Toro aerator a breakthrough

BY MARK LESLIE

The Toro Company has unveiled a revolutionary machine that aerates greens without disturbing the surface and interrupting play.

The Hydroject 3000, which uses high-velocity sprays of water to aerate greens while leaving no telltale cores behind, was introduced in a dramatic exhibition at the 61st International Golf Course Conference and Show in Orlando, Fla., in February. Dana Lann, Toro's head of research, projected late-fall production of the Hydroject 3000 and full availability to golf course superintendents by the summer of 1991.

Dr. Paul Rieke of Michigan State University, who with a graduate student worked on the project with Lann's researchers for three years, said: "The beauty of this (equipment) is that we're able to use it frequently on the putting surface and thus keep soil in good physical condition. "We think this is a versatile tool that the golf course superintendent will be able to use in his program to provide better quality turf and to improve the stress tolerance of that turf."

Toro officials hailed the work of the researchers and the impact the machine is having on the industry.

Hawaii lengthens wait

The Honolulu City Council passed an ordinance in late February requiring courses proposed on farmland to go through the lengthy annual review process.

That means it could take up to two years to get the required zoning change to develop a new course, according to Bob McGraw, an aide to Councilwoman Donna Mercado Kim.

"It would be reasonable to characterize that as lengthy," said McGraw.

Proposed sites designated for resort, preservation or park use don't have to go through the yearly review.

Development has been a major issue on the island of Oahu where residents are concerned about the loss of agricultural land and possible ground water contamination from new courses.

International superintendents share views

BY PETER BLAIS

Growing memberships and the need for more educational opportunities are among the common threads binding national superintendents associations, reported representatives of a dozen such organizations during February's Golf Course Superintendents Association of America conference in Orlando, Fla.

Canada, Australia, Argentina, Italy, England, Sweden, France, Germany, South Africa, Japan and the United States were all represented at an international roundtable moderated by GCSAA Immediate Past President Dennis Lyon and President Gerald Faubel.

All described increasing interest in their organizations as a result of the growth of golf in their home countries.

But in many instances, educational opportunities to increase the professionalism of superintendents are still lagging behind the United States. Many of the foreign representatives said crucial

BY PETER BLAIS

It wasn't so long ago at a course called, well let's make it East Overshoe CC, that an underground storage tank (UST) leaked.

The tank's contents contaminated an underground water supply and required the installation of two purifying wells. It's estimated it will take two to five years to clean the water. The course's cost to rectify the situation — $200,000.


For coverage of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's 61st International Golf Conference and Show, see pages 36-47.

UST coverage

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Continued on page 39

Continued on page 46
International supers

Continued from page 1

representatives appealed to U.S. organizations, like the GCSAA, for guidance.

"Our association is trying to make better superintendents. With your help we should flourish in leaps and bounds," said Doug Robinson of the Australian Golf Course Superintendents Association.

Lyon emphasized the need for international cooperation and offered the GCSAA's help on a worldwide basis.

"We need to work together in promoting our associations and increasing the quality of golf courses throughout the world," said the director of golf for the city of Aurora, Colo. "We can accomplish more together and I think it's appropriate we (GCSAA) take the lead in this area."

"My eyes were opened when I went to Japan in November. There is a real desire for more knowledge there. Most countries are smaller (than the United States) and they need more opportunities to learn about turf."

Following are the national superintendents organizations that participated in the roundtable and a brief summary of their reports.

• GCSAA. The largest superintendents organization in the world has grown to 9,400 members, with more than 1,100 having passed the certification program, including re-certification candidates in South Africa and France.

• International Greenkeepers Association. The German association is 20 years old and two years ago began funding a training program consisting of three, three-week training sessions and an exam. The first German greenkeepers are expected to complete the program in 1991, according to President Claus Detlef Ratjen.

There are 290 courses in Germany and 550 members of the association. Both numbers are expected to increase 15 percent annually through the 1990s.

• Canadian Golf Superintendents Association. Established in 1967, the CGSA has grown to more than 1,200 members. An accreditation program started in 1986 requires 100 points over five years to achieve a Grade A superintendents designation and 250 for a Masters title.

The annual conference Dec. 6-12 is expected to draw participants from throughout the country to the host city of Montreal. Educational seminars have proven very popular and "have been a great asset, especially in the more remote areas," said President Blake Palmer.

• Australian Golf Course Superintendents Association. Many of the national association's 500 members also belong to one of the seven state associations. Many newcomers serve a four-year apprenticeship, then attend a three-year technical education program from which they emerge with a certificate in greenkeeping. The designation allows them to work at facilities for lawn ball, golf, tennis or cricket.

The German association has floundered without direction the past 25 years and suffered from membership apathy. He hopes young superintendents, many of whom are graduating from government-run programs, will help change that.

The association's biennial conference is scheduled for June in Sydney. It draws participants from Japan, Indonesia, Southeast Asia and the rest of the Pacific Basin, as well as Australia.

"It's meager by your standards. But it fits our needs," said Robinson.

• Argentine Golf Association. Founded the same year as the GCSAA (1926), the Argentinian association represents the South American country's 150 golf courses and 35,000 golfers.

"We're a large country with all types of grasses," said Director of Canchas Richard De Udaceta. "Our problem is there are no turf education courses in our universities. We've been mainly an acro country, not a turf country. So the golf association has taken the lead in turf education. We've gotten much cooperation from the United States Golf Association and researchers at Texas A&M.

"Many of our superintendents are old (former) pros. So education is a must. We're very willing to learn."

• Italian Golf Federation. The Italian association was the youngest (3 years old) and smallest (representing 100 courses) at the roundtable.

There are no specific turfgrass programs within the Italian educational system. So the Italian Golf Federation began sponsoring superintendents program three years ago with the help of Dr. James Beard of Texas A&M.

• British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association. Tracing its roots back 80 years to the founding of the British Golf Greenkeepers Association, BIGGA simply plodded along for decades in search of professional recognition, according to Chairman Paddy McCarron.

That recognition finally started to come several years ago with the development of what McCarron called "the three pillars of strength" — education, professional recognition, and administration.

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• Japan Superintendents Association. Continued on page 47

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Continued from page 47
Mike Hoffman, director of commercial marketing, said: "We consider the Hydroject 3000 to be truly a breakthrough type product in that it has the potential to cause a significant change in the way aeration practices are performed by superintendents today. And 'breakthrough,' used literally, in the way this product can penetrate through the turf, and any hardpan area that has developed. The Hydroject 3000 is a tool designed to take the stress not only out of the turf but out of the superintendent.

"The normal greens aeration cycle involves coring, cleanup and, in some cases, verticutting and top-dressing. Greens can take seven to 10 days to heal from this process. "That's not something the greens superintendent can do every month and keep his job," Hoffman said. "It's also not something the turf can take in the high-stress period of the dog days of summer."

"In addition, shutting down the golf course can cost from $2,000 to $25,000 per day depending on what course it is." Hoffman put off a question about the possibility of using the Hydroject 3000 to inject chemicals into the turf, saying he has "concerns" about using chemicals in the machine.

"Aeration and golfers don't mix. Golfers want lush, healthy, smooth putting surfaces. They are not willing to put up with the surface that conventional aeration and top-dressing causes."

"Now there is an answer. A superintendent can treat greens when necessary without con-

tcerns of this conflict. Now aeration and heavy play can both occur on the same day."

Citing a trend toward more-frequent aeration, Hoffman said the Hydroject 3000 can be used more often "to keep the soil loose and productive for healthy new soil throughout the growing season and during high-stress periods."

"Turf can be treated whenever necessary and not just when golfers are timing permit."

Most conventional solid and hollow core aerators penetrate no more than three or four inches. The Hydroject 3000 reaches depths of four to eight inches with a single shot of water. To reach greater depths, the operator can either install larger nozzles, or stop the machine in one spot and let several spurs penetrate. Depths of 30 inches have been reached, Lann said. "It will make a hole in asphalt," he added, answering any question that high-velocity water might have problems penetrating heavy thatch.

"The most important feature is that the turf can be treated without disturbing the surface," he said. "In the past, aeration was generally known as just a spring and fall application. This is when the roots are developing faster and can recuperate from the stress associated with mechanical aeration. This timing also coincides with reduced golf course play, especially in the cool-season market."

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The South Africans have leaned heavily on their expertise on visits by Americans professors who have conducted South Africa Golf Association-sponsored seminars. The GCSAA recently certified the first South African superintendent.

College programs are geared to agriculture, Continued on page 49

Michigan State's Rieke said the more the machine is used, the deeper the holes in the greens will get. After the jets of water aerate the turf, rollers uniformly smooth out the green. The machine has a quick coupler to the course's water supply and uses four gallons per minute across the typical green.

List price of the Hydroject 3000 is $18,000 to $20,000. Its hydrostatic drive means no gears to shift, and it has very few parts to replace. Powered by a 24 HP Onan engine, it travels at 4 mph.

Toro Commercial Division General Manager John Sanfrancisco said the company spent several million dollars to design and engineer the technology into a practical working machine.

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College programs are geared to agriculture, Continued on page 49
Standard Golf catalog goes tee to green

Standard Golf Co. is celebrating 70 years of producing a complete line of golf course accessories with a new 49-page catalog. Standard Golf's 1990 Catalog is a comprehensive resource of product information — from tee to green, clubhouse, practice range and maintenance shed. It includes a variety of new and improved products.

Among the new products featured are the precision-crafted Yankee line of rakes, squeegees and lutes. Standard Golf has been appointed the exclusive supplier of these tools to the U.S. golf course industry. Also featured in the catalog are EZ-Reachers, an expanded and improved selection of practice green flags and markers, and hassle-free PVC hazard markers.

For more information and the names of nearby authorized distributors, write Standard Golf Co., P.O. Box 68, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613; 319-266-2638. Circle No 252

Comprehensive turf-care guide prepared

Proven techniques and products for growing and maintaining healthier, more beautiful turf and ornamental plants are detailed in a new, full-color publication available free from Fermenta ASC Corp., the maker of Daconil 2787 fungicide and other turfcare products.

Each of the first three sections in the 32-page Weed and Disease Control Guide for Turf and Ornamentals provides a chart of strategies for preventing or controlling the principal diseases of turf, ornamental plants and weeds in the United States.

The fourth section describes the need for pre-emergence and post-emergence herbicides to control weeds in newly seeded or established turf areas.

For more information contact Fermenta ASC Corp., 5966 Heisley Road, P.O. Box 8000, Mentor, Ohio 44061-8000. Circle No 251

1990 Masters Journal ready

The 1990 Masters Journal, a commemorative magazine to be sold at the Masters Tournament in April, will be produced by Golf Digest. Cadillac Motor Division, The Travelers Companies and IBM are sponsoring the annual magazine and will distribute it privately as well as in national newsstand distribution.

The magazine will serve as an in-depth guide for spectators and viewers of the April 5-8 telecasts.

Int'l supers

Continued from page 47

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Spoon-feeding explained

Effectively "spoon-feeding" high-traffic or problem areas on golf courses is the subject of a new, four-color brochure from Plant Marvel Laboratories, Inc.

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For a free copy, write to Plant Marvel Laboratories, Inc., 571 E. 10th St., Chicago Heights, Ill. 60411 or call 312-757-7500. Circle No 257

Official Tour guides available

The 1990 PGA Tour and Senior PGA Tour Official Media Guides are now available to the public.

The books contain answers about such professionals as Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, Greg Norman, Curtis Strange and Chi Chi Rodriguez.

Guides can be obtained for the Regular and Senior PGA Tour for a combined price of $16.70 (shipping and handling included, Florida residents need to add $6 percent sales tax). Guides for either the Senior or Regular Tour can be bought separately for $9.45 each (shipping and handling included, Florida residents add 6 percent sales tax). All overseas orders should add $9.70 to each book for postage and handling (Canadian orders add $3.50). Since supplies are limited, the offer expires Sept. 30.

Checks or money orders should be sent to PGA Tour Marketing Dept., 112 TPC Boulevard, Ponte Vedra, Fl. 32082. Circle No. 253

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