



The Atlanta Athletic Club, which converted one of its two courses to Zeon Zoysia in 2004, was the first total Zeon renovation in the southeastern U.S. Ken Mangum, the Club's director of golf courses and grounds, provided input on Zeon to the coordinators of the 2016 Rio Games. Photo: The Turfgrass Group, Inc.

selected a blend that has tendencies for quick repair and better wear tolerance. It includes varieties like Thermal Blue, SPF 30, Hampton and other bluegrasses. In the future, we'll be adding Fullback, which has excellent wear tolerance; and Jumpstart, a variety that has demonstrated germination in 7-10 days."

J. R. Simplot Acquires Seed Production Operation

The J. R. Simplot Company has acquired the production and seed conditioning facility of Scootney Springs Seed, Othello, WA. The facility includes warehouse and seed conditioning operations, and will be part of Jacklin Seed, a subsidiary of Simplot.

Over the next three years, this purchase will result in closing the existing Jacklin Seed facility in Post Falls, ID, enabling the production operations to be closer to Jacklin's main production areas in Washington.

There will be a transition phase in moving the operations from one location to another, and bluegrass seed grown in Idaho and Oregon will be brought to the Othello location for conditioning. When the Post Falls site closes, Jacklin Seed plans to open an office in the Spokane area for sales, research and development. Only the production operations of Jacklin Seed will move to the Othello plant, joining other Simplot operations already in the Columbia basin area of central Washington.

Panel Addresses

Water Issues in Sport Turf

Turfgrass, environmental and water conservation experts met at Michigan State University in January for *Intelligent Use of Water Summit XIII: "Play on! Water Issues in Today's Sport Turf Environment,"* a program presented by Rain Bird and the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation (MTF). The summit featured presentations and a series of panel discussions on water quality, turfgrass science, irrigation design and sports/turf

Olympics Chooses Zeon Zoysia

The 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro has selected *Zeon Zoysia* to be the grass for the fairways, roughs and tees of the new golf course built especially for the Games. The news was confirmed at the Golf

Industry Show in San Diego by Frank Rossi, associate professor in the Department of Horticulture, Cornell University, a consulting agronomist on

the project. "Everything approaching the greens, 88 percent of the grassed area, will be Zeon Zoysia," Rossi said.

"As it marks the return of golf to the Olympic Games after a century of absence, this course represents the beginning of a new chapter in the history of the sport. It will enable Rio to host important events in the international calendar and will be an example of sustainability and preservation of an environmentally protected area," said Carlos Arthur Nuzman, president of the Rio Games.

"Zeon Zoysia is very environmentally friendly. It needs very little water and very low amounts of nitrogen fertilizer, while still looking and playing great," said David Doguet, president, Bladerunner Farms, the company that bred Zeon Zoysia and which owns the world's largest privately-held zoysiagrass breeding facility.

Zeon is licensed by The Turfgrass Group and Doguet Ventures. The grass will be grown in Rio for use on the golf

course by Green Grass Brazil, a licensed sod producer of Zeon Zoysia.

Big Ten Network Features Center for Sports Surface Research

The Big Ten Network show *BTN LiveBIG* recently featured Penn State's Center for Sports Surface Research. To view the segment, please visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=5jDJAACpJQ. The Center is researching ways to increase the resilience of athletic playing surfaces to help reduce the number and severity of head and leg injuries. Visit plantscience.psu.edu/research/centers/ssrc.

High School Wins Sports Field of the Year Award

Landmark Turf and Native Seed congratulates Oregon High School, Oregon, WI, on winning the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) 2012 High School Sports Field of the Year Award. The STMA is made up of turf managers who oversee high school sports fields and professional sports complexes as well as turf researchers, suppliers and other industry professionals.

Ron Novinska, who became Oregon School District's first and only groundskeeper in 2003, said of his facility, "My biggest challenge when I came on board was dealing with compaction issues. Over the years, I've been able to eliminate some of the field use and relieve the accompanying problems."

Novinska uses an 80/20 mix of Landmark Turf and Native Seed *Kentucky Thermal Blue* or *SPF 30* along with other bluegrasses and perennial ryegrass. Wayne Horman, national accounts manager, Landmark, says "We

