

Turf Report

**Torrey Pines
Golf Course
La Jolla, California**

**Lake San Marcos
Resort and
Country Club
San Diego, California**

Golf Course Superintendents

*Candice Combs
Torrey Pines Golf Course*

*Randy Hopton
Lake San Marcos Resort and
Country Club*

Golf Course Architect

*Landscapes Unlimited
Lincoln, Nebraska*

Turf Supplier and Installation Contractor

*West Coast Turf
Palm Desert, California*



Desperate Times Met With Successful Measures

With time running short and its South Course bunkers and fairways already stripped bare in anticipation of sod that couldn't be delivered, officials from Torrey Pines Golf Course needed a quick solution in order to get its course back into play and its turf established in time to host the U.S. Open in 2008. Rising to the challenge was Palm Desert, California, sod producer West Coast Turf.

To Host U.S. Open, Torrey Pines Must Replace and Reconstruct

When they designated Torrey Pines as the host of the 2008 U.S. Open in 2001, the United States Golf Association (USGA) and the Professional Golf Association (PGA) Tour asked that several changes be made to Torrey Pines' South Course, which is a municipally owned course nestled atop the cliffs along the Southern California coastline in La Jolla, California. To comply with the changes, Candice Combs, golf course superintendent at Torrey Pines, worked with

Landscapes Unlimited, a golf course construction firm based in Lincoln, Nebraska. Among the changes made were the conversion of two relatively short par-five fairways into lengthy par fours and the reconstruction of several fairway bunkers.

The USGA and PGA Tour also requested that the bermudagrass on the bunkers, approaches and fairways be replaced with kikuyugrass in an effort to make the already-predominant kikuyugrass turf consistent throughout the course. Combs said the USGA and PGA envisioned tough roughs for the tournament players and bermudagrass didn't lend itself to the height that's needed for this type of challenge.

"For the players, you want that consistency," said Combs. "You want everything to be approximately the same height and skill level to play out of. Kikuyugrass is actually a harder grass to play on. Of course, that may be why the USGA and PGA wanted to use it for the Open."



West Coast Turf removes kikuyugrass from Lake San Marcos' golf course and will install it on Torrey Pines course in preparation for the 2008 U.S. Open.

TifSport at a Glance

Uses

Used on fairways, roughs, sports fields, and commercial and residential lawns

Color

Dark emerald green

Texture

Fine

Performance

With greater density than Tifway, TifSport has good lateral growth and excellent traffic tolerance. TifSport's impressive root system can also be counted on for superior sod strength.

Disease Resistance

Excellent

Mowing Height

¼" to 1"

Cold Tolerance

Moderate

Heat Tolerance

Excellent

Drought Tolerance

Excellent

Shade Tolerance

Not shade tolerant

USDA Zones

7 through 11



An Unusual Solution for an Unusual Situation

With the remodeling nearing completion and the golf course contractor needing sod, an unexpected problem arose. The sod, which was to be custom grown by a San Diego distributor, couldn't be harvested on time because of its lack of growth and establishment during a colder than normal winter. There was a remedy to the situation, however, and it involved a nearby golf course, Lake San Marcos, and West Coast Turf.

With the bermudagrass already removed and no kikuyugrass to install, Combs needed a solution—and fast. Combs recalled a conversation she had had in July 2005 with Randy Hopton, golf course superintendent at Lake San Marcos Country Club, who was interested in removing his kikuyugrass and replacing it with a bermudagrass. When Combs realized that her sod couldn't be delivered, she called on Hopton in early April 2006 to see if he would be interested in having his unwanted kikuyugrass stripped and replaced with bermudagrass, which Torrey Pines would assist him in purchasing at a significantly reduced rate from a local sod farm. Needless to say, Hopton was extremely interested. With Lake San Marcos on board, Combs and Landscapes Unlimited then called upon John Marman, regional sales manager for West Coast Turf, to see if this was a project they'd be willing to undertake. Marman and West Coast Turf welcomed the challenge.

West Coast Turf Meets the Challenge

Given only one week to finish the project, West Coast Turf worked around the clock. West Coast Turf crews stripped four acres of Lake San Marcos' kikuyugrass into big rolls delivered and installed them at Torrey Pines. West Coast Turf then harvested four

acres of its TifSport hybrid bermudagrass from one of its nearby sod farms and delivered the TifSport to Lake San Marcos' course. The installation was complete on May 5, 2006.

“We're the one company that will act on a project like this and our customers know that. We're able to help and work with them no matter what the challenges are.”

John Marman,
Regional Sales Manager
West Coast Turf

“The situation was fixed very quickly,” said Combs. “We're very happy. The big rolls of sod went down smoothly and the installation was fast. The sod from Lake San Marcos is looking really good. It likes it here.”

Marman said these are the types of projects at which West Coast Turf excels.

“I guess you could say it was a win-win-win situation for all parties involved,” said Marman. “Landscapes Unlimited was thrilled to finish the job on time, Torrey Pines now has wall-to-wall kikuyugrass on the South Course and Lake San Marcos received the hybrid bermudagrass fairways it desired without having to pay costly disposal fees.”

“This project came about because of the golf course superintendents thinking ‘outside the box,’” Marman continued. “We're the one company that will act on a project like this and our customers know that. We're able to help and work with them no matter what the challenges are.”



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