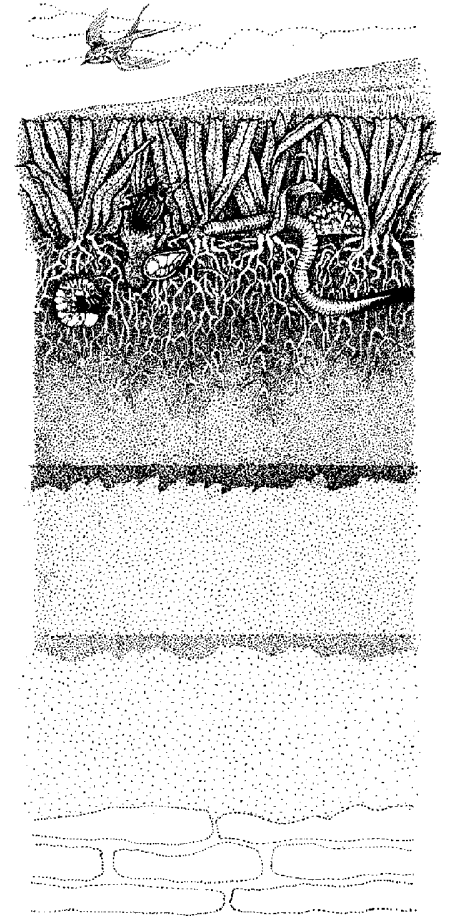


CUTT



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Establishing and Trafficking New Bentgrass Putting Greens

Golf turf managers are pressured from the golfing community to reduce the establishment time of playing surfaces. To this end, accelerated grow-in procedures are implemented that eventually permit play on surfaces that are less than prepared to receive traffic. Research has suggested that accelerated grow-in procedures and premature traffic results in a turfgrass stand that is more prone to damage from pests, in particular, diseases.

New cultivars of creeping bentgrass are available and mark a significant improvement in visual quality, growth habit and ability to tolerate close mowing. The ability to lower cutting heights is critical for golf turf managers who are required to provide ball roll distances consistently greater than 10 feet.

The goal of our research at Cornell University is to determine optimum putting green establishment programs that lead to a more stress tolerant, disease resistant stand of turf, less reliant on pesticides. ■

More specifically, our objectives are to evaluate newly released creeping bentgrass cultivars established under various procedures; evaluate microbial seed treatment on seedling survival and suppression of seedling disease; and assess the impact of establishment procedures and traffic on the incidence of foliar and root diseases in the mature turfgrass stand.

Putting Green Establishment Procedures

A 20,000 square foot experimental golf green was constructed at the Cornell Turfgrass Research and Education Center in Ithaca, NY in 1997. The green was constructed to conform to California specifications. Unamended sand (pH

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