TOURNAMENT QUALITY GREENS ALL YEAR ‘ROUND.

TORO BIOPRO® BUILDS RESILIENT GREENS EVERY DAY — NOT JUST AT TOURNAMENT TIME.

Did you notice the greens at the Greater Greensboro Chrysler Classic this year? We sure did. In fact, we’re proud to say that BioPro’s powerful line has been a mainstay in Forest Oaks Country Club’s program for stress-resistant, tough greens. So at tournament time, we knew the turf was up to the challenge.

BioPro’s unique blend of premium quality ingredients and organic supplements is what sets Toro BioPro apart from the rest. It’s what we call the BioPro balance, providing essential nutrients for optimum growth while cultivating a stable, fertile, biologically active soil. It’s the perfect base for beautiful greens — tournament time and any time.

But Toro doesn’t stop there. Toro’s diagnostic service allows you to easily monitor your turf’s nutritional needs through our NIRS (Near Infrared Reflectance Spectroscopy) tissue testing formula, now expanded with our exclusive Universal Green Turf Scale.

Start building your tournament-quality greens today.

In Northern Florida, contact: Zaun Equipment Co. at: 1-800-393-8873.
In Southern Florida, contact: Liquid Ag Systems at: 1-800-375-5274.

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Rooted In Research.

Toro Multi-Purpose™ has been put to the test. In a recent university study, this organic soil conditioner, used as a supplement to a standardized N-P-K fertility program, resulted in impressive increases in root mass. Scientists documented increases of more than 27.5% over turf treated with the same nutrient applications without Toro organics.

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Apply Multi-Purpose through fertigation, conventional spray, or tank mix it with N-P-K nutrient blends as an organic supplement to attain these results for your turf. Call your Toro Distributor for details.

To receive a free summary of the thirteen week study on BioPro® products conducted at the University of Minnesota (1996-1997), call Toro at 1-800-448-9011. You'll be glad you did.

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The efficient and environmentally responsible solution.

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FOREWORDS

PRESIDENT’S, VICE-PRESIDENT’S MESSAGES

President Joe Ondo asks superintendents to share their El Nino survival techniques, if they have any. VP Mike Perham questions whether superintendents are being held to an impossibly high standard... and notes the retirement of Dan Jones, CGCS, editor emeritus of the Florida Green.

SPOTLIGHT

GCSSA, FUND-RAISERS, EDUCATION, BOARD MEETING

Florida was well represented at Anaheim; Lake City alumni, Central Florida GCSSA and Valent raised money for scholarship & research; FTGA conducted five regional seminars; FGCSA board strengthens ties to FTGA, creates full-time staff position.

COVER STORY

NAPLES’ FUTURE TODAY!

Kensington Country Club is a new golf course with a young superintendent in his first stint as the top gun. Kensington is going places... the future.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

EMPLOYEES, COMPUTERS

How to develop and nurture your employees — biggest asset; free e-mail service; IFAS releases a CD to ID bugs.

HANDS ON

SPRAY IT ON, BLOW IT OFF

“Wall-to-wall” is a term for carpet salesmen, not spraying of chemicals; Joe Ondo discusses the spray operation at a public course; Brian Lentz at a private facility. Darren Davis’s Super Tip is use and construction of a blow-off station.

INDUSTRY ROUNDUP

COORDINATOR, ALLIANCE, PANHANDLE

Dr. John Cisar is UF’s new turf program coordinator; an architect and a superintendent will lead the Florida Golf Alliance; Dr. Brian Unruh discusses the turf program in the Panhandle, UF’s fourth and newest.

STEWARDSHIP

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

The Village of Golf lives harmoniously with nature; green is not always green; do-it-yourself wildlife calendar boosts morale, raises money for wildlife projects.

RESEARCH

GREEN VS SPEED

There are some statistically significant differences in speed among bermudagrass cultivars, but they’re not very useful because green is the enemy of speed.

AFTERWORDS

EL NINO, POWER, BRIDGES, GOOD & BAD

Dr. Monica Elliott of UF and John Foy of USGA Green Section wrote letters to Florida superintendents and golf courses, explaining why superintendents can’t control El Nino; Rick Tatum says FGCSA, FTGA and GCSAA equal power; Mark Jarrell talks about building bridges; Joel Jackson finds some good in every piece of bad news... or vice versa.

About the use of trade names: The use of trade names in this magazine is solely for the purpose of providing specific information and does not imply endorsement of the products named nor discrimination against similar unnamed products. It is the responsibility of the user to determine that product use is consistent with the directions on the label.

THE FLORIDA GREEN

SPRING 1998
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How's that for application guidelines?
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I hope most employers will have the patience and understanding to let us get through this difficult winter season.

Seems like the weather is still the hot topic of conversation as I write this message on Feb. 20. While some people still think of El Niño as only affecting California and the western U.S. coast, Florida and the entire Southeast is still experiencing its impact on our weather patterns. We have had approximately 24 inches of rain since December on my course and there's no end in sight yet! I know each part of the state has been affected differently, but I hope the GCSAA packets on Southeastern Winter Damage sent to GCSAA members has been of help to many of you.

Those of you who have had good greens this winter, I wish you would share with other superintendents, through the Florida Green, anything special you did that you felt helped you get through this winter.

For those of us — including myself — with bad spots or even a few bad greens, would you also share how you managed your weak greens through this winter? Please share any maintenance practices that seemed to help and any rebuilding or resodding you had to do to fully recover.

I know there will be some job changes. Some of them from these circumstances beyond our control. I hope most employers will have the patience and understanding to let us get through this difficult winter season.

Mother Nature is not kind to us sometimes but we will survive. Hopefully soon in our conversations, we will be able to talk about the winter of 1997-98 in the past tense!

Joe Ondo, CGCS
President
FGCSA
Lester moved to one-size-fits-all fungus control, and he was impressed. It took a case of dollar spot and brown patch to prove my solution was better.

Like many superintendents, Lester Fold was impressed by the claims of a single, wide spectrum fungicide. For a while it worked, although I warned that when conditions changed there could be any number of diseases that only tank mixing would control. Lester didn't buy it.

But then a case of dollar spot and brown patch developed, and the new fungicide was no help. Also, the weather turned wet and, sensing trouble, I recommended a tank mix of ProStar® Fungicide and sterol inhibitors. It worked, preventing disease infestations that had begun to affect other courses in the area. Lester just cracked a smile, and called me a know-it-all. But a few days later a ball that was supposedly hit by a "famous" golfer arrived in the mail. Hmm.
The winter of 1997-1998 will undoubtedly go down in the annals as one of the all-time lousiest for growing grass. The much-proclaimed effects of El Niño has in some way adversely impacted everyone's life. Unfortunately, those of us who grow grass for a living are more severely impacted than most. The worst affected in our ranks will be those who have paid the ultimate price... losing their jobs!

I find it extremely ironic to listen to the general public's willingness to accept higher produce prices in the grocery store due to the effects of our recent weather patterns. On the other hand, the golfing public has no sympathy for the difficulties of producing acceptable playing conditions under the same weather conditions. This belies sound judgment and good reasoning. The vast majority of the comments I have heard revolve around the fact that we are making excuses in an attempt to protect our own positions.

In southern Palm Beach County where I am employed, a group of Green Committee Chairmen met in early February to discuss this very issue. The were addressed by Dr. Monica Elliott, who so eloquently described to them, in layman's terms, the difficulties with growing grass under these conditions. This presentation was arranged by a superintendent, who like many of us needed an "outside authority" to authenticate what we had been relaying to our superiors.

Why then are superintendents losing jobs? With total disregard for the scientific evidence that has been presented from IFAS, the USGA and the GCSAA, some of our brethren are losing their positions at their respective clubs. It is truly unfortunate. I often wonder if our profession is held to that much of a higher standard that any other.

We all hear of corporate downsizing that seems prevalent in today's society. I would dare to venture that we are more the norm than the exception. In no way do I condone this activity, but as highly paid professionals, we must accept the fact that this is the way the business world operates.

I would hope that the GCSAA would come forward with acceptable industry standards for our employers to follow. It was suggested that your state association spearhead this activity. For the time being, we are taking a wait-and-see attitude on this subject.

Fond Farewell

Switching subjects. Along with many members of the FGCSA, I want to offer the best wishes to Dan and Irene Jones as they head into retirement. Dan is retiring this summer after spending 18 years at the Banyan Golf Club. We all owe Dan and Irene a debt of gratitude for their tireless efforts in taking the Florida Green magazine to its place of national prominence that it enjoys today. Dan and Irene, it is our entire association's sincere wish that the Good Lord will look kindly on both of you as you enjoy your retirement years.
You've got Poa on 3.

Summer Patch on 7, 8 and 9.

You may be managing your course one problem at a time.

Crabgrass on 6.

Fire Ants on 8.

Turf Stress on the back 9.

Pythium on 13, 16, 17 and 18.

And a Board Member on the first tee.
At Novartis, we’re committed to continually bring you innovative products. And now we’d like to introduce an entire series of products — the Novartis Total Turf Program.

Finally, all the tools you need to manage your course from tee to green and all season long can be found in one total program.

**Primo.® The ultimate foundation for turf.**

The Novartis Total Turf Program begins with Primo for Pre-Stress Conditioning. That’s because extensive testing has proven that treating with Primo is the best way to prepare a golf course and strengthen turf in advance to cope with extreme conditions such as drought, heat and disease, that make up a typical season.

**Barricade.® Crabgrass control for the entire season, North and South.**

Simply put, Barricade is the longest-lasting and best-performing preemergence herbicide for the control of Crabgrass, Goosegrass and Poa Annua. That’s because Barricade has low solubility and volatility, meaning it stays where you put it in the weed germination zone.

Plus, it won’t stain your golf course.

Finally, a disease management program that lasts all season long.

In a revolutionary water-based microemulsion formulation, new Subdue® MAXX® systemically and effectively combats Pythium and Yellow Tuft. Plus, Banner® MAXX® using the same formulation technology, controls Dollar Spot, Summer Patch and Anthracnose, as well as 15 other turf diseases.

For additional protection against diseases, the Novartis Total Turf Program also includes Sentinel,® for the longest-lasting protection against 14 major turf diseases including Brown Patch and Dollar Spot on fairways.

**We combine even more protection.**

Like Alamo,® a systemic fungicide for the prevention and treatment of Oak Wilt and Dutch Elm Disease.

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