How often does a turfgrass student fresh out of college get a chance to work on a major golf course project designed by a pre-eminent architect? Tom Baty did. A Michigan native who graduated from Michigan State University in 1986, Baty went straight to work on PGA West's (and Pete Dye's) Stadium Course in 1989, Baty immediately picked up tournament experience by preparing the course for the Skins Game. He left DeAnza Country Club in Parag Springs, Calif. in 1990, then joined Indian Wells in December 1992. It is both "exciting and fun" to gear up for a major tournament like this every year, he said.

"Everyday is different — from the evenness of the cuts of the grass all the way down to the cracks in the sidewalk and the cart paths, which are cleaned out and edged. Tee markers are edged. It is the most immeasurable you can get it." In October, Baty's crew overseeded the Bermudagrass with perennial ryegrass — wall to wall.

For the turf, height of cut is the biggest difference from normal playing conditions. Greens must be cut at 1/2 inch and rolled so they Stimp at 11. Fairways are cut to below 1/2 inch and tees to 3/8 inch. Intermediate rough, normally 1-1/2 inches high, is cut to 3/4 inch, 60 inches wide. And the PGA Tour requires a walk path from tee box to the fairway, "so the players don't get their shoes wet," Baty said.

Greens roll the greens the days of the tournament and double-cut during the event. He is also trimming trees that would be in the way of play, "basically looking out from the tee."

And crews are taking a lot of extra filling of divots to make sure there are no holes in the fairway.

MADE-FOR-TV PREPARATIONS: "I don't care about TVs. We're looking for ideal conditions for the players," Baty said.

He does, however, apply iron. Foliar applications were started in December, he said.

**THINGS TO LOOK FOR:** The course will contrast from the overseeded tees, greens and fairways, Anderson said. "When it's as green and striped up as it is, superintendents will know."

Alex's crew, which will grow to 30 by drawing on groundskeepers from the other two courses, won't rake the bunkers. "We'll broom them," he said. The greenside bunkers will be hand-broomed so there will be no furrows. A broom attachment will be dragged over the fairway bunkers. This is another practice not widely done.

The championship tees and the practice facility the pros will use are protected from play a month before the tournament and the agronomic programs were in place. Green cutting heights will be reduced from 9/64th to 7/64 or 1/8, depending on green speed. The LPGA wants the greens to Stimp at 10 to 11.

"Our overseeding will be mature naturally. We'll have to push the ryegrass a little more. But densities, cutting heights and things of that nature are close," Alex said. "When it's as green and striped up as it is, superintendents will know."

**MAINTENANCE**

**Tour of Duty**

**THOMAS BATY**
Indian Wells Country Club
Indian Wells, Calif.
Bob Hope Chrysler Classic
Feb. 16-20, ESPN/NBC

**THOMAS ALEX**
Grand Cypress' North-South Course
Orlando, Fla.
LPGA's Chrysler-Plymouth Tournament of Champions
March 2-6, Sunshine Network/NBC

**DICK ANDERSON**
TPC at Tampa Bay
Tampa Bay, Fla.
Senior Tour's GTE Suncoast Classic
Feb. 10-13, ESPN

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Handbook on IPM for turf released

Lewis publishers has released Handbook of Integrated Pest Management for Turf and Ornamentals.

With more than 40 recognized experts, the book details the rationale and benefits of employing an IPM plan, as well as providing technical information on each aspect of plan development.

This handbook integrates research work on pest problems with information on the practical implementation of the tools, and provides case studies of successful operations. Topics covered include the dynamics of the urban landscape, preparation for a healthy landscape, blemishes on the perfect landscape, integrated management of weeds, and poa trivialis on greens. Poa trivialis is a hardy and fine-bladed grass plant that putts well. Also, the dynamics of turfgrass water use efficiency by enhancing water uptake from deeper soil zones.

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You can cite the UGa data to make aerification decisions easier. Summer Verti-drain treatments did reduce root density in the upper 12 inches on Bermudagrass, although Bermudagrass can still continue new root development at this time. Turfgrass managers now have data from this University of Georgia study to help with aerification decisions on fine-textured soil sites with surface compaction. A vigorous Verti-drain and core cultivation program can significantly improve turfgrass water use efficiency by enhancing water uptake from deeper soil zones.