Hutchison of Tee To Green Golf Course Construction took the plunge and purchased a Model 2200 soil blender from Dakota Peat. His life is simpler, he says, we get with the blender. And we ports. "We really like the control we know we're not going to have any problems. "The blender has really opened some doors, he says. "If I can blend it and quality control it to exact specification, I have a leg up."

So, Hutchison is a satisfied customer. "Very much so."

Tee To Green builder blessed using his own soil blender

About five months ago, Steve Hutchison of Tee To Green Golf Course Construction took the plunge and purchased a Model 2200 soil blender from Dakota Peat. His life is simpler, he says, and his product is better.

"It's been great," Hutchison reports. "We really like the control we get with the blender. And we know we're not going to have any trouble with these greens down the road."

Hutchison, whose company is currently working on three courses, said the elimination of contracted soil-blending services has already brought increased simplicity and savings.

Yet his recent purchase has also resulted in peace of mind. "The part I don't like about contracting out is I don't feel comfortable turning over something so important to a subcontractor," he says. "The assurance of quality is very important. The blender is just one more tool that assures me of the quality I must have to be competitive."

The addition of in-house soil-blending capability has created additional business opportunities for Tee To Green in the sport turf industry.

"The blender has really opened some doors," he says. "If I can blend it and quality control it to exact specification, I have a leg up."

So, Hutchison is a satisfied customer. "Very much so."

Companies specializing in blending soils

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Contact Person</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Egypti Farms, Inc.</td>
<td>P.O. Box 223</td>
<td>Roy Bowman</td>
<td>800-399-7755</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENS Soil &amp; Peat</td>
<td>Rte. 1 Box 287</td>
<td>Bill Eason</td>
<td>936-446-5886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greensmix Soil Blenders</td>
<td>116 Fancher Rd, Construction</td>
<td>Christine Fankus</td>
<td>715-666-8830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hutchinson Sand &amp; Gravel</td>
<td>2200, Smith</td>
<td>Dan MacKenzie</td>
<td>705-284-4437</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio Central Steel</td>
<td>38710, Arlington</td>
<td>Steve Cohen</td>
<td>614-696-0122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rootlime Mix</td>
<td>1700 West Ave, E.</td>
<td>Glen Watkins</td>
<td>712-322-2200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Soil blending in high-tech world

Continued from previous page and allows the addition of micro-nutrients and bio-amendments.

"First of all," said Hurdzan, "I think the soil blender has been the first major breakthrough in green construction in 50 years. The accuracy can't be matched.

"But if the contractor doesn't own a soil blender, and you have to contract it, and the blender doesn't get there on time, you're stuck. I think the mix changes while it's being stockpiled. It breaks down because the infiltration rate is half what it was."

Further, there are many builders — count John Cotter of Wadsworth Construction among them — who believe the process isn't essential. Cotter explained that Wadsworth still does the majority of its blending via the old front-loader method.

"The idea of soil blending was sold on accuracy, but our continuing tests show they're not that different," Cotter said. "We've been able to achieve a proper mix, backed up by testing, without using a soil blender. We obviously believe that both processes are effective."

Clark disagrees: "I think it's one of the most important aspects of building quality putting greens. We've spent a lot of time researching the proper mix, and we want to get it right."

"There's no other substitute," Cotter said. "We've been working with the blender for years."

"Hey, you're living with this stuff. How is it?" Cotter explained that Wadsworth, whose subcontractors include ENS Soil & Peat and ENS Soil & Peat own their own soil blenders.

"We obviously believe that the soil blender has been the first major breakthrough in green construction in 50 years. The accuracy can't be matched."

"The blender is important to a subcontractor," he said. "We believe the process isn't essential."

"He'll tell you. Ifs a question of informed reference.

"Call a superintendent whose greens were blended and ask him, 'Hey, you're living with this stuff. How is it?'"

Call 1-800-228-4444 for a free on-site demonstration.

Before you buy a fairway mower, have your Toro dealer take this test.

1. Can the Toro 450-D perform on hilly terrain? The Ransomes 350D can. Because the engine is over the drive wheels, the 2-wheel drive Ransomes 350D is surefooted enough to tackle challenging terrain. For the ultimate in traction, there's the 4-wheel drive model that gives new meaning to the words rugged performer.

2. Can the Toro 450-D be transported at an efficient speed? The Ransomes 350D can. It offers 15.5 mph transport, while the Toro 450-D lags behind at 12.5 mph.

3. Can the Toro 450-D mow in wet conditions without footprinting? The Ransomes 350D can. It doesn't leave its mark — even on wet ground.

4. Can the Toro 450-D operator visually monitor cutting performance while mowing? The Ransomes 350D operator can. All cutting units are located in front of the operator. The Toro 450-D wing units are positioned behind the operator, limiting visibility.

5. Can the Toro 450-D perform on hilly terrain? The Ransomes 350D can. The Toro 450-D has met its match — and then some — in the Ransomes 350D. So go ahead. Ask your Toro dealer these five questions, and your next question will be: how soon can I get a Ransomes 350D?

Call 1-800-228-4444 for a free on-site demonstration.