



SHOW & TELL

Bladerunner Farms/The Turfgrass Group 2nd Invitational Zoysiagrass Field Day September 25—26

David Doguet is a widely respected turfgrass breeder and his enthusiasm when it comes to talking about Zoysiagrass is evident. Doguet believes Zoysia is the grass of the future and goes so far as to state that, "Zoysiagrass offers the best quality turf when you take away all the inputs." He adds, "Given the widespread concerns about water use, fertilizer use, and chemical use, this is the right—the only—direction we should be headed in."



Doguet and The Turfgrass Group have been working with Zoysiagrasses for decades and they have been committed to selecting the best for release for further evaluation.

During their 2nd Invitational Zoysiagrass Field Day those in attendance had an opportunity to see first-hand why Doguet is so enthusiastic. The event took place at Doguet's Bladerunner Farms Zoysiagrass Breeding facility, the largest private breeding program in the world, located in Poteet, Texas.

Attendees were presented with both the genesis of the Bladerunner program and their current selection, evaluation and release protocols. Doguet was very specific as to those characteristics that are most important to the turf producer, as well as those that will meet the demands of the end-user. Field Day activities included a tour of their research and production facility, and presentations of their current produced cultivars, including Zeon, JaMur, Y-2, and Carrizo Zoysia, as well as their newest release LIF Zoysia, a dwarf-type variety.

The program also included presentations by Dr. Milt Engleke, Zoysiagrass Breeder with Texas A&M retired, Dr. Brian Schwartz, Zoysiagrass Breeder with the University of Georgia, Aaron McWhorter, President of The Turfgrass Group and North Georgia Turf, Ken Mangum, Director of Golf Course Operations Atlanta Athletic Club, and Scott Hamilton, Golf Course Superintendent Escondido Golf Club.

This year's event was preceded with a dove shoot and some fishing followed by a fish fry and fellowship. Over 50 people attended the event including turfgrass producers and turfgrass research scientists.



David Doguet explains the selection and evaluation process of two year old Zoysiagrass plots that were grown from a single 'cup cut'.



Doguet addresses 'golf course zoysia greens material' plots. Ten week old "dwarf type" Zoysiagrass selections grown from single sprigs, being evaluated for leaf texture and rate of spread.



LIF Zoysia plot with Eco Buffalograss, a male flowering Buffalograss in the foreground.

