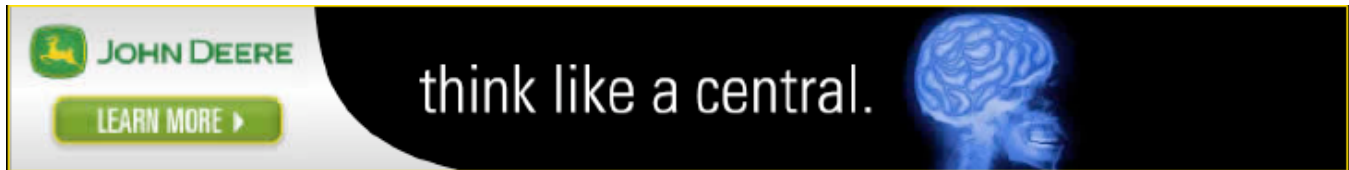




Contact Golfdom | Subscriber Services | RSS



SEARCH



## Digital Golfdom Exclusive: Velvet Is Smooth

[RSS feeds for this site](#)



- Golfdom Home
- Digital Golfdom
- Podcasts
- Online Exclusive
- Industry News
- Insider E-newsletter
- Online Opinion Polls
- The Links
- Top-Rated Pages
- Browse by Subject
- Special Issues
- The Golfdom Report
- Golfdom Business Record
- About Golfdom
- Mission Statement
- Editorial Team
- Subscriber Services
- Advertise
- B2B Marketing Research
- Media Guide
- Editorial Calendar
- BPA Statement
- Sales Team
- Classifieds
- Products and Services
- Recruitment
- Marketing Services
- Lists
- Reprints
- What's New
- Archives

### Rutgers' researchers talk up bentgrass variety.

October 02 2002  
By: [Larry Aylward](#)  
Golfdom Insider



Several University of Rutgers/Cook College turf researchers were raving about velvet bentgrass during the recent [Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Day](#) focusing on golf and fine turf in North Brunswick, N.J.

How do Rutgers' researchers love velvet bentgrass in the Northeast? Let them count the ways.

Velvet bentgrass:

- has a vibrant green color;
- is more competitive against weeds;
- is more dollar-spot resistant than creeping bentgrass and more brown-patch resistant than colonial bentgrass;
- performs well during drought;
- holds up well under heavy traffic; and
- has a dense growth habit and fine leaf texture.

Karen Plumley, who helps operate the university's two-year turfgrass management program, said several velvet varieties performed well in the 1998 NTEP bentgrass study. She cited [SR 7200](#), which has been commercially available for several years, and Vesper 2001, an experimental variety that recently became available. "We've been working with velvets here now for about eight years, and we believe they have a lot of advantages over creeping bentgrass," she said.

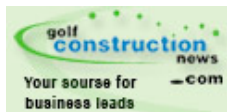
Plumley scanned the many varieties of turf comprising the bentgrass test plot on the farm. She said velvet varieties are the perennial favorites of visitors throughout the year. "If we told you to stand on your favorite plot, you would without a doubt be standing on one of the velvet bentgrass plots," she said.

Plumley said velvet bents have much brighter and greener color than the creeping bentgrasses year-round.

"In the summer, when the creeping bents want to crash a little and look like they're struggling, the velvets still look nice and bright and green," she added. "From a management standpoint, the velvets tend to get a lot less disease than the creeping bents."

OK, velvet bentgrasses aren't perfect. "They do get a disease called copper

GOLFDOM INSIDER





spot, which looks like dollar spot, but it's not," Plumley said. They also can get root pythium in the fall if not treated with a fungicide, noted William Meyer, a turf professor at Rutgers. Velvets haven't performed well in Southern and Midwest states, which could be attributed to a high soil pH.

"Velvets don't like high pH," Meyer said. "That may be the reason they're not doing as well across the country as they are here." Minor problems aside, Rutgers researchers are intrigued by velvet bentgrass. They continue to study how to manage it and make it a high-quality and durable putting surface.

"It's amazing how bright the velvets look," said Steve Hart, an extension specialist at Rutgers. "I don't understand why they've never been popular grasses here. I think it's a matter of not having the [proper] information on how to manage them."

Related Links:


[Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science](#)

["Cultivar and Traffic Effects on Population Dynamics of Agrostis spp. and Poa annua Mixtures,"](#) James Murphy, Rutgers University (requires the free [Acrobat Reader](#))

["Velvet Bentgrass Management,"](#) by Dr. William A. Torello, University of Massachusetts, Skip Lynch, Seed Research of Oregon

Back to [the Table of Contents](#), Golfdom Insider, October 2, 2002.

**About the Author**



**Larry Aylward**  
*Golfdom Editor*  
 About Larry Aylward  
 email: [larylward@questex.com](mailto:larylward@questex.com)  
 URL: <http://www.golfdom.com>  
[See more articles by Larry Aylward](#)

**Rate this page**

What do you think of this story?

**Triple Bogey!** [1](#) | [2](#) | [3](#) | [4](#) | [5](#) | [6](#) | [7](#) | [8](#) | [9](#) | [10](#) **Hole in One!**

**POST A COMMENT**

Please complete the form below to post your comment.  
**Bold** = Required

**Email Address**  *Your email address will NOT be published.*

**Display Name**  *appears with your comment*

City

State

Country

Remember me:  Yes  No

**Comment**  [read our privacy policy](#)

Note: does not support HTML  
 All comments submitted are subject to review, and may be delayed before posting. We reserve the

## Insider

Twice a month, the latest turf industry news is delivered to your mailbox. The Insider also includes poignant columns, podcasts, surveys and sneak previews of upcoming Golfdom stories. Sign up now.

First Name:

Last Name:

Email Address:

Confirm E-mail Address:

Company:

[JOIN >](#)

### SURVEY

It seems every year that players and media members alike gripe about the course's setup at the U.S. Open. This year's championship at Oakmont Country was no exception. In fact, Phil Mickelson said the course's setup was "dangerous." **Do you think the course setups at the U.S. Open are too difficult?**

No way, it's the nation's championship, and it should be tough.	76%
Yes, the setups are ridiculous.	16%
Maybe a little. They should just slow down the greens a bit.	9%

### FROM THE ARCHIVE

- [Any Way You Punch It](#)
- [Flying High](#)
- [Ante Up](#)
- [Counter Measures](#)
- [PGRs Prized at All Costs](#)
- ['Working' Plan](#)
- [Oakmont Regains Its Grueling Image](#)
- [Burgeoning Biofungicides](#)
- [Speaking Naturally](#)
- [Fair Play](#)
- [Goosen Won't Loosen Up](#)

*right not to post comments.*

SUBMIT NOW >

[To Blog ... Or Not to Blog](#)

[Welcome, Women](#)

[Time on EPA's Side?](#)

[Over the Pond](#)

**THE AURORA<sup>®</sup>**  
**CENTRAL CONTROL SYSTEM**

- Monitor, store, and share data across multiple sensors
- Control your irrigation system from any controller on your course

**JOHN DEERE** [LEARN MORE >](#)



[Contact Golfdom](#) | [Subscriber Services](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

© 2007 Questex Media Group, Inc.. All rights reserved.

Reproduction in whole or in part is prohibited.

Please send any technical comments or questions to our webmaster.