



golf industry show

GCSAA Education Conference | Trade Show | GCSAA Golf Championships
San Diego Convention Center | February 6-11, 2016



PRESENTING PARTNERS



PARTICIPATING PARTNERS





golf industry show

Agronomic Solutions I: Managing Cool and Warm-Season Native Grasses

Chris Zugel, CGCS
Whistling Straits-Straits Course




Personal Background

- Born in Boston and grew up in Atlanta
- B.S. in Landscape Horticulture from Colorado State University
 - Assistant Golf Course Superintendent-TPC Eagle Trace (2000-2002)
 - Assistant Golf Course Superintendent-Blackwolf Run, River Course (2002-2005)
 - Assistant Golf Course Superintendent-Whistling Straits, Straits Course (2005-2008)
- Manager Grounds-Milwaukee Brewers (2008-2009)
- Golf Course Superintendent- Whistling Straits, Straits Course (2009-Present)

Whistling Straits Background



- The property was originally an abandoned airfield called Camp Haven (1949–1959)
- Opened in 1998
- Designed by Pete Dye.
- Host site for the 2004, 2010, 2015 PGA Championship and the 2007 US Senior Open.
- Future Host of the 2020 Ryder Cup Matches
- Bentgrass greens and tees
- Fine Fescue fairways and rough
- The distinguishing features of the course are the massive bluffs and sand dunes.



We call them
Dunes, you
might call them
Native Areas.

Either Way...

What Does
“Native” Mean?

What Does “Native” Mean?



- Areas that look like they were part of the landscape before the golf course.
- Not only site specific on the course, but specific to the location on the golf hole.

Native areas where no play should happen can look different.



But how do we achieve this?



“Native Grass” Management Goals:



Low Inputs

(Not...No Inputs!)

Aesthetics

Playability

Remember...These “Native Areas” require low inputs, not no inputs

- No supplemental irrigation
- Little to no additional fertilization after establishment.
- Little to no insecticides
- Spot treatment of herbicides
- Only mown once per year



PREDATOR HARD
FESCUE
AUDUBON CREEPING RED
FESCUE
SURVIVOR CHEWINGS
FESCUE
SHEEP
FESCUE*
VARIETY NOT
STATED
CROP: .01
INERT: 1.97
WEED: .02



Fine Fescue seed is often Endophyte Enhanced

Allows for the reduction of inputs such as water and pesticides.



Fertilizer is used during establishment, but sparingly thereafter.



Hydroseeding takes experience...



Our Seeding Mix for 10,000 sq. ft.

1 ½ to 2 50lb bags of fine fescue

25lbs 21-0-0

25lbs Slow Release Fertilizer

7 bags of hydromulch



Sustainable Herbicide Solutions



Hand Removal of Select Weeds



Herbicide applications:

Three way herbicide at Label Rate

2,4-D Amine

Mecoprop-P

Dicamba

Plus Carfentrazone



It becomes obvious where the irrigation stops...

Ideal “Native Grass” Look





We are all very
lucky to have the
“office” view we
have.

“The Look” plus Playability



Which leads to this...



Although we do not mow regularly...



We do cut all the “Native Areas”





Making sure that everyone is on board with what “Native Areas” are.





The rewards of our
work are endless!



Thank You!

Chris Zugel

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