders select for.
- Quality. Necessary is good color, density, texture, smoothness, uniformity