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Creeping bentgrass varieties that compete with annual bluegrass

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Background

Last year we reported on the annual bluegrass putting greens that were established from plugs from Greg Harkin's greens at Willow Creek. Newer varieties of creeping bentgrass have denser growth and tolerate lower mowing heights. The ability of these more competitive bentgrass varieties to establish and compete amongst a dominant stand of annual bluegrass is still not clear.

Objective

To determine if the newer types of bentgrass can successfully establish and dominate when planted in greens that were previously annual bluegrass.

Methods

In September 2008 seven varieties of creeping bentgrass (L93, T1, 007, Alpha, Tyee, Bengal, and Penncross) were verticut into an existing USGA-type green containing 80% annual bluegrass. The bentgrass was seeded at 2 lbs/1000 sqft. The 12ft by 12ft plots were replicated three times and are large enough to be split in half to determine if an annual bluegrass herbicide control strategy would help the bentgrass dominate the putting surface.

Results

By the end of October it was apparent that all of the newer varieties produced more bentgrass cover than Penncross. The study will be evaluated over the next three years to monitor the competition between annual bluegrass and creeping bentgrass.