3. Learn about your boss.
Or at least learn more about your boss. Here’s the context: try to learn about the challenges and pressures he/she faces. What tradeoffs are they making on a regular basis? That may help you understand why the restaurant got new drapes and you didn’t get the mower you wanted.

Stand in their shoes. Find out their hot buttons. For some it’s honesty. For some it’s underperformance or civility. It will help you avoid trouble. As a sidebar, try to learn more about the other operations within the club. It’s too easy to keep your blinders on and assume that only the golf course matters. The other things do matter to a certain percentage of club patrons. It puts things in perspective.

Finally, also understand what metrics are being used to evaluate your boss. What factors determine his or her success and how did you help them achieve them?

4. Know your key success factors.
Key Success Factors are those underpinning concepts that determine whether your organization is going to be successful. Here’s a non-golf example: in laptop computing, you can choose several ways to get into the market. Low price/low cost structure vs. Cadillac – higher cost but quality to live up to. You can be successful with either model, but that determines how you’re going to drive your business. You can be like Dell or you can do everything high-brow and beat everyone on quality.

Superintendents need to look at the KSFs for the entire facility. Maintaining members? Attracting new members? Is the golf course really the key? Is it conditions, difficulty, reputation? You have to know. ID them and map them onto your segment of the business. If your KSF is attracting new members, how does your role play into that?

5. Plan!
Build something that lays out what your objectives are over time and build it around those KSFs. This is not a chemical app schedule or a labor schedule; it’s a plan that ties removing trees to customer satisfaction, for example. It needs to be flexible – things change and you should have a contingency. Too many plans are lovely notebooks gathering dust on a shelf and yet people are surprised when it doesn’t work.

Overall, start looking outside of your world. Find lessons from other disciplines and markets. It’s too easy to narrowly focus on areas you’re comfortable with. You know how to grow great grass, but broaden your perspective outside the technical world and course maintenance and think broadly about the rest of your operation. Business history is fraught with examples of ideas that worked in one area but failed overall. The tree was there, but the forest failed.

Reprinted courtesy of Golf Course Industry’s “Strictly Business” E-Newsletter.
Introducing the all-new Greensmaster®
Setting a new standard by which all other

We gave our engineers the ultimate challenge – design the greensmower that will redefine precision cutting. With the new Greensmaster TriFlex, they exceeded all expectations.

**Advanced cutting performance.**

Imagine a rider that cuts with the precision of a walker. All Greensmaster TriFlex models give you superior contour following by combining industry-leading Flex™ technology with a double A-Arm Suspension System that keeps the cutting units floating freely. It prevents step cuts – particularly on the cleanup cut, with a unique “Lift-In-Turn” feature. Hybrid models also help to eliminate unsightly clip marks with an Energy Storage System that delivers instant power when you engage the reels.

toro.com/triflex
TriFlex™ Hybrid Mowers.
riding greensmowers will be measured.

The ultimate in versatility.
The new TriFlex isn’t just the best cutting greensmower, it’s the most versatile.
It has a new Flip-Up Footrest to enable easy access to the center cutting unit.
The exclusive combination of open cutting unit access and Tool-Free, Quick-Change Cutting Units allows you to switch from mowing greens one minute to tees or surrounds the next – with the same tractor!

Time is money.
By raising the bar on productivity, we lowered your total cost of ownership. Each TriFlex rider offers faster travel time between greens. The machine has no daily maintenance requirements.
Fast cutting unit change-out, fluid tank level “windows”, and easy access to routine service areas are just a few features that will help save you time and money.

EnergySmart™
What’s good for your greens is also good for the environment
The Greensmaster TriFlex Hybrid riding mowers are the first “EnergySmart™” labeled products offered by The Toro Company.
EnergySmart is about efficiency balanced with environmental and financial sustainability, a visible sign of Toro’s ongoing commitment to customer-valued innovation.

The right choice.
Experience the future of greensmowers today. To arrange for a demonstration of the new Greensmaster TriFlex mower, call your Toro Distributor at 800-803-8676.
Growing the New Grasses

Central Florida Winter Pines GC
Joe Ondo, CGCS

After sodding our small practice green with SeaDwarf paspalum to test how it performed here in Orlando, the decision was made to convert three greens at a time on our front nine. We set up temporary greens to provide a full 18 holes for our members and customers.

After stripping the sod, we Roto-tilled, shaped, fumigated and sodded the putting surfaces. We installed a 5-foot wide paspalum collar to help discourage the Tifway 419 from encroaching into the green. We edge the paspalum/bermuda interface with a stick edger regularly. It would take an average of six weeks to get the greens in shape to open for play. Then we would start the next three holes.

The greens on the front nine vary in make up, we have some push-up greens that have been amended with sand and some we rebuilt in the past to USGA specs with 90-10 mix. We fertilize monthly with a low N and high K fertilizer and apply a foliar 4-0-0 paspalum mix with minors and Primo. A preventive fungicide program works best as we find the paspalum slow to recover from problem areas. We are still tweaking that program.

Since the greens were all sodded, I think once we do some core aerifying this summer, it will continue to get better. The paspalum certainly did hold its color this past winter and we used black topdressing applied every two weeks for heat retention. The back nine Tifdwarf greens also held up better this winter with the black sand.

I am still learning about this grass by talking to other paspalum superintendents and tweaking our program. I feel it will only get better. If given the choice, I probably would sprig instead of sod next time.

Champion ultradwarf green at the Royal Poinciana Club in Naples. Photo by Joel Jackson.
introducing the game changer in sting nematode control. econem

safe, sustainable, simple and effective. yes, you can have it all.

Sting nematodes are the turf industry's largest unmet pest control need. Econem™ biological nematicide for sting nematode control is the first EPA-registered product that harnesses the power of Pasteuria, a naturally-occurring soil bacteria long recognized as effective against nematodes.

Field trials prove Econem has the power to effectively control sting nematodes. While reducing nematodes, Econem improves turf density and stimulates new root development resulting in green productive turf.

Econem is also environmentally friendly so it doesn’t harm grass, soil or the environment. Get healthy, lush turf along with sustainable course maintenance.

Highly effective, safe and sustainable. For more information, visit pasteurialbio.com or contact your Harrell's representative.

Econem Dramatically Reduced Sting Nematode Counts
2009 Field Trial, Palm Beach Gardens, FL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Apr</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>Jun</th>
<th>Jul</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Untreated</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Econem Treated</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Econem Treated: 2 lb/1000 sq ft, 3 times; 6 lb/1000 sq ft, 1 time

PASTEURIA bioscience

™ Trademarks of Pasteuria Bioscience, Inc. © 2010 Pasteuria Bioscience, Inc.
SPREADRITE, INC.
CUSTOM SPREADING
FERTILIZER • DOLOMITE • GYPSUM
ARAGONITE • HYCAL LIME
FAIRWAY TOP DRESSING

LAMAR SAPP
ART SAPP
6001 S.W. 19th STREET
PLANTATION, FL. 33317

MOBILE: 772-201-4000 (ID 158-81-10962)
954-444-0820

---

Tom Burrows, Consulting
Agronomist/Turfgrass Specialist
Independent Consulting using
“Brookside Laboratory”

Greens Reconstruction
♦ Soil Physical Analysis
♦ USGA Approved Testing
♦ Analytical Service
♦ Recommendations
♦ Specifications for Contractor Bidding

Soil Testing
♦ Greens, tees, Fairways
♦ Analytical Report and Soil
  Fertility Recommendations

Water Testing
♦ Report & Recommendations

In the business 40 years

Jensen Beach, Florida
772-692-1221 cell: 772-215-1819

---

Ragan Technical Solutions provides cost-effective central control maps for Toro and Rain Bird systems.

*GPS DATA COLLECTION
*AERIAL IMAGE INTEGRATION
*LAMINATED FIELD BOOKS
*LAMINATED WALL MAPS

*EXPERT TRAINING
*UPDATES TO EXISTING MAPS
*WATER CONSERVATION
*OVER 200 SATISFIED CUSTOMERS!

dave@ragantechical.com (561) 776-9713

See samples & customer testimonials at www.ragantechical.com

---

THE FLORIDA GREEN
South Florida: Royal Poinciana Club
Matt Taylor, CGCS

When I first arrived we had Tifdwarf. It was good but, with many clubs in the area installing ultradwarfs greens, it was hard to keep up.

We had pretty good dwarf greens with basically the same management as for ultradwarfs with grooming, vertical mowing, topdressing and fertility. We just could not really get much below .156 inches for a long period, so we had to work our tails off to get green speeds of 10.

We had a TifEagle putting green here at Royal Poinciana when I arrived in 2000. It was nice and the members loved it. I had grown Champion at Bonita Bay East for three years previously and I was very comfortable with how it could perform. Not many guys had figured out how to manage it back then. Honestly, in my opinion most greens at that time could not compare to Champion. So we decided to go with Champion at RP and have never looked back. We changed out 18 greens and the putting green the summer of 2000, and the other 18 and practice greens in 2003.

Today in 2011 many guys have figured out all of the varieties and the condition of greens no matter what variety, which are, for the most part, all excellent.

None of them has great color retention when it gets really cold. One type goes off color at 55 degrees and one goes off at 57 degrees. Really?

I think the biggest game changers are fertility and Primo. The fertility programs have changed so much, much lower N rates today maybe half – or less than half – of what we used to apply for dwarf. But the real breakthrough has been guys getting on and staying on Primo programs. The rates are all around 3 - 4 oz./A on a weekly basis. This produces speeds well above 10 with zero stress on the plants. Heights of cut seem to be ranging .110 -.135 inches.

South Florida: The CC of Naples
Bill Davidson

When the ultradwarfs came out, everyone got the fever that “lower is better” since we all were struggling to provide “fast” green speeds. To think that you could mow a grass at .100 inch compared to the standard .140 inch was crazy. So the old philosophy of “if one is good, two are better” kicked in and guys headed for the basement trying to outdo themselves and their buddies. I think now guys are wising up and are instead figuring out how to mow at .110”-.150” and still have speed and healthier turf.

I’ve grown TifEagle and Mini-Verde and I can say that the management of each under my care is essentially the same. The Mini-Verde has the best root system by far. It is not uncommon to have roots 4-5 inches deep far. It is not uncommon to have roots 4-5 inches deep.
in the winter. Right now they are at the bottom of the cup in some spots when not aerated or verticut. The Eagle is a shallower-rooted grass that thrives in the upper bio-mass of the soil profile. My Eagle always seemed to root into that 4-6 inch organic layer in good times and move up into the 2-3" range in the winter.

As far as verticutting and top dressing, I'm sure you've been following the Facebook postings in the "golf group" and there seems to be no right answer. The results are the only things that matter; how you get there is up to the individual grass grower.

Internet: From Gary Grigg's Facebook Group "Golf Maintenance"

Dr. Byan Unruh, Darren Davis and Bill Davidson

Dr. Unruh, Davis and Davidson commented on the question and concerns about using finer sands to top dress the finer-textured ultradwarfs. While Dr. Unruh expressed concern over forming a restrictive layer by using too much fine material, Darren and Bill found that doing regular light dustings with the fine material during the golf season for smoothness is not a problem as long as you are diligent with your more aggressive vertication and aerification programs during spring renovations.
Take the Sting Out of Fire Ant Control.

The new choice for quality and value from Quali-Pro, Fipronil 0.0143G Broadcast insecticide cuts the costs of fire ant and mole cricket control without cutting any corners. Featuring the latest formulation technology, Fipronil Broadcast is powered by the same active ingredient found in TopChoice® insecticide.

Get the same surefire, long-lasting control plus the value you’ve come to expect from Quali-Pro.

To learn more, call Vera Gasparini at 407-920-2463 or visit quali-pro.com.
PHOTOSHOP BEFORE PLANTING

By Andrew Engelbrecht, PGA
Former IPM Manager, Pelican Preserve Golf Club

From Andrew’s April 21st “Watching Grass Grow” blog entry:
In the recent Winter 2011 edition of The Florida Green, Kyle Sweet, CGCS talks about utilizing Photoshop to get an idea of what an area might look like before actually proceeding with a proposed change. I was recently asked to propose an improvement to an area at our facility and I thought I would give this a shot. I am no Photoshop expert, but I do have the program and understand the basics.
The area in question is an extension of a lake shoreline that rises well above the mean high water mark. The only water it ever sees is run-off from the surrounding hillside. The result is an ugly muddy area filled with rocks and weeds. We have to continually string-trim this location to keep it from looking absolutely terrible. It is unknown why the builder would have graded a shoreline like this. In any case, the general manager wants it to look better and I utilized Mr. Sweet’s technique to create the proposal.
I must also credit Darren Davis of Olde Florida Golf Club for providing some advice on what to plant in the area. I went with his recommendation of cordgrass and young cypress trees since the area does fluctuate in moisture. For the actual changes to the image in Photoshop, I photographed the desired species from the same angle and in the same type of lighting (same time of day), so they would blend once I pasted them in. I decided to use some dune sunflower as well, since we have it in other locations on the golf course. I am relatively pleased with the results.

Our superintendent, Tom Skotzke, submitted the proposed design to our GM, who loved the design and they will be moving forward with it. Actually, the head pro thought it was a picture of the completed project and commented how fast we were doing work on the course. We all had a good laugh at that one.
Editor’s Note: Andrew is now an assistant superintendent at the Olde Florida G.C.