

Fairbanks Ranch Country Club Fairway and rough Improvement Research Project: Status Report

I. Rough Improvement Research Project (in-play study)

Objective: By December, 2000 make preliminary assessment of feasibility of fescue as a replacement turf for roughs as a means of improving turf non-uniformity and problem areas that are plagued by shade, heavy traffic and high salts.

Status: Six test areas were seeded onto in-play areas of the rough with two candidate fescue varieties ("Amigo" and "Brandy") on July 12, 2000. Turf quality evaluations will begin Fall, 2000.

II. Fairway and Rough Improvement Project

Objective: Identify turf varieties and overseeding strategies that perform optimally under a variety of different water quality regimes. By the completion of the three year study (July, 2003), a recommended fairway improvement program, including turf varieties, overseeding strategies, water quality, soil and fertility management will be prepared.

Status: We are in good shape going into the winter, with the experimental irrigation system working well, and all nine test turf varieties planted and on the way to establishment. This will allow us to begin full-scale evaluations in Spring, 2001 as projected.

Chronology of events:

8/29/00 Irrigation system designed and installed

9/6/00 Test area fumigated prior to planting

9/16/00 Nine turf varieties planted; turf covers installed

9/29/00 Turf covers removed

9/30/00 Information website for Fairbanks Ranch Research Project established:
www.pace-ptri.com/fairbanks/fairbanks.htm

10/18/00 Informational sign installed near research site

10/19/00 Seedlings germinated and moving towards establishment; first mowing of turf



Trenching prior to irrigation system installation, 8/22/00



Planting, 9/16/00



Research cooperater Brian Sandland in front of informational sign, 10/19/00



Seedling establishment is well underway, 10/19/00