



EUROPEAN TURFGRASS SOCIETY

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2022 European Turfgrass Society Field Days

The ETS is organizing Field Days in spring 2022 dedicated to members and all turf specialists and professionals involved in the lawn and sports turf care and landscape.

We will continue the successful experiences done in previous years. It will be a great chance to spend quality time together and an excellent opportunity to meet in person after a long period of social isolation.

The 2022 Field Days will focus on practical experiences to convey and share technical aspects and challenges to attendees by visiting research sites and functional turf areas for a very informative and enjoyable time.

Hoping for large participation, we will soon provide all necessary information on the ETS website.



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Cynodon spp. (Bermudagrass) cultivars adaptability studies started at the Ugolino Golf Club (Florence) and at Golf della Montecchia (Padua)

By Alessandro De Luca - Italian Golf Federation – Green Section

Ugolino Golf Club (Florence)

On 7 June 2021, thanks to a collaboration between the Ugolino Golf Club, the University of Florence, the Certes of Pisa University and the Green Section of the Italian Golf Federation, was launched an adaptability study of 4 *Cynodon spp.* (Bermudagrass) cultivars.

Promoter of the study is Vanni Rastrelli, Superintendent at Ugolino Golf Club. After the degree in Agriculture at Florence University and the Superintendent Diploma at the Green Section of the Italian Golf Federation, Vanni is now attending the Master in "Turfgrass management and design" at University of Bologna.

Ugolino Golf Club has been evaluating for years the possibility of converting its fairways into bermudagrass. The aim of this study is therefore to verify in situ the behavior of some of the most recent cultivars introduced on the market and specifically selected for the good adaptability to transition zone.

In addition to Tifway, introduced on the study as a standard cultivar, the two hybrid cultivars Latitude 36 and Tahoma 31 (*Cynodon dactylon x transvaalensis*) and the seed cultivar Monaco will be evaluated (*Cynodon dactylon*).



Golf della Montecchia (Padua)

In the same month, in particular on 25 June 2021, a second study was launched on the adaptability of three *Cynodon* (Bermudagrass) spp. cultivars. In this case it was possible thanks to an initiative of Golf della Montecchia in collaboration with the University of Padua and the Green Section of the Italian Golf Federation.

Promoter of the study Dr. Chiara Ferrari, who after graduating in Agriculture and a short experience at the University of California is now attending the University Master in "Turfgrass Management and Design" organized by the University of Bologna.

The study is focused on 2 new seeded cultivars of *Cynodon dactylon* and the hybrid *Cynodon* cultivar (*Cynodon dactylon x transvaalensis*) Patriot, used on the tees and fairways of Golf della Montecchia since 2010.



Thanks to the collaboration with some universities, several studies and direct applications in the field were conducted at the Golf della Montecchia, which involved the environment and obviously the turf. Among the most significant research was the adaptability tests of warm season turfgrass species above the 45th parallel started in 2003 and in 2010 led to the conversion of the tees and fairways of Golf della Montecchia from cool season turfgrass species to Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon x transvaalensis*). This was the first experience of conversion to Bermuda grass at these latitudes and made it possible on these areas to reduce water consumption by 70%, fertilizer use by 80% and to eliminate the use of pesticides. This created great interest in the scientific community and was studied by numerous golf courses that then started the process of converting their tees and fairways into Bermuda grass

Objectives

The results of these studies could encourage a further extension in Italy of the use of Bermudagrass. Indeed, several direct applications in different golf courses highlighted the more environmentally and economically sustainable management of Bermudagrass, compared to the traditionally used cool season grasses.

In fact, even above the 45 ° parallel Bermudagrass allows to significantly reduce the water and fertilizers consumption and to eliminate the use of pesticides, with advantages also for the turf quality.

These researches will be included on the research activities carried out in Italy on warm season grasses, started since 1995 by the Green Section of the Italian Golf Federation, the Certes of Pisa University and continued over the years by other research centers, especially the University of Padua.

During the 4 years study the following parameters will be assessed:

- establishment
- density
- texture
- visual quality
- colour
- winter dormancy
- spring green up
- roots mass



Ugolino Golf Club (Florence)



Golf della Montecchia (Padua)