

# ZOYSIA AS A GAME CHANGER

THE OLYMPIC GOLF COURSE,  
NEW ZOYSIA GRASSES AND YOU



**TEAM ZOYSIA™**  
GAME CHANGER





With a wide range of temperature and geographical adaptability, tolerance to varying pH levels and soil types, extremely low nitrogen input requirements, built-in mechanisms to extract salts from the soil, and a full spectrum of leaf textures—from fine to coarse—Zoysiagrass, as a family of grasses, offers the greatest versatility and utility of any of the warm-season grasses available today.

## WHY GOLF

Zoysia has long played a role in golf course management. But up until now, the grass was limited to use on fairways, roughs and tees. Now, as tested and improved fine-textured zoysiagrass varieties are released into the marketplace, for the first time zoysiagrass may be planted and successfully managed on golf course greens. Golf courses may now use zoysiagrass on every playing surface. This fact alone revolutionizes how golf courses may be planted and maintained. Add to the fact that the grass requires extremely low inputs of N and other nutrients with minimal maintenance, combining beauty and sustainability, zoysiagrass is poised to change the way we design and manage golf courses forever.

## WHY NOW

4 of the Biggest Projects in the World of Golf today are grassing with zoysiagrass:

**The Olympic Golf Course in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil:** Growing in now for the 2016 Olympics. This course celebrates golf's return to the Olympics after a more than 100-year absence, grassed with Zeon Zoysia

**Bluejack National:** Tiger Woods' first golf course design in the United States, under construction now north of Houston, grassed with Zeon & L1F Zoysia

**Trinity Forest:** Designed by Ben Crenshaw & Bill Coore, under construction now near Dallas, grassed with L1F Zoysia

**The Golf Club of Texas:** One of the country's largest renovation projects, this golf course is the first of its kind to boast zoysia on every surface including L1F greens, JaMur fairways and roughs, and Zeon tees

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Experts from around the world agree,  
Zoysiagrass is changing the game of golf.

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# MEET THE EXPERTS

## The Researchers

### DR. AMBIKA CHANDRA

Texas A&M

Important genetic traits allow zoysiagrasses to persist under a wide range of environmental stresses. Compared to other turfgrass species, zoysiagrass possesses excellent tolerance to salt, shade, heat, and cold stress conditions, and requires minimal nutrition and mowing. Texas A&M AgriLife Research Turfgrass Breeding program is working collaboratively with other major land grant institutions on developing drought and salinity tolerant zosiagrasses (funded by USDA), cold and large patch disease resistant zoysiagrasses (funded by USGA), as well as developing 'greens' type zoysias in partnership with Bladerunner Farms.

*"Zoysia is a game changer because it has everything we need – stress tolerance, low maintenance, desirable playability and high turfgrass quality."*



### DR. BRIAN SCHWARTZ

University of Georgia

The development and testing of new zoysiagrass hybrids for golf greens, tee boxes, fairways and roughs have resulted from the collaborative efforts between Bladerunner Farms and the University of Georgia. Discussions regarding the traits that golf course superintendents are most interested in seeing improved, and those that turf breeders view as important, are encouraged.

*"Zoysiagrass is a game changer because the plant diversity (and assumed genetic potential) of Zoysia should continue to allow the development of higher quality and more sustainable varieties well into the future."*



### DR. WAYNE HANNA

Special Guest

Dr. Wayne Hanna, renowned turf & plant breeder at the University of Georgia, says perennial peanut, especially the new variety called "Cowboy" is a low maintenance complementary option to zoysiagrass for golf course waste areas where utilizing turf is unnecessary or impractical. This ornamental plant in the legume family creates its own nitrogen and, once established, rarely needs to be mowed.





# MEET THE EXPERTS

## Zoysiagrass Breeding & The Golf Club of Texas



### DAVID DOGUET

Bladeunner Farms

David Doguet, owner of Bladerunner Farms, leads the world's largest independently owned zoysiagrass research center, located in Poteet, TX, just south of San Antonio. Doguet has a 30-year history in breeding and promoting zoysia as a low maintenance grass. Now, with the latest zoysia varieties primed for use on every surface of a golf course, the rest of the golf course industry has discovered what Doguet has known all along. Zoysia is a game changer.

*“Zoysia is a game changer because of its ability to provide a quality playing surface without all the inputs needed by other species: cool season grasses, bermudas and paspalums.”*



### ROY BECHTOL

Golf Course Architect, Bechtol Golf Design

Zoysia is the best playing surface you can have as a golfer and the Golf Club of Texas is the only course in the world to have it tee to green, even on the putting surfaces. Because the ball sits up so well on Zoysia, I was able to add slopes and mounding to the overall routing in places that other turf wouldn't allow. Using Zoysia gave me the opportunity to enhance the course's playability and make the whole experience more fun. The ability to completely sod this course, 91 acres in all including 10 for the practice area, rather than sprig the turf and water it to make it grow and spread, allowed me to vary the fairway lines, meander where the grass went, which helps with the overall look and the edges.

*“Zoysia is a game changer because ... by using Zoysia and reducing the turf, we've cut water use and long-term maintenance costs for the course. You don't have to mow it as much, and it's a hearty and tough grass that only uses a third of the water that other turf does.”*



### TOM BEVANS

Special Guest

Tom Bevans of Outlaw Golf, co-owner of the Golf Club of Texas, believes this groundbreaking 100% zoysia renovation will become a model for sustainable golf.

# MEET THE EXPERTS

## How to Maintain a Zoysiagrass Golf Course

### DOUG PETERSAN, CGCS

Austin Golf Club, retired

*A golf course planted with zoysiagrass can be managed with a moderate budget.*

With Zeon Zoysia, we have reduced labor cost, reduced fertilizer costs, water reductions and still provide a superior playing surface. There is not a surface around that competes with zoysia for playability... The water and fertilizer inputs are probably 50% of the other accepted turfgrasses people are using ... Another huge difference, and this will become far more important, is chemical costs. Zoysia requires very little chemical control for fungicides, insecticides and herbicides. Zoysia, if it's grown properly, doesn't need herbicide because it creates such a dense surface the weeds cannot infest it ... Zoysia retains its leaf surface. It doesn't lose its body. It probably plays better in winter dormancy than in summer. If you want it green in the winter, paint it. You don't need to overseed Zoysia.

### KEN MANGUM, CGCS

Atlanta Athletic Club

At Atlanta Athletic Club, where the fairways are zoysiagrass, Ken Mangum, CGCS, has hosted PGA Tour events including the 2001 and the 2011 PGA Championships.

Zoysia management at the Atlanta Athletic Club is quite simple and basic even though we have a high budget. I think people will be surprised at how close my program compares to the lower budget operation. Fertility management is one of the keys to our success.

*“Zoysia is a game changer because it allows us to provide a year round playing surface like we have never had before. It allows us to reduce mowing, fertility and overall inputs that keep the cost of the game down.”*



### DR. MILT ENGELKE

Professor Emeritus, Texas A&M

Different than other warm-season grasses, the critical limitations to managing zoysiagrass center on its growth habit, growth requirements (nutritionally) and inherent vulnerability to disease when mismanaged. Critical practices involve proper mowing and grooming to condition the turf for competitiveness against weeds, diseases and other pests, proper fertilization targeting the grass and not its competitors (diseases and weeds), and controlling thatch accumulation in the root zone to combat scalping and maintaining quality turf with minimal inputs.

*“Like none other, zoysiagrass as a species has the widest area of adaptation on a global scale in that it will grow naturally between the 45's (meaning 45° N and 45° S latitudes) as well as on highly diverse soil types. Its excellent salt, shade, drought, temperature hardiness with minimal cultural inputs changes how we need to build and maintain sports venues (golf, sports fields or home lawns).”*





# MEET THE EXPERTS

## The Benefits of Certification & The Role of International Golf

### DON ROBERTS

Don Roberts International

Roberts is an expert on the history of Zoysiagrass utility on golf courses and sports fields in foreign countries, the current locations where the new Zoysiagrass cultivars are being produced under license agreements, and the production protocols within internationally recognized certification programs.

Internationally, recent university research has shown positive results in expanding the use of improved Zoysiagrass cultivars beyond traditional horticultural zones. Options are available for producing certified varieties on a golf course temporary site nursery in countries where there are no licensed producers. Currently, there are golf course site nurseries, licensed and certified production, or cooperative testing agreements of U.S. patented varieties in 12 countries.

*“The NEW Zoysiagrasses are a game changer because ... in recent years extensive public and private breeding programs have discovered, developed, and released varieties that are better suited to various uses and climates. Their inherent traits remain true-to-type, and the TEAM approach better assures that the end-users have access to certified germplasm and a science-based management protocol.”*

### ARTHUR MILBERGER

Team Zoysia International

The licensing process is the framework that allows the sharing of intellectual property (patents, trademarks) in such a manner as to encourage breeders and developers to expend time and capital to develop new and improved varieties with a financial return. The process gives licensees' growers the assurance they are growing, distributing, and marketing improved varieties with protection from imitations. Licenses spell out the duties of growers such as certification, reports, and royalties. And finally the end user-owner has confidence in the end product and is assured of the desired turfgrass traits in the variety chosen for a project.

*“Zoysia is a game changer. Just look at the past, history often repeats itself. During the 1950-60s, the Tifton Bermudagrass varieties were introduced to golf and changed the game. In the 1990s into the 2000 era, improvement came with the advent of improved fairway and ultradwarf Bermuda varieties. Now the improved Zoysiagrass varieties are poised to change the game of golf in a way not even the prior Tifton revolution could do. Unlike Bermuda, Zoysia gives us equal or better turfgrass quality with Minimal Inputs—the Game Changer.”*

### BILL CARRAWAY

Vice President of Marketing | The Turfgrass Group, Inc.

It is important to select a turfgrass cultivar that is adapted to the area, and that has desired qualities and characteristics. To obtain the full benefits of the chosen hybrid turfgrass we must first maintain “trueness to variety” through Crop Improvement Turfgrass Certification. Reliance on this third-party inspection system and validation of genetic purity is fundamental to developing and maintaining an attractive and problem-free playing surface.

*“Zoysia is a game changer due to the genetic diversity of the species as well as its wide area of adaptability and lower input capabilities.”*

## BUILDING THE OLYMPIC GOLF COURSE

Grassing is complete on the golf course built especially for the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, when golf returns as an Olympic sport after more than 100 years. The last planter made its way down the 10th hole on November 27, 2014. The Olympic Golf Course now has grass on every playing surface. Fairways, tees and roughs of the golf course were planted with Zeon Zoysia. Development of the course has seen its share of challenges, from construction delays to logistical issues in getting equipment delivered. Still, all through it, the team at the center of the golf course carried on. Hear first-hand what it took to construct, grass and grow-in what is poised to become the most famous golf course in the world.



Architect Gil Hanse, Marcelo Matte, David Doguet & Neil Cleverly



### PANELISTS:

Marcelo Matte, sod production & grass installation, Green Grass Brazil  
David Doguet, Bladerunner Farms  
Neil Cleverly, superintendent, Olympic Golf Course

### PANEL MODERATOR:

Arthur Milberger





### {MISSION}

Team Zoysia™ was established as an affiliation of producers, scientists, golf course superintendents, equipment manufacturers and distributors that are committed to the customer who chooses to have and use superior zoysiagrass on their facility. Team Zoysia is about developing relationships within the turf industry to fully support the utilization and management of zoysiagrass as a sustainable turf. Zoysiagrasses are being rightfully recognized for their superior adaptability to a wide variety of uses such as golf courses, sports fields and lawns, while requiring minimal cultural inputs. The newest and most advanced zoysiagrass varieties may now be used for not only beautiful, managed open spaces and sports facilities, but also for challenging sites that require bioremediation, or as turf that can survive in marginal climates or soil types. From product quality and availability; education on appropriate cultural practices; identification and selection of equipment and products used for establishment, maintenance and long term care; the members of Team Zoysia are committed to providing the best products, information and support to the Customer.

### {TEAM ZOYSIA MEMBERS}

Bladerunner Farms - [bladerunnerfarms.com](http://bladerunnerfarms.com)  
Team Zoysia International - [facebook.com/teamzoysia](https://facebook.com/teamzoysia)  
The Turfgrass Group - [theturfgrassgroup.com](http://theturfgrassgroup.com)  
Doguet Ventures - [doguetventures.com](http://doguetventures.com)  
Jacobsen: A Textron Company - [jacobsen.com](http://jacobsen.com)  
TurfMaker - [turfmaker.com](http://turfmaker.com)  
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