



Trial Observations 20/2/08

1 General Information- The trial is progressing well and all varieties of couch are now well established. The couch is being mown three times a week at the height of 1". The irrigation has been reduced to 30% replacement of evapotranspiration (ET). The couch is still providing an excellent consistent surface with good vigour and colour, at this reduced rate of water. The consistent rainfall in Canberra over the last two months has also been very beneficial. The couch was top dressed with sand one week ago to complete establishment and provide a smooth consistent surface.

2 Colour- Conquest couch has a good deep green colour compared to the other varieties being trialled. Due to a reduction in the height of cut the Grand Prix couch was slightly scalped affecting the colour of the surface. The plant is recovering and better colour should be noticeable by next month. The Grand Prix is expected to exhibit a lighter green colour than the other couches in the trial. Both Legend and Santa Anna are showing consistent colour normal to couch in the summer months.



Conquest in the foreground and Grand Prix in the background- NE corner- 22/2/08



Legend Couch in the Foreground and Santa Anna Couch in the background SW corner 22/2/08

3 Density- Conquest couch is showing excellent density with a tight, low habit. Grand Prix also has good density but is showing signs of being prone to quicker thatch build up. Santa Anna and Legend are showing good density and are similar to Conquest in their habit.

4 Other Observations- No pest and disease problems have been evident to date in the trial. Some hand weeding has been conducted and a selective herbicide will be trialled on the couch soon to control Summer grass.