Developing New Turfgrasses at the University of Georgia

72nd Annual Southeastern Turfgrass Conference

UGA Tifton Campus
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Support


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benefit
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factors
achieve
agendas
important
Impact

Centipedegrass Breeding

Centipedegrass Cultivars

- Common
- ‘Oklawn’
- ‘TifBlair’
- ‘Centennial’
- ‘TennTurf”

Released from UGA-USDA-ARS in 1997

Centipedegrass

Eremochloa ophiuroides

- Stoloniferous
- Coarse texture
- Medium green
- Diploid (2n = 18)

- Low maintenance requirements
- Grows well in poor soils
- Few serious pest problems

Centipedegrass

Eremochloa ophiuroides

- Stoloniferous
- Coarse texture
- Medium green
- Diploid (2n = 18)

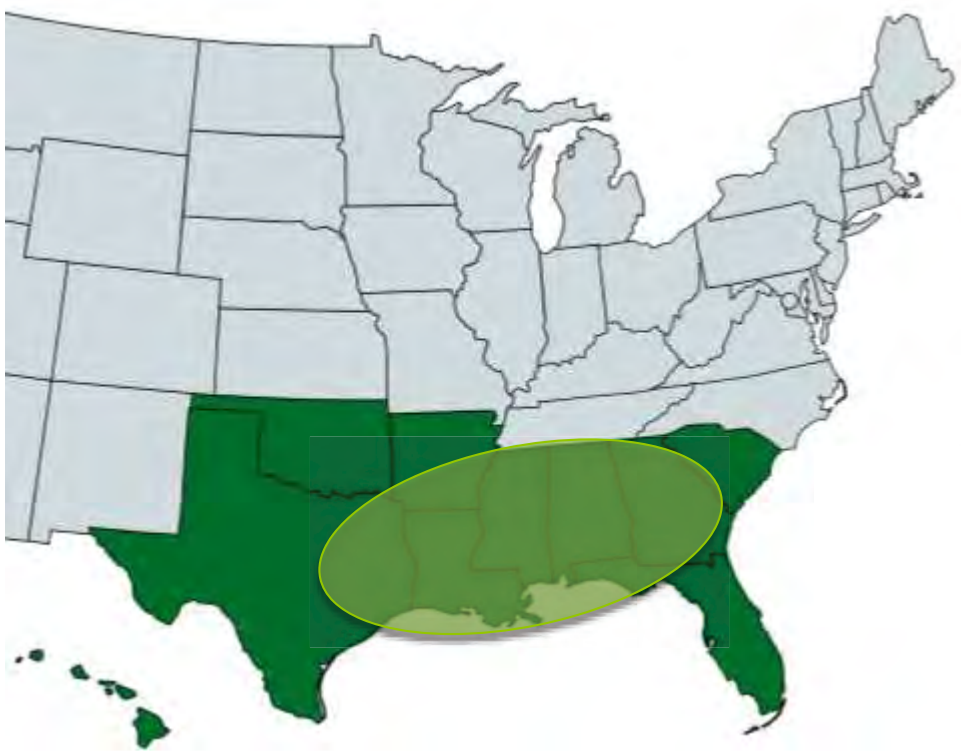
- Susceptible to winter kill
- Sensitive to alkaline soils
- Little genetic variation

Centipedegrass –Center of Origin

Center of Origin –Southeast China and Taiwan

- Frank N. Meyer – USDA Agricultural Explorer

Centipedegrass in U.S.



- Grows well in sandy and acidic soils of the Southeast
- Expansion is limited due to severe iron deficiencies it develops in alkaline soils

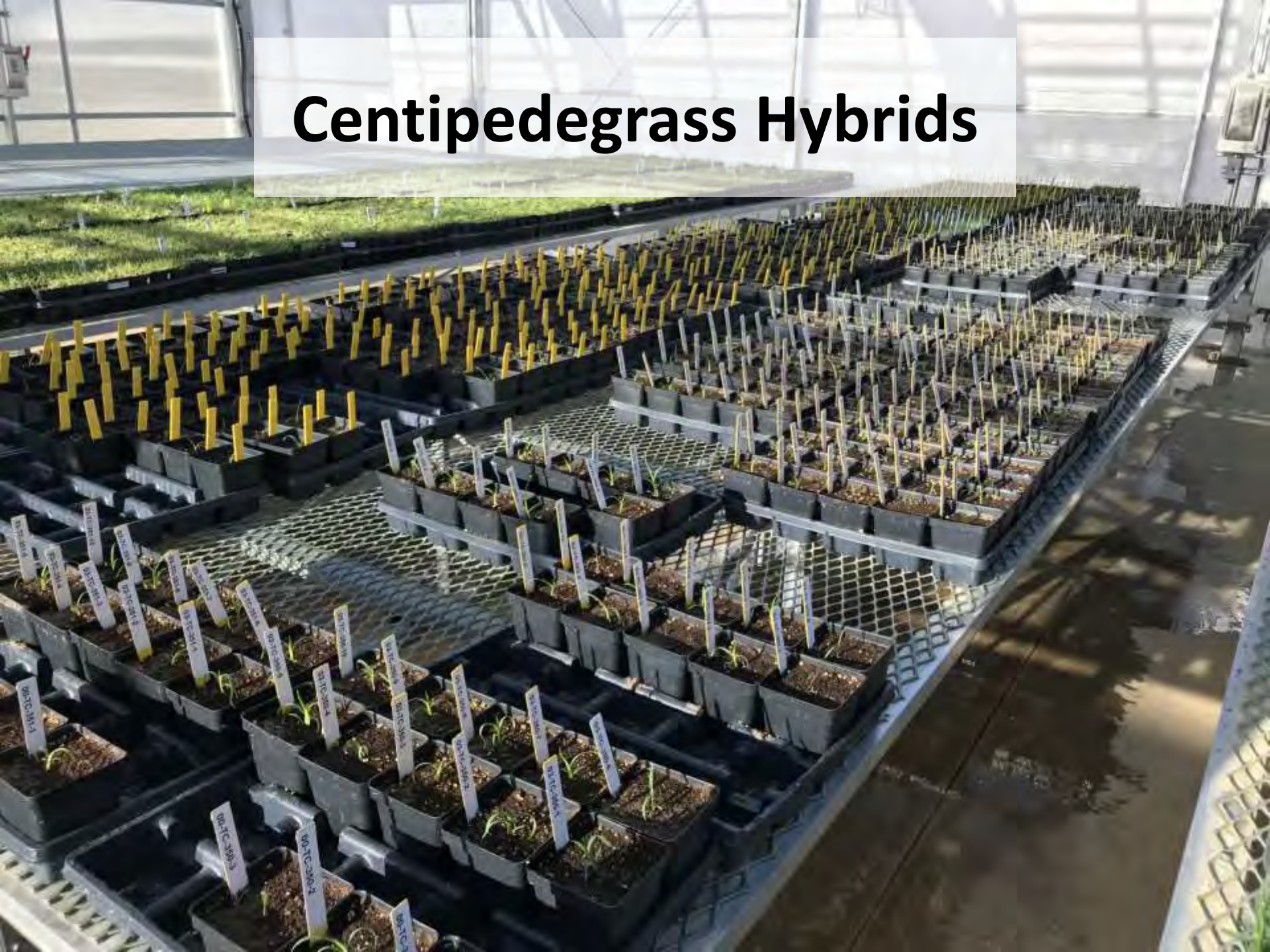
Centipedegrass –Research Objectives

In general, centipedegrass does not appear to have a large amount morphological variation. However, if individual plants are space-planted, one can observe some variation for internode length as well as leaf characteristics (Hanna and Liu, 2003)

Centipedegrass – Field Plan

Centipedegrass –Results

Centipedegrass Hybrids




GRASS

Centipedegrass Breeding

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Centipedegrass Breeding

St. Peter, IL

Centipedegrass Breeding

St. Peter, IL

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St. Peter, IL

Improving Putting Greens

Changing Times in Ultradwarf Bermudagrass Putting Green Management

At a growing number of courses, consistent and fast putting speeds are being provided at a higher height of cut.

BY TODD LOWE

Golf course superintendents are tasked with providing good playing conditions. For putting greens, "good" playing conditions generally correlates to desired putting speed, smoothness, and firmness, with speed being especially important for some golfers. Putting speed has increased significantly over the years and is continually trending upward.

There are a variety of techniques and tools for increasing putting speed, but the most common has been to simply decrease mowing height. Over the past several decades, equipment manufacturers have improved technology to produce sophisticated mowers that can cut at less than 0.1 inch. Likewise, turf breeders have developed varieties that can tolerate lower heights

Low mowing can create fast putting speeds but can be detrimental to turf health.

Putting Green Trial – September 2017

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Putting Green Trial – December 2017

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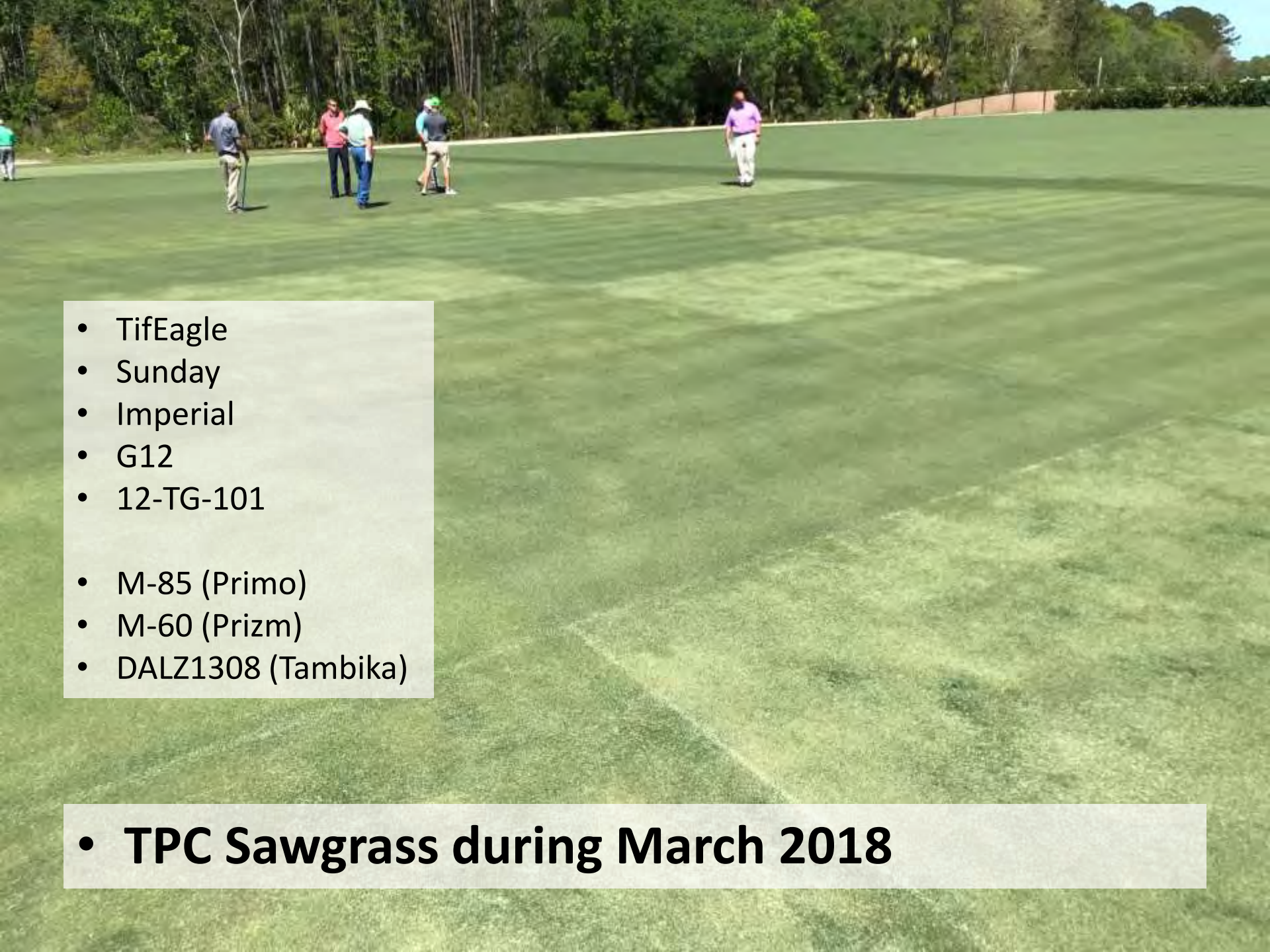

- TifEagle
- Sunday
- Imperial
- G12
- 12-TG-101

- M-85 (Primo)
- M-60 (Prizm)
- DALZ1308 (Tambika)

- **TPC Sawgrass during March 2018**