New green specs: Simplifying procedures

INTERMEDIATE LAYER
- The acceptable particle size range has been expanded. Now, 90 percent must fall between one and four millimeters (previously one to 2 millimeters).
- Need not be included if the property sized gravel is used.

ROOT-ZONE MIXTURE
- The particle size range has been modified to allow for a fine gravel (15.25 mm) but less than a fine sand (0.6-15 mm).
- Provides guidelines for selection of peat materials (minimum of 85 percent organic matter by weight) and other organic composts (should be allowed to age for one year; must be shown to be non-phytotoxic; mix must meet physical properties).
- Provides guidelines for selection of soil component (fused). Soil component should have a minimum sand content of 60 percent and a clay content of between 5 and 20 percent.
- Some root-zone physical properties have been modified:
  - Total organic matter: 35-50 percent (previously 35-50 percent).
  - Air-filled porosity: 20-30 percent (previously 15-25 percent).
  - Saturated conductivity (not included in the 1989 version).
- Normal range: 6-12 inches/hour.
- Accelerated range: 12-24 inches/hour.
- Organic matter content: 1-5 percent (ideally 2-4 percent) by weight (not required in previous versions).

SEED-BED PREPARATION
- Sterilization required only 1) in areas prone to severe nematode problems, 2) in areas with severe weedy grass or nutseed problems, or 3) when the root-zone mix contains unsterilized soil.

LABORATORY PROCEDURES
- A revised and expanded set of laboratory procedures has been prepared and sent to all soil-testing laboratories interested in testing materials for construction of USGA greens. Labs must agree to follow these protocols to be included on the list of soil-testing labs sent out by the USGA with the green construction booklet.

Foxfire opens
The par 72, 6,900-yard layout was two years in the shaping, integrating inhospitable wetlands, gently rolling hills and tall Georgia pines — terrain termed ideal for a golf course.
The project includes a residential development owned by Edward Herndon.
James F. Bivins, Dominion Engineering Group, designed the course. Jim Hoff, formerly at Cedar Creek in Alken, S.C., is the PGA professional and general manager.