

2016: THE YEAR OF ZOYSIA



TEAM ZOYSIA™
GAME CHANGER

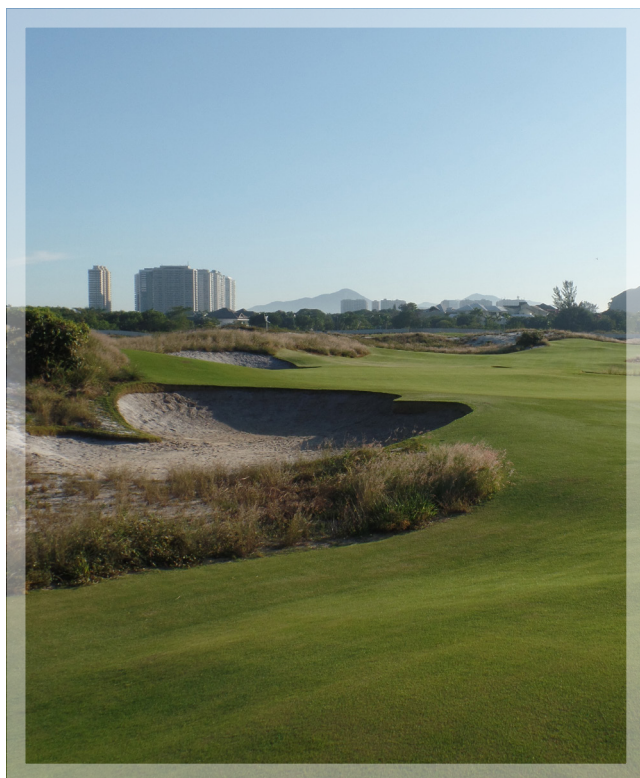
The Year of Zoysia

IN 2016, GOLF RETURNS AS AN OLYMPIC SPORT after more than 100 years. The Rio Olympics built a new golf course to host the Games. The grass they chose for fairways, tees and roughs? Zoysia. (Zeon)

IN 2016, TIGER WOODS attends the official opening of Bluejack National, the very first golf course he's designed on U.S. soil. The grass for the golf course? Zoysia. (L1F, Zeon)

IN 2016, TRINITY FOREST GOLF CLUB, designed by Bill Coore & PGA Tour Legend Ben Crenshaw, opens in Dallas. The course is confirmed as the new home of the AT&T Byron Nelson PGA golf tournament. The grass? You guessed it. Zoysia. (L1F)

IN 2016, THE GOLF CLUB OF TEXAS in San Antonio enters its first spring playing season and exceeds all expectations for course membership sales. It's the country's first wall-to-wall zoysiagrass golf course—with zoysia on every playing surface including greens. That's right. Zoysia. (JaMur, Zeon, L1F)



**YES, THE HIGHEST PROFILE COURSES IN GOLF THIS YEAR CHOSE ZOYSIA.
HERE ARE A FEW REASONS WHY:**

Low nitrogen requirements // Reduced mowing vs. bermudagrass
Adaptability to soil types and pH // Excellent playability, the ball sits up as if on a tee
Wow factor in color, striping, esthetics



With a wide range of temperature and geographical adaptability, tolerance to varying pH levels and soil types, extremely low nitrogen input requirements, low water needs, tolerance of poor water quality, 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.

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. The grass requires extremely low inputs of N and other nutrients, and uses half of the water of bermudagrass or paspalum. Combining beauty and sustainability, it's no surprise that the industry is calling **2016 The Year of Zoysia.**

Zoysia at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games

Golf returns as an Olympic Sport this summer after a 112-year absence, with Zeon Zoysia as the playing surface on the new golf course built for the Games. To be held in Rio de Janeiro in August, the Olympic Golf Course was designed by renowned architect Gil Hanse. Zeon was sprigged on the fairways, tees and roughs. When asked about the grass selection in an interview with the Golf Channel in October of last year, Hanse said, "The grasses that have been selected are the best for long-term sustainability."



Sustainability is a theme of the Rio 2016 Games, and zoysia's environmentally friendly qualities of low nitrogen fertilization, low water needs, salt tolerance and infrequent mowing fall right in line with the Olympic Committee's plans.

Playability, not maintenance issues, is sure to be the main concern of Olympians competing for golf gold this summer. Reviews so far have been overwhelmingly positive.

Victoria Lovelady, Brazil's top-ranked female golfer, who was quoted on Olympic.org, said, "The course is perfect, it's challenging and offers beautiful views, close to the sea and surrounded by mountains."

A December 2015 article written by Iain Carter, Britain's BBC golf correspondent, called the course "pristine." Interviewed in the article, Great Britain's Team Leader Jamie Spence, a veteran of more than 400 European Tour events, had recently traveled to Rio to see the Olympic Golf Course. "It's a great design and it's in really good condition with plenty of grass on it," he told BBC Sport. "It's really, really interesting and the bunkers are well placed. I went there expecting a four out of 10 ... and I came away thinking 'this is a really good eight and a half, nine'."

"It looks spectacular," said Kelly Tilghman, host of Golf Central on the Golf Channel.

PGA Tour Player Jimmy Walker plays on Zeon Zoysia frequently as a member at Cordillera Ranch in Texas. "Zeon Zoysia is a world-class playing surface that provides superior lies, excellent feedback on ball-striking, and excels in stressful conditions brought on by extreme drought and heat," Walker said in an interview with PGATour.com. "The Olympic Committee made an excellent decision to use it in Rio and the players are going to love it."

The grass was grown by licensed Zeon Zoysia sod producer Marcelo Matte of Green Brass Brasil, and the course was grown-in by Superintendent Neil Cleverly.

TIGER WOODS SELECTS ZOYSIA for his 1st U.S. Course Design

This year, Tiger Woods extends his imprint on the game of golf, now as an architect with his first project on U.S. soil at Bluejack National, located just north of Houston. "This is going to be my first golf course in the United States," Tiger said in an interview last year. "I've played all around the world, seen a lot of different golf courses, played on a lot of different grasses."

TIGER COULD HAVE SELECTED ANY GRASS FOR BLUEJACK NATIONAL. HE CHOSE ZOYSIA.

The fairways at Bluejack National's 18-hole championship course are grassed with Zeon Zoysia. Tees and green surrounds are L1F Zoysia. Bluejack National also features a 10-hole short course dubbed 'The Playground' that is 100% zoysia—with L1F fairways, and a new zoysiagrass variety called M85 on the greens.

Eric Bauer, CGCS, director of agronomy at Bluejack National, said he's a big fan of the environmental benefits of the grass. "Obviously less N input is the number one thing that comes to mind. It uses less water, we're seeing good resistance to weeds because of the year-round density, and we're seeing excellent resistance to certain insects you'd typically find on bermudagrass. Sod web worms, army worms and mole crickets ... for some reason those insects don't seem to care for it as much as they do bermudagrass," Bauer said.

Bauer also said the shade tolerance of zoysiagrass was a main reason why it was chosen for every surface of The Playground short course. "The developer wanted a park-like feel, an abundance of trees. Bermudagrass is known to have a difficult time growing in heavily shaded areas," he said.

In the first decade of his career, Bauer managed bermudagrass. For the past nine years, first at The Club at Carlton Woods, also near Houston, and now at Bluejack National, he's managed zoysia. Given the choice, Bauer said, "I would definitely select zoysiagrass. From the standpoint of the esthetics, the playability, the presentation, all of the environmental factors, without a doubt zoysia would always be my first choice."

Seven holes at Bluejack National opened for play in November with former President George W. Bush as one of the first to swing a club on the turf. A grand opening of all 18-holes and The Playground is scheduled for April.



TIGER WOODS & THE DEVELOPERS
OF BLUEJACK NATIONAL



ERIC BAUER

TRINITY FOREST GOLF CLUB: New Home of the AT&T Byron Nelson



BILL COORE & BEN CRENSHAW



KASEY KAUFF

Currently under construction in Dallas, Trinity Forest Golf Club was designed by Bill Coore and PGA Tour Legend Ben Crenshaw as an 18-hole championship course suited to host tour-level events. Slated to open in October 2016, Trinity Forest becomes the new home of the AT&T Byron Nelson PGA golf tournament in 2018.

When selecting a grass for Trinity Forest, Coore said (in an article in the January 2015 issue of *Golf Course Management*), he and Crenshaw 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." Ken Mangum, CGCS, who consulted on the project, recommended L1F Zoysia. With L1F Zoysia on every surface except greens, the course features a "no rough" design that takes the L1F from .300-inch on tees and fairways down to .200-inch on collars. The driving range at Trinity Forest also utilizes zoysiagrass with Zeon Zoysia on the target greens and driving range fairway, with L1F on the driving range tees.

Kasey Kauff, who serves as director of grounds at Trinity Forest, managed zoysia for five years as a superintendent at Atlanta Athletic Club Highlands Course. Still, he had little experience with sprigging zoysiagrass as was done on some sections of Trinity Forest. "I'm surprised by how quickly it's grown in," Kauff said.

Even though the Dallas area received a record 70-inches of rain during the grow-in last year, (the average is about 33-inches) Kauff said disease pressure on the zoysia has been minimal. "With how wet it was, normally with this kind of rainfall I would expect a lot of large patch disease. We saw some but it really wasn't bad, not as much as I expected it to be," Kauff said.

He admits to being a big fan of zoysia for golf.

"A standard bermudagrass golf course is kind of bland. You look at it and think it looks like every other golf course. When you play on zoysiagrass you get something different. You have that versatility and you get, what we used to say in Atlanta is a Wow factor, that you don't get with those bermudagrasses. With zoysia you get the beautiful color, the awesome playability, you get the firmness, the texture of the grass. It's just completely different than what you get on a typical bermudagrass golf course," Kauff said. "With the versatility of this grass, I can cut it a half-inch all the way down to greens height with this turf and manage to a member or for tournament play. I think it's going to be a game changer in the south."

The Golf Club of Texas: The 1st 100% Zoysia Course from Tee to Green

When Director of Club Operations for Outlaw Golf Ruffin Moore developed his maintenance budget for the 2016 season at The Golf Club of Texas in San Antonio—which will be the club's first spring season after reopening in late August of 2015 after an extensive renovation from bermudagrass to zoysiagrass—he, along with Superintendent John Barrios, shaved \$100,000 off of original budgeting projections.

"Mowing frequency on fairways is twice a week. Our projected fertilizer and chemical budget was less than I originally had budgeted, based on my history in the golf business with bermudagrass. In short, we'll save on mowing frequency, water, chemicals and fertilizer. We'll use less of everything," Moore said.

It's not just good management that's making the savings possible. It's the zoysiagrass planted on the golf course. At The Golf Club of Texas, zoysiagrass is utilized on every single surface. Greens are L1F Zoysia. Fairways and roughs are JaMur Zoysia. Tees and green surrounds are Zeon Zoysia. The facility is thought to be the very first in the world to be 100% zoysiagrass.

Zoysia is known to require less N for fertilization and less water for irrigation. The turf's dense canopy tends to choke out weeds, reducing the need for herbicide. Yet, with all of these savings, playability doesn't suffer. Instead, it excels.



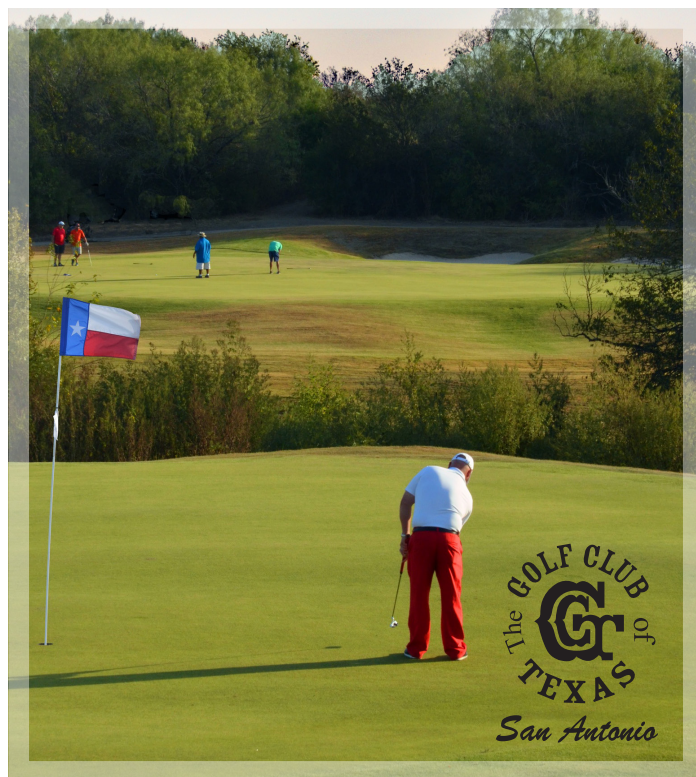
RUFFIN MOORE

"Zoysia is the best playing surface you 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," said Austin-based golf course architect Roy Bechtol, who designed the original course at The Golf Club of Texas and also oversaw its renovation. "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," Bechtol added. "It allowed me to vary the fairway lines and meander where the grass went, which helps with the overall look and the edges of the course."

Players seem to be in agreement. The course opened August 28th, and by the end of 2015, The Golf Club of Texas had sold more than 800 memberships and player passes. "My projection was to get to 1,000 by the end of 2016. We'll easily surpass that by the end of the first quarter of 2016," Moore said.

"The job is a lot easier when you know your product is good. It makes all the difference in the world. I tell people when they get here that they're about to play the best surface there is," Moore said. "They go play and come back into the clubhouse telling me that they agree."



"The job is a lot easier when you know your product is good. It makes all the difference in the world."

In Other Zoysia News ...

2016 is indeed the year of Zoysia. As the Olympic Golf Course, Bluejack National, Trinity Forest and The Golf Club of Texas all grab headlines, other courses around the country choose zoysia, too.

At The Golf Club of Georgia in Alpharetta, plans are underway to convert all 18 fairways at the Lakeside Course next year from bermudagrass to zoysia, said Sam Welch, director of agronomy. Already, tees at The Golf Club of Georgia are zoysia, and the No. 2 fairway at the course was converted to Zeon Zoysia last year. Sister club Horseshoe Bend in Roswell, Georgia, has zoysia on all tee tops. Welch manages the maintenance on both courses. "Our best surfaces on a consistent basis are our zoysia tees, other than greens because they are so intensively managed," Welch said. "We deal with shade, full sun and a lot of traffic on the tees. No matter what, our tees are our best grass on the golf course at either club."

In Miami Beach, Florida, Golf Course Superintendent Joe Pantaleo, MS, is testing zoysia on several surfaces of Indian Creek Golf Club in preparation for a new driving range to be designed by Olympic Golf Course architect Gil Hanse. The historic course, originally built in 1927, was planted over the years with a number of different bermudagrasses, resulting in contamination. Pantaleo said the goal of testing L1F Zoysia, Zeon Zoysia and other grasses "is to have a grass that we can control bermudagrass in. Obviously, we sold the greens committee and the board on the reduction in fertilizers, the water savings and the playability" of zoysia for the driving range project. "Right now," Pantaleo said, "it's a research playground, if you will."

At the University of Texas Golf Club in Austin, L1F Zoysia is currently planted on the Academy Deck tee where the collegiate players practice, and on the No. 7 tee of the private course, "primarily as showcase tees" said Tyler Andersen, golf course superintendent. Andersen said the club is in a "two-year development phase" looking at replacing more tees with zoysia. They are also in long-range planning for a short course that could be grassed wall-to-wall with zoysia, although it's not been fully approved yet. Andersen, who managed zoysia for nearly eight years at Atlanta Athletic Club in Georgia, said zoysia is a good fit for the Texas hill country. "It loves the extreme heat and it does so well in cooler temperatures. You don't see the sloughing off you see with bermudagrass. You see less divot damage because of how dense the structures are under the soil." His intention is to have a whole lot more zoysia at the University of Texas Golf Club within the next five years. "When people walk out on zoysia, and play on zoysia for the first time, they don't think it's real," Andersen said. "It's that good."



Horseshoe Bend CC



GOLF CLUB



TEAM ZOYSIA™
GAME CHANGER

Want to learn more about Team Zoysia?

Team Zoysia™ is here to help. Our team members, consultants and zoysiagrass experts can assist you in all aspects of grassing your golf course with zoysia. We are specialists in planning, certification, grassing, construction and maintenance of your zoysiagrass golf course. Join the team. Team Zoysia!

Contact Team Zoysia Today!

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Team Zoysia 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 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.

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TurfMaker®
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RAIN BIRD

BERNHARD