

Trinity Zoysia at the AT&T Byron Nelson PGA Tournament:

FACT SHEET

Tournament: AT&T Byron Nelson, 50th Anniversary

Dates: May 14 - 20, 2018

Moves to New Location: Trinity Forest Golf Club, Dallas, Texas

Site Trivia: Built on the site of a former landfill. Sustainability, environmental stewardship major themes.

Design of Course: Links style

Type of grass: Trinity Zoysia, formally known as L1F Zoysia in research stage, named for Trinity Forest Golf Club, which is the first course in the world to be planted with this low water use, sustainable grass wall-to-wall on tees, fairways and green surrounds. Course does not have playable rough. Unplayable edges are planted in native grasses and flowers. Greens are Champion Bermuda.

Height of cut in tees, fairways and green surrounds: .350-inch

Architect: Bill Coore & Ben Crenshaw

Superintendent: Kasey Kauff

Grass developed by: David Doguet, Bladerunner Farms in Poteet, Texas

Notable Trinity Forest Golf Club Member: PGA Tour Player Jordan Spieth

Overview

For the 50th Anniversary of the AT&T Byron Nelson tournament, the PGA Tour moves to Trinity Forest Golf Club in Dallas. The course is grassed with the environmentally friendly Trinity Zoysia, named for the golf course. The grass is drought tolerant and plays firm and fast. Trinity Zoysia was developed in Texas by Bladerunner Farms in Poteet, south of San Antonio. Trinity Forest was built on the site of a former landfill which makes this a reclaimed site converted to a green space, which could be considered the ultimate expression of sustainability. The grass, Trinity Zoysia, furthers the sustainability of the course because it requires very little water or fertilizer.

Why it's a big story

- **50th Anniversary, move to new location**
- **Former landfill:** Trinity Forest was built on the site of a former landfill reclaimed as a green space.
- **Dry, Firm Conditions to impact Play:** Trinity Zoysia is a low water use grass. Not much irrigation is required. Weather permitting, the fairways should be very firm and fast. Second shots will be critical and allow players who are not as long to achieve greater distance due to better ball roll.

- **Sustainability:** Trinity Zoysia grass uses less water and less fertilizer to make the course environmentally friendly. Dry patches may turn brown but the grass is not dead, just dormant, as a reaction to less water. Once water is reapplied, it turns green again.

About Trinity Zoysia

Trinity Zoysia is a fine-textured dwarf variety of zoysiagrass. While in research and development, the grass was known as L1F Zoysia but was renamed Trinity Zoysia in honor of Trinity Forest Golf Club, the first in the world to plant it wall-to-wall on a golf course. Trinity Zoysia is planted on the tees, fairways and green surrounds of Trinity Forest. A highly dense turf, Trinity Zoysia is very tolerant to wear and damage from foot traffic and golf carts. It also requires less fertilizer, water and maintenance, which in turn reduces fuel consumption and labor costs. Trinity Zoysia was developed in Texas by renowned turfgrass breeder David Doguet and the team at Bladerunner Farms, just south of San Antonio, in Poteet, Texas.

Select Quotes

Kasey Kauff, Director of Grounds at Trinity Forest Golf Club

On playability:

“A lot of golf courses on the Tour reward the guy who hits the ball the furthest. Our course doesn’t do that. Our course rewards the guy who hits the best second shot, not the best drive. So those guys who hit the ball out there further are now, instead of hitting a six iron into the green, maybe they’re hitting an eight or a nine iron. So now the chances of winning are better for most of the field.”

“I think they are going to be excited about playing on this kind of turf. I don’t think they’ll play on anything firmer than our fairways this year... I think everyone is going to have an opportunity, because the grass is firm.”

On low water use:

“The cool thing about **Trinity Zoysia**, we can turn the irrigation off, it turns brown, and it bounces right back when we put the water back on. If it’s hot and dry, there’s a good chance we will have a lot of brown grass out there to make it firm. It’s all about the firmness of the grass. If it’s 95 degrees, and there’s wind and no rain, the Trinity Zoysia grass will dry out and turn brown, but that’s the beauty of the grass. When the tournament is over, we can turn the water back on it it will green right up, if that’s what the members want. We don’t really care that the grass is uniformly green, that’s not really how our philosophy is. Our philosophy is it’s okay to be a little bit brown.”

Bill Coore, Coore-Crenshaw Golf Course Architects

On Selecting Trinity Zoysia as the grass for Trinity Forest:

“We considered the long term for the best grass we can use to get the playing conditions, the look we want, and also be sensitive to environmental issues from a resource usage perspective, meaning water, fertility and chemical usage.”

David Doguet, President of Bladerunner Farms, Poteet, Texas

On naming Trinity Zoysia for Trinity Forest Golf Club

“When Coore & Crenshaw and the ownership group from Trinity Forest decided to use L1F zoysia on this project , I knew it would be a good fit. The results have been fantastic. I was so happy with the results, I decided to honor the project by changing the name of L1F to Trinity Zoysia. I can't wait to see my grass on TV during the Byron Nelson Golf Tournament.”

Interview Availability:

Kasey Kauff, golf course superintendent

David Doguet, turfgrass breeder

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