Graduated With Honors From Over 25 Prestigious Universities

Why do competitive fertilizers “go to school” on Par Ex® with IBDU® slow release nitrogen? Maybe it’s because IBDU®’s been passing the test at major universities for more than 20 years.

Not just in controlled laboratory experiments. In actual field testing. On all types of turf. Under every conceivable combination of soil and weather conditions.

Par Ex® earns straight As when it comes to performance:

- Steady, continuous feeding to the root zone
- Extra staying power for fewer applications
- Primarily unfazed by temperature, moisture extremes
- Uniform turf growth for reduced mowing, labor costs
- Unmatched for late season applications

To study up on Par Ex®, call us at 1-800-767-2855. We’ll show you how to get an advanced degree of IBDU® slow release nitrogen for your turf.

PAR EX® GIVES YOUR TURF AN ADVANCED DEGREE OF SLOW-RELEASE NITROGEN
Close mowing is a way of life at The Medalist

for the second summer in a row and we all need a break to grow some good turf before fall.

Excessive rainfall was exactly what was challenging Greg on this morning. We hopped in his golf cart and headed for the primary retention area and irrigation lake for the course.

"We are required to contain all of the storm water that falls on the course under the original guidelines of the permit. All of our drain basins are interconnected and pumps deliver all the storm runoff to the retention area," Greg explained.

"Unfortunately, the retention area does not have enough capacity for these severe thunderstorms. We are in the process of redesigning and enlarging the retention lake.

"After the modifications, we are going to be able to direct some of the runoff into a wetlands rehydration system approved by the South Florida Water Management District. Currently, the only option I have to deal with the overflow is to flood the driving range, and that's a no-win solution."

As we rode the course, I was pleasantly surprised at how well it drained. The morning rainfall had percolated quickly except around some of the drain basins which were working slowly because of the capacity shortfall.

"Actually the soil drains so well that we have to really keep an eye out for the large areas of Tifdwarf. I have seen some spots turn blue in a matter of hours on a hot day. It almost reminds me of managing a bentgrass green in the summer," Greg added.

Close mowing is a way of life at The Medalist. With a fleet of twenty hand mowers, sixteen triplexes, and two 5-gang lightweights, the tallest cut is only 1/2 inch, and that is for summer fairways. Those large Tifdwarf approaches we mentioned earlier extend out 10, 20 and 30 yards from the green and create yet...
Agri-Gro of Florida, Inc. introduces **Turf Formula**, “The Natural Solution” for quality Turfgrass maintenance. Florida golf course superintendents are experiencing the following benefits of **Turf Formula**:

1. Increased Soil Microbial Activity
2. Increased Root Mass and Root Penetration
3. Helps Eliminate Algae on Greens
4. Increased Aerobic Bacteria, a Natural Predator to Nematode Eggs
5. Increased Water Penetration and Percolation
6. Aids in the Decomposition of Thatch

**Turf Formula** is a non-toxic and environmentally safe product which contains stabilized micro-organisms from the following genera: *Azotobacter, Bacillus* and *Clostridium*.

**Turf Formula** is a premium soil amendment and bio-catalyst with a four year shelf life.

---

**For information and product availability:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Fax</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GOLF VENTURES</td>
<td>2101 East Edgewood Dr. Lakeland, Florida 33803</td>
<td>1-800-330-8874</td>
<td>(813) 665-5800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(813) 667-0888</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNITED HORTICULTURAL SUPPLY</td>
<td>3632 Queen Palm Dr., Suite 306 Tampa, Florida 33619</td>
<td>1-800-457-0415</td>
<td>(813) 628-0496</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(813) 664-0371</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAN WATERS &amp; ROGERS, INC.</td>
<td>4240 L.B. McLeod Rd. Orlando, Florida 32811</td>
<td>1-800-826-2611</td>
<td>(407) 843-2611</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(407) 649-8433</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIQUID AG SYSTEMS, INC.</td>
<td>5610 N.W. 12th Ave. Suite 211 Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33309</td>
<td>1-800-884-6942</td>
<td>(305) 776-6942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1-305-776-2288</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hole #11. Stacked sod bunker walls are definitely a different look in Florida.

Hole #12. Note the natural accessories on the tee blending with the woods and wetland.

Photo by Daniel Zelazek
Mole crickets. Fireants. Cutworms. Sod webworms. Armyworms. Fleas. Chinch bugs. Wasps. Who knows what they could eventually do to your golf course? Exactly why you should protect all of your greenery with Orthene® Turf, Tree & Ornamental Spray. It's easy. It's economical. It controls the broadest spectrum of tough turf pests. And best of all, it's a heck of a lot better than the alternative. For more information, call 1-800-89-VALENT.

Now in easy-to-use Water Soluble Pouches.

Either Protect Your Turf, Or Enlarge Your Sandtraps.
another management challenge.

At the Tifdwarf and 419 boundary, bio-barrier fabric and an edging slit have been installed to prevent 419 encroachment into the Tifdwarf. The bio-barrier fabric extends ten inches deep and prevents the stolons from growing under the Dwarf. The edging slit allows for mechanical cutting of any surface runners that try to grow over the top. Greg says they run the edger a couple of times a week in the summer when the 419 is most aggressive.

As I mentioned earlier, there are no roughs. The fairway cut stops abruptly at what Greg calls a hard-line edge, which is the look that is desired. The area beyond that is a cleared, natural sandy area which must be kept weed free except for the native grass accents. Right now Greg is experimenting with Round Up, Gallery and Barricade. He says they will do a little more under brushing along the deep woodline before the October 15th opening. He supplements the native pine needles with pine straw to prevent fried egg lies in the sandy areas.

We all live and learn with each project, and The Medalist is no exception. The lesson of proper plant selection was learned. The folks who were hired to salvage and replant indigenous native grasses mixed upland and wetland species. Broom sedges planted on a mound under irrigation grew so much they blocked focal points and altered shot values. Everything is being sorted out and each species is being relocated into its proper habitat.

Back to some of those unique things about The Medalist. Stacked sod wall bunkers. I have read about them. I have seen pictures of them. Now, I have been up close and personal with them. For an old flymow man, Greg is finding managing them a bit of a challenge.

"They have been labor intensive for us," Greg said. "Some of the Dwarf walls dry out and collapse. We have experimented with rebuilding with clay based sod, if you can find it, and putting terra cloth between the layers. That has helped.

"We are also trying Tifgreen 328 for a little more aggressive rooting. Another problem is the stolons and roots that grow out and trail down the face. We're trying to work out a solution. After all, its a different grass type than is normally used in this application."

Speaking of bunkers. The bunker sand is mostly native sand, which packs nice and firm. There's an interesting feature in some of the large bunkers that guard an entire side of a green: a bordered walkway from the cart path to a ramped foot path on the side of the bunker face. It appears to be some 1-by-4s buried on edge defining the walkway. A ball coming to rest in the walkway is dropped in the bunker without penalty.

Greg has a couple of fairways planted in a new bermudagrass called GN-1. So far, it rates it excellent for preventing weed encroachment. Even more interesting is the lack of mole cricket activity compared to same age Tifway 419 fairways. The only problem he has encountered is maintaining color on some areas. It may be a simple case of an iron or manganese deficiency.

Conversely, on the 419, Greg has been battling some fairy ring problems. Potassium applications have helped prevent rampant mushroom development. Monthly soil and tissue samples have not revealed any obvious causes. A Pro Star fungicide application cleaned up a fairy ring outbreak on the greens.

As we finished our ride through the course, Greg showed me the clubhouse site overlooking the eighteenth green.

"The clubhouse should be ready by April first," he explained. "There will also be eight cottages for guests. Right now we are going to have to move some more soil to build the practice green so it will blend into the putting surface of number eighteen. It will be similar to the layout at Oakmont. At the same time we have to build a retention area to collect the runoff from the clubhouse area. So, you can see we have lots to do around here for awhile!"

It was exciting and interesting to see this new course taking shape in the Southeast Florida woods. The vision and dreams, the hopes and expectations of new owners and a new superintendent becoming a reality. A player’s course for people dedicated to golf.
Call UHS for all your fertilizer, seed, and chemical needs. The leaders in environmental services and information.
1-800-457-0415

Tommy Laux
Aquatics — Florida
(813) 660-0201 Mobile

Steve Hatley
Central Florida (Orlando)
(407) 399-5893 Mobile

Gary Morgan
Northeast Florida
(904) 451-0719 Mobile

John Flynn
Florida West Coast (Sarasota)
(813) 483-1487 Mobile

Bill Lund
Southwest Florida (Fort Myers)
(813) 850-0445 Mobile

Roger Welker
Florida East Coast (Fort Pierce)
(407) 285-0724 Mobile

Russ Mitchell
Southeast Florida (West Palm Beach)
(407) 371-2083 Mobile

UHS distributes proven turf and ornamental products from Zeneca.

**REWARD**
- For aquatic and grounds maintenance weed control
- Fast-acting, non-restricted herbicide

**Scimitar**
- Superior turf and ornamental insect control
- Available in WSP or new CS liquid

**CRUSADE**
- Excellent grub and mole cricket control
- 99% dust-free formulation

**FUSILADE**
- Fast-acting: Annual and perennial grasses stop growing within 48 hours of application
- Can be applied over-the-top for economical, trouble-free grass control

CRUSADE®, FUSILADE®, REWARD® and SCIMITAR® are trademarks of a Zeneca Group Company.
Greg Plotner points to the edger slit access that allows management of the 419 Tifdwarf contact zone in front of each green.

**Greg Plotner, CGCS**

Originally from: Lincoln, Illinois


Hobbies/Interests: Fishing, golf.

Professional affiliations/Offices held: Current President of FGCSA. Past President of Florida West Coast Chapter. Past Chairman of Green Industry Advisory Council, Southwest Florida Water Management District.


Memorable moment: Caddying for Arnold Palmer on opening day at Tampa Palms.

Personal philosophy: Work hard, but take time to enjoy life. Sometimes it's hard to do but it must be done.

Introduction to the business: My Grandma Plotner always told me about a cousin of mine who built golf courses for a living. Well, I met that cousin, helped build a course and here I am today at the Medalist Golf Club — proud as can be!

Mentors: The road to success started with my mother and father. They provided me with a good upbringing, a quality education and constant support. Next comes my family. New opportunities sometimes require relocation — Nadene and David have never said no. I love them more than words can say for allowing me to advance my career.

Advice: Get a quality education. Work for a proven superintendent. Develop good relationships with others in the field. Be a leader and act like someone who you would want to work for.
ENVISION THE POSSIBILITIES
Managing clean, hard-line, fairway edges and native soil roughs will be one of many unique challenges on Hole #3.

The Medalist Golf Club

Location: Hobe Sound, Florida
Playing policy: Private
Management: Golf Professional, Buddy Antonopoulis
Designed by: Pete Dye and Greg Norman
Constructed by: Jason McCoy
Opened: January 1995
Acreage: Total turf = 40 acres.
Greens: 1.8 acres, Tifdwarf. HOC = .120 - .150. Average size = 4,350 square feet. No overseeding. Green speed 8.5 or better.
Tees: 2.2 acres, Tifdwarf. HOC = .250 - .375. No overseeding.
Irrigation Source: Effluent, groundwater. Equipment: Rain Bird Maxi 5, Flo-Tronex Variable Speed Pump Station.
Staff: Total of 24, including superintendent. Assistants, Charlie Jones and Howard Hulsebosch.
Unusual conditions: Two types of fairway grass planted, 419 and GN 1. More than 11 acres of Tifdwarf to maintain. Maintain stacked sod wall bunker faces.
Cultural/Pest Control/Fertility programs: Practice IPM. Use organic and slow release fertilizers as much as possible. Monthly soil and tissue sampling.
Wildlife management programs: Limited clearing of native areas. Mitigation underway for created marsh areas. Restoration underway for upland areas.
Water quality management: All storm water and irrigation water must be contained and not allowed to discharge into wetlands at this time. Eventually a new retention system will be in operation for the course which will allow for stormwater and irrigation water to be treated on-site and then used to rehydrate wetland areas.