

The University of Florida and the Florida Sod Growers Cooperative Announce the Release of “Captiva” St. Augustinegrass

By Betsy McGill, Executive Director, Florida Sod Growers Cooperative

After several months of negotiations, the Florida Sod Growers Cooperative (FSGC) and the University of Florida / Florida Foundation Seed Producers announced the signing of a market licensing agreement for a new St. Augustinegrass known as NUF-76. The turfgrass, which will be marketed under the trade name “Captiva,” was developed by Dr. Russell Nagata at the UF/IFAS Everglades Research & Education Center in Belle Glade, Florida.

In 2005, the FSGC partnered with the university for a research evaluation project, during which the turfgrass was placed on nineteen cooperating farms in Florida, Georgia and Texas to assess its performance under standard production practices. After review, the university’s Cultivar Release Committee approved the variety’s release in the spring of 2007. The FSGC entered into negotiations for a licensing

agreement late last summer and concluded the negotiations successfully in December. Further negotiations are underway with Sod Solutions, Inc. to market the turf and provide administrative and technical assistance.

Captiva officially debuted at the FSGC annual meeting in Orlando in January and was featured at the Turfgrass Producers International Midwinter Conference trade show in Orlando in early February.

The turfgrass has exhibited excellent resistance to the southern chinch bug and good shade tolerance, but perhaps its most appealing characteristics may be its ability to maintain a deeper green color with fewer inputs and its dwarf-like growth habits, which mean less frequent mowing and a lush, compact appearance. For more information on availability, visit www.floridasodgrowers.com. The turf is expected to be available for purchase by late spring. ☼



Dr. Russell Nagata, UF/IFAS Everglades Research and Education Center (L) and Paul Grose, Manager, King Ranch, one of the Captiva test sites, (R) with Captiva St. Augustine.