

Turf Report

Querencia, Los Cabos, Mexico

Owner/Site Developer

Gaylord Family
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Golf Course Architect

Fazio Golf Course Designers
Hendersonville, North Carolina and
Scottsdale, Arizona

General Contractor

Wadsworth Golf Construction
Buckeye, Arizona

Director of Golf Course

Operations
Jim Key, CGCS
Los Cabos, Mexico

Turf Supplier and Installation Contractor

West Coast Turf
Palm Desert, California



Bull's-Eye Bermuda Aces World-Class Golf Course

While Fazio Golf Course Designers were planning their new 18-hole championship course in Baja California, they established tough criteria for the turfgrass. For practical purposes, they wanted one high-performing grass for both the fairways and roughs, yet they wanted outstanding beauty as well. That's why West Coast Turf's distinctive new Bull's-Eye Bermuda was chosen for the 60-acre installation. With its dark blue-green color, great playability and performance, Bull's-Eye would do the job of two grasses—and match the criteria to a tee.

Unique Course Calls for Unique Turfgrass

Named Querencia, the Fazio-designed golf course is located in the uniquely beautiful region of Los Cabos, at the tip of Baja. It's a desert setting but with sweeping views of the Sea of Cortez, high ridges and steep ravines. Within this dramatic topography, Fazio would create an exciting world-class course, routing golf into the ravines, across arroyos and along the tops and bottoms of cliff faces.

"It's a fabulous course with beautiful views from everywhere," said Jim Key, CGCS, director of golf course operations. "You couldn't find a better setting for a golf course."

Fazio's two objectives for the course were high aesthetics and high playability for all levels of players. When it came to the grass, the designers needed it to deliver exceptional color year-round, good drought resistance, much contrast between the fairways and roughs, and thick bunkerups for shadows and interest. For an extremely playable course, the designers chose to use just one grass for the fairways and roughs, thereby allowing easy changes to the fairway lines. By simply mowing the grass at different heights and patterns, the course could be made to better suit players or to meet tournament standards.



From their Palm Desert facility, West Coast Turf grew, harvested, shipped and installed 60 acres of a new hybrid bermuda called Bull's-Eye for Querencia golf course. Querencia needed a grass that could be sodded wall-to-wall and one that would provide great beauty and high contrast between fairways and roughs. Bull's-Eye's good looks and great performance were the perfect combination for this world-class Tom Fazio course.

Bull's-Eye Bermuda at a Glance

Scientific Name

Cynodon dactylon MSB-30

Trade Name

Bull's-Eye Bermuda

Uses

Sports fields, commercial and residential lawns, golf course fairways and roughs, parks and housing developments.

Color

Dark blue-green

Mowing Height

3/8" — 1-1/2"

Growth Habit

Compact, dense

Seedheads

Few to none

Leaves

Medium width, slightly coarse

Nitrogen Fertilizer Requirement

Low

Shade Tolerance

Improved

Cushion

Excellent

Resistance to Scalping

Excellent

Durability

Excellent

Disease Resistance

Very good to excellent

Planting Season

All (in most areas)



Bull's-Eye Bermuda's dark blue-green color strikes a dramatic contrast against the Sonoran Desert.

"This design has given us a lot of flexibility," said Key. "We're looking forward to golfer input and being able to meet it by making needed changes."

Thus began a search for one grass that could deliver performance and beauty—even if it meant turning to a grower more than 1,200 miles away. In June of '99, only six months before an installation needed to begin, Querencia's owners contacted West Coast Turf.

"We already had 60 acres of a unique new bermudagrass cultivar called Bull's-Eye, which we knew would meet all their criteria," said Jeff Cole, vice president of sales for West Coast Turf. "Also, we knew we could meet their deadline despite the long distance. So, we invited them to our Palm Desert facility for a look."

Bull's-Eye Bermuda has all the Shots

Introduced by West Coast in 1999, Bull's-Eye has a deeper blue-green color, unusually dense growth, no seed heads and better shade tolerance than other bermudas. Its tightly packed leaves near the soil surface not only lead to excellent durability and a resilient carpet-like cushion, but also make the grass highly resistant to scalping and create an excellent lie for great club-to-ball contact. Bull's-Eye also looks and performs well at a range of mowing heights, from as low as 3/8 inch to as much as 1-1/2 inches.

During his visit to the facility, Querencia's golf course superintendent at the time, Jeff Wallace, CGCS, was amazed. "The phenomenal color of Bull's-Eye is about six shades greener than other bermudas," he said. "It jumps out at you when you see it next to other grasses. Plus, it's got a thick canopy and dense, green lateral growth all the way down to the soil. The owners loved the way the ball sat up high on the blades."

It was decided to solid sod the course's fairways and roughs with Bull's-Eye. Compared to stolonizing, sod would give an immediate effect and help with erosion control.

West Coast Turf Delivers 60 Acres of Sod Across 1,200 Miles

To meet the tight deadline, West Coast Turf ran a round-the-clock operation, its expert crews harvesting, shipping and laying 1-1/2 acres of sod—or 500 rolls—per working day. The sod was harvested and cut into wide strips to create "big rolls" for fast installation at the site, and it was washed of all soil for light transport. Greens were sprigged with high-performance TifEagle and tees were sodded with Tifway 328.

"West Coast Turf did a phenomenal job of growing, delivering and installing," said Key.

Three months and 136 truckloads later, the wall-to-wall installation was complete. It would grow in quickly through the summer, with even the washed sod on bunker faces and slopes rooting quickly. Mowed daily, the fairways are kept at 3/8" and the roughs at 1-3/4".

"TifEagle should be a 9-1/2 to 10 on the Stimpmeter and Bull's-Eye is looking great," said Key. "We're getting the textural contrast the designers wanted between the fairways and roughs. And what really makes an impact is the dark green grass contrasting against the surrounding desert. It's quite pleasing. I think Bull's-Eye will be a big success."

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