



Weed  
Identification  
Report



WEED DIAGNOSTICS CENTER  
**UTIA** INSTITUTE OF  
AGRICULTURE  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

# Introduction

## ANY COUNTRY CLUB, ANYTOWN, USA

An unidentified plant sample from Any Country Club (Anytown, USA) was submitted to the University of Tennessee Weed Diagnostics Center for identification. The sample was harvested from a golf course putting surface (#2) on March 15th, 2016 and delivered to the University of Tennessee Weed Diagnostics Center immediately thereafter. Upon receipt, this sample was transplanted into a greenhouse pot filled with growing media and maintained under greenhouse conditions optimized for plant growth.

## WEED IDENTIFICATION DIAGNOSIS

The submitted sample was allowed to grow for seven days to facilitate morphological features becoming more distinct. The sample was analyzed by diagnosticians at the University of Tennessee Weed Diagnostics Center on March 22nd, 2016 and photographed. It was clear that two grasses were present in the submitted sample (Figure 1-3).



GRASS A

GRASS B

Figure 1. Two grasses were present in the sample submitted from **Any Country Club**. One grass (GRASS A) was coarser textured and larger than the more diminutive, GRASS B



Figure 2. Coarse texture and longer leaf length of GRASS A from **Any Country Club**.



Figure 3. Fine texture and shorter leaf length of GRASS B from **Any Country Club**.

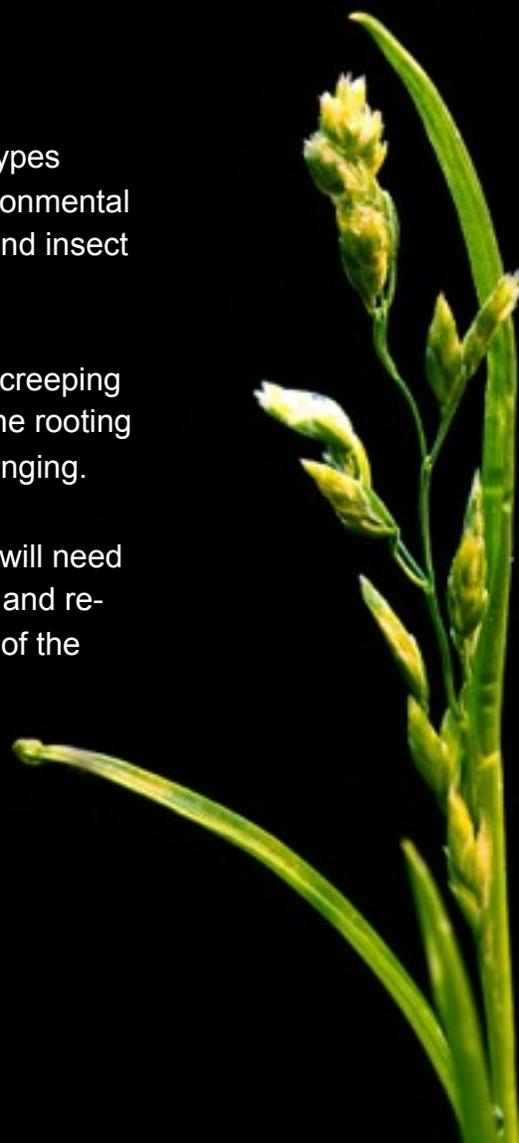
## RESULTS

Both grasses present within the sample had a rolled vernation and ridged adaxial leaf surface, distinct characteristics of creeping bentgrasses (*Agrostis* spp.). This diagnosis is further supported by the knowledge that these grasses are tolerant of standard putting green mowing and cultural practices as they were harvested from an in-use putting green (#2) at Any Country Club.

Differences in leaf texture and length may be an effect of biotype. Putting surfaces at Any Country Club were originally established as a blend of “Washington” and “Arlington” creeping bentgrass. These older cultivars have different morphology than newer varieties such as “Penncross”, “L-93”, “Penn A1”, and “Penn A4.” Given that putting surfaces at Any Country Club have been inter-seeded with newer cultivars over time, it is likely that the coarser textured grass in the sample (GRASS A) is one of the original creeping bentgrass biotypes planted while the finer textured grass (GRASS B) is newer plant material introduced via inter-seeding. “Arlington” creeping bentgrass was known to produce a deep root system compared to other cultivars. Differences in rooting characteristics in the submitted sample (Figure 1) would also suggest that “GRASS A” may be “Arlington” creeping bentgrass.

## RECOMENDATIONS

- It cannot be determined how the different creeping bentgrass biotypes present in the sample from Any Country Club will respond to environmental stresses such as shade, drought, heat, or damage from disease and insect pests.
- No herbicides are labeled for selective removal of an undesirable creeping bentgrass biotype from desirable creeping bentgrass turf. Given the rooting characteristics of this species, physical removal will also be challenging.
- In order to improve uniformity within each putting surface, greens will need to be eradicated using non-selective herbicides (e.g., glyphosate) and re-established with a desirable creeping bentgrass cultivar in the fall of the year.





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