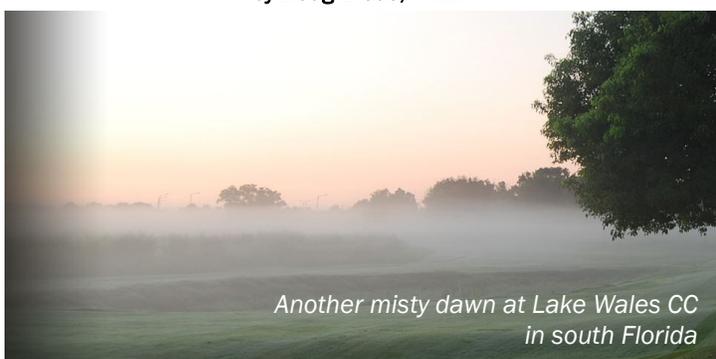




# T-1 in Florida

by Doug Brede, Ph.D.



*Another misty dawn at Lake Wales CC in south Florida*

Lake Wales Country Club is a stately 100-year-old Donald Ross golf course situated in the lake country south of Orlando, Florida. Lake Wales has served as venue for every major USGA qualifying event in the state of Florida.

Recently, when a management company acquired an operating interest in the course, superintendent George MacKanos, and owner Tim Miles, wanted to do something to help the facility stand out among the Sunshine state's 1000+ golf courses.

"I've been growing bentgrass for 25 years from A-1 to Penncross," says MacKanos in an interview with Golf Course Industry magazine. (The full story is at: [www.golfcourseindustry.com/digital/201506/](http://www.golfcourseindustry.com/digital/201506/)).

MacKanos began thinking bentgrass for Lake Wales while watching golf on television. "I saw how T-1 performed at Valhalla for the PGA championship in Louisville," he says.

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*Lake Wales Country Club, situated between Cape Canaveral and Tampa, Florida, is enjoying success with T-1 bentgrass interseeding.*

# Jacklin Seed Smartphone App Updated

by Doug Brede, Ph.D.

Jacklin Seed's popular smart phone app has received a major upgrade of new technical information from the entire 18 year history of The Research NewsFlash. Articles were compiled into easy clickable categories. No search engine is required.

The Jacklin app is available for either iPhone or Android platforms. It is free at the app store (wireless charges may apply).



Here is an example of how it works (assuming an Android device):

1. **Navigate to the Google Play store.**
2. **Enter the word "Jacklin" in the search box.**
3. **Download the app as indicated.**
4. **Click to run the app.**
5. **Select "Research Reports."**
6. **Then select "Research by Trait."**
7. **Click on "Drought" (or whatever topic you would like to locate).**
8. **Select and read your article of interest.**

Topics range from salt tolerance, drought, pests, interseeding, renovation, and much more.

The Presentations section of the app allows you to watch and listen to short presentations on current topics delivered by Jacklin scientists and breeders. 📺

## WE'RE MOVING!



**Effective January 1, Jacklin Seed's office staff will be moving into new headquarters in the high-tech business park in Liberty Lake. The address will be 23403 E Mission Ave., Suite 222, Liberty Lake, Washington 99019. The toll free phone number will remain the same: 800-688-SEED.**

## T-1 Florida, continued

Next he compared the summertime climate in the Ohio River Valley at Valhalla with that of Lake Wales and found they were surprisingly alike. He sought advice from JacklinGolf troubleshooter, Scott DeBolt, who offered suggestions for growing bentgrass in the sultry south Florida bottomland.

They decided to retain the existing bermuda on the greens and interseed with T-1. In University trials and new golf course construction, T-1 has done exceptionally well in the South, compared to other varieties.

DeBolt suggested a 3.5 to 4 pound per 1000 ft<sup>2</sup> (17-20 g/m<sup>2</sup>) seeding rate to better compete with the bermuda. "We seed company reps always get ribbed about padding the seeding rate, but in this case it was agronomically correct according to field studies," says DeBolt.

MacKanos did think that rate was high and instead, seeded 1.5 to 2 pounds (7-10 g/m<sup>2</sup>). MacKanos now believes the higher rate would have been better to ensure complete coverage. Creeping bentgrass is slower to fill than perennial ryegrass, but it is faster than *Poa trivialis*, which is used on some Florida putting greens in the winter.

*While Lake Wales does illustrate the heat tolerance in the T-1 variety, Jacklin Seed does not endorse the use of creeping bentgrass as a year-round turf in Florida.*

Fortunately T-1 has exceptional seedling vigor. Oftentimes it can be seen bursting out of the ground as quickly as the 3<sup>rd</sup> day after planting. Older bentgrass varieties would not have fared as well.

MacKanos' goal was to see if he could maintain bentgrass through stifling Florida summers.

"That's no small task," says DeBolt, "especially when you have a thunderstorm that comes by every afternoon at 4:30 PM filling the soil profile with water."

"With the exception of not using a heavy enough seeding rate to begin with, everyone seemed to be satisfied with the results," says MacKanos.

His plan is to continue regular aeration and restrict nitrogen applications after the end of June. And, of course, keep the greens as dry as possible.

### Flash back 30 years

Certain "new" ideas get periodically rediscovered every few decades. Bentgrass greens in Florida are one good example.

Back in 1985, writer Susan E. Young penned an article for Golf Course Management magazine describing bentgrass in Florida as "the wave of the future."

"There is a definite move among golf courses in south Florida to have bentgrass greens, either from a

winter overseeding or on a year-round basis," wrote Young after visiting about a dozen such bentgrass courses.

In 1985 there seemed to be two different camps dabbling in bentgrass: Those with a bermudagrass base and those without. According to Young's article, superintendent Dick Herr at Jupiter Hills and Luke Majorki at PGA National used creeping bentgrass to complement their bermuda. They figured if anything went wrong, they could rely on the bermuda to return.

Other superintendents, like Jerry Broome at the Loxahatchee Club, made what most superintendents consider to be career suicide by seeding straight bent.

"People say you can't keep bentgrass all year down here, but we've kept ours for three years," says Herr. "Our greens are a Tifdwarf bermudagrass base overseeded with Pennncross. They look as good in August as they do during the season. As far as I'm concerned, with the proper management, there's no reason why we'd ever have to overseed again. The bentgrass will stay."

This was remarkable because at the time there were only four seeded varieties available: Emerald, Pennncross, Penneagle and Seaside. And none of those 4 had improved heat tolerance.

"We prefer bentgrass over ryegrass because it gives us a much better putting surface, great color and we can mow it tighter to maintain that quality," says J.B. Branstrom, superintendent of the Palm Beach Polo and Country Club.

In an instance of history repeating itself, a couple of superintendents in 1984-85 were using a 3 pound (15 g/m<sup>2</sup>) seeding rate. But the majority were finding better results seeding at 4 to 6 pounds (20-30 g/m<sup>2</sup>).

"If superintendents in St. Louis and Louisville can grow bent, and they do, then Florida superintendents can grow bent. The key is proper management," writes Young.

Bottom line: Would I recommend bentgrass for Florida golf courses? Ask me in 30 years. 🏌️



*T-1 emerging 4 days after seeding*