

## Winning Turfgrass at Medinah Country Club

The American Team may not have come out on top during the 2012 Ryder Cup at Medinah Country Club near Chicago, IL but the turfgrass was a winner. The reason for the renovation at Medinah Country Club was to improve the infrastructure, make the classic golf course more demanding for today's professionals and to improve the course for day to day play. Curtis Tyrrell, Director of Golf Course Operations at Medinah led the three year project. Curtis discussed the seed selection process and his Team Approach to the renovation and operations for the Ryder Cup at the annual Seed Research of Oregon Distributor Luncheon in San Diego.



### Selection of Grass Species and Varieties for Renovations and New Construction Projects

Selection of grass species and varieties for renovations and new construction projects impact maintenance and playability of a golf course for years after a project is completed. Curtis consulted with a Team of Advisors, including Dr. Tom Watschke, Pennsylvania State University Emeritus, Armen Suny, consultant, and USGA Agronomists. He relied on Shawn Emerson of Desert Mountain Golf and Agronomists with Seed Research to help in his selection of both grass species and cultivars. In addition he planted practice greens and target greens to look at various options in his Northern Illinois environment.

### Roughs

Ahead of the Ryder Cup there was considerable talk about the new rough at Medinah and which Team it would favor. The rough, a blend of **SR 5130 Chewings fescue, Touche, Arcadia** and **SR 2284 Kentucky Bluegrass**, was selected for superior drought tolerance, improved spring and fall growth, and the ability to tolerate multiple heights of cut. Curtis desired a flexible rough blend that could be cut lower for the Ryder Cup or higher if so desired by the membership. Davis Love III, Ryder Cup Captain, elected to have a shorter rough than is often typical for high-level professional events. The week after the Ryder Cup the roughs were allowed to grow out.

### Greens

The greens were **Dominant X-treme 7**, a blend of **007** and **SR 1119 creeping bentgrass**. Fairways and tees used a custom **Dominant X-treme 7** blend with **SR 7150 colonial bentgrass**. Curtis had worked with **SR 1119** at a previous job and was familiar with its attributes. **007** is a new variety that performed well in his regional trials and has developed a strong reputation in areas where the weather is more extreme. New USGA greens were constructed beginning in August 2009 with the rebuild taking only 30 days until planting. Germination occurred in 5 to 7 days with the first mowing in 14 days. The grow-in occurred during high heat and stress periods, but the grass and the Curtis-led Team resulted in flawless conditions. The greens performed perfectly through these difficult times and had stimpmeter readings of 13 to 13.5 feet every morning of the Ryder Cup.

The Medinah Team, and the grasses of Seed Research of Oregon were all winners. Curtis did a wonderful job but he also attributes his success to the varieties from Seed Research of Oregon. "Your grass is incredible."