**Toro OKs wetting agents in HydroJet**

By HAL PHILLIPS

Good news for all those maintenance crew members who’ve been using wetting agents in their Hydrojects on the sly: The heat’s off.

The Toro Company has approved the use of wetting agents in the Toro Hydroject 3000 water injection aerator. The approval is limited to liquid, soil-wetting agents that can be applied directly through the machine.

Officials at Toro have long been aware that superintendents across the country have been running dispersants through the Hydroject. However, "They won’t admit to it because they would void their warranty," said Ben Street, market manager for Toro’s Commercial Products Division.

In fact, Hydroject owners have raised the issue with Toro since the technology was introduced in 1990.

“They’ve been wanting to do it almost from the beginning, but we’ve never approved it," Street continued. "We’ve always had concerns about what we could run through the Hydroject without damaging the machine."

**Overseeding: Not much fun, but necessary**

By ANNE SCHREIFELS and DR. DOUGLAS HOUSEWORTH

Overseeding turf is like taking medicine you wouldn’t take — if it weren’t good for you. In the case of golf courses in the South, overseeding definitely is good for your grass.

The process requires extra work, but it pays off fast. Managing the transition from summer to winter turf, however, requires preparation well in advance of the planting date.

Peer and disease pressure both play big roles as golf course superintendents determine whether to overseed. Peer pressure boils down to one question: What is the competition doing? Once one course in an area begins overseeding, others most often follow suit.

From a marketing standpoint, year-round, wall-to-wall green is a big attraction. The course that isn’t green is perceived as lacking in its competitors. Dr. Gerald Pepin, director of research at Pikeswick Seed, said the trend has grown rapidly in recent years.

“Overseeding began many years ago in the Northeast and 10 years ago on greens and tees in California,” he said.

**NTEP bentgrass results are in; more specific testing in offing**

By MARK LESLIE

National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) officials plan to more closely study heart wear tolerance, close mowing and aggressiveness in a new battery of tests on bentgrasses.

In examining second-year data from the NTEP’s first bentgrass plots ever, National Turfgrass Federation National Director Kevin N. Morris said specific studies are needed. "These tests are a starting place," Morris said. "We have been able to show there are a lot of good varieties available besides the standards. We’ve also been able to get good disease data."

"But bentgrass is very specific to golf course use. We have to do more in-depth work on wear tolerance and other factors that are what superintendents encounter in the real world. For instance, aggressiveness. Competition with poa annua is important. And more intense maintenance would be important to superintendents."

**Modified Soil Results**

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**Native Soil Results**

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Good news travels fast. Especially when it comes from internationally recognized professionals.

That's why demanding superintendents worldwide are using and endorsing the creeping bentgrasses "Providence (SR 1019), SR 1020, or Dominant" (a blend of the two).

By MARK LESLIE

Veteran golf pro Ben Kern has found a way to mix golf course maintenance with a junior golf teaching program. And he has issued a challenge to fellow golf pros across North America to do the same.

Kern, of The National Golf Club in Woodbridge, Ontario, rated by some as the best golf course in Canada, started his junior program in 1981.

"We take kids who are keen, hungry and motivated and put them in a full-emergence program," Kern said.

For five weeks in the summer, the dozen or so 12 to 18-year-olds spend most weekdays at The National, teaching them nothing. They are taught by Kern or assistant pro Doug Hastie, a junior graduate program himself. That is followed by individual instruction or practice until noon, when they lunch at the club. After lunch, the youths work three hours fixing ball marks and filling divots on the course. And if members are off the course in late afternoon, the youths can play the course free.

Kern, in a radio interview, recently challenged other golf courses to begin their own, similar junior programs.

"There's no reason why it can't happen at every club in Canada or the United States," Kern said. "Golf courses get complacent in their microcosms. They don't want to take that much time out. But the rewards are great.

"How nice would it be to have every ball mark fixed and every divot filled all summer long? How nice would it be to have a whole bunch of really nice swings? All it costs the club is a meal."

— Ben Kern, head pro at The National Golf Club

**BENTGRASS**

Of course, that doesn't come as any surprise to us. Because we've spent the past several years developing and testing our cultivars on golf courses and at universities with impressive results.


What's equally important is our bentgrasses' performance under varied golf course conditions. From America to Australia to Africa, our cultivars consistently produce beautiful, fine-textured greens with true putting quality and reduced maintenance. And outstanding fairway turf with less thatch and excellent wear tolerance. These features are important to superintendents, golfers, architects, and greens committees alike.

Don't just take our word for it. Contact your nearest Bentgrass Marketing Group member today for more information and university test results. And be prepared to put your course on the map.

*Providence and SR 1020 are protected under the U.S. Plant Variety Protection Act.

For Additional Information Contact your nearest Bentgrass Marketing Group member for key information and university test results.

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**STUDY: SHADE PLAYS KEY ROLE IN GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTURE**

GUELPH, Ontario — A study of radiation levels under various shade trees has yielded a computer model of micro-climates being adapted for use on golf courses to manage water and pesticides use.

According to reasearching landscape architecture and land resource science professors, shade is a key point in golf course design.

Data such as sunlight, temperature, humidity and wind would be collected at the golf course. Coupled with shade and sun patterns at course sites, the model could determine how to modify the micro-environment to reduce need for irrigation water and pesticides.

Tony Gillespie, land resource science professor involved in the study, predicts that within three years a program will be developed that could be used by any golf course.

**WETTING AGENTS OK IN HYDROJECT**

Continued from page 11

Well, the long wait is over — but not before a series of static tests, determining the safety of long-term exposure to wetting agents, was completed.

"We have seen very positive results on isolated dry spots when wetting agents are applied after a water aeration treatment," said Street. "These results are enhanced when the wetting agent is injected directly through the HydroJect 3000.

"Besides helping isolated dry spots, we've seen faster green-up rates in early spring and better overall appearance throughout the summer."