Practitioners cite success with ceramics

By MARK LESLIE

Arnold Palmer, who wants nothing but the best for his home course, has taken the plunge with porous ceramics. Old buddy Gary Player has, too. And arguably the most agronomically knowledgeable golf course architect, Prof. carrying Michael Hurdzan, has been an engineer on the putting-green-sans-peat train for years.

Now, even as the debate over organics-versus-ceramics in greens mixes boils in the golf industry, more superintendents, architects and builders are venturing into the world of custom-designed root zones.

"I think there is no question porous ceramics have physical characteristics that can be used to amend a sand to...

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Par-3 development gains popularity, viability

By PETER BLAIS

ew golfers need a place to learn the game. Developers can't find reasonably priced land for larger facilities. The solution: Build more par-3 golf courses. That's just what's happening as the shorter layouts...

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Public-access boom pushing existing courses to upgrade

By J. BARRY MOTHES

ORLANDO - Upgrade. Upgrade. Upgrade. Get used to that word. It just might be the golf industry mantra for the rest of the decade, and into the 21st century. Consider the following items from less than a week's worth of national news clippings:

- A $2.3 million upgrade is ongoing at the Salishan Golf Links, a 38-year-old resort course in Gleneden Beach, Ore. Holes have been remediated, a new irrigation and drainage system is being installed, and an 18-hole putting course is planned.

- The 27-hole, daily-fee Galloping Hill Golf Course in Union, N.J., opened in 1928, has embarked on a $4.8 million upgrade that includes a new automated sprinkler system, fairway reconstruction, new tees and greens, and new cart paths.

- The Golf Course Com...

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Private clubs suffer under new tax code

By PETER BLAIS

ALEXANDRIA, Va. - More than a quarter of the nation's private golf clubs experienced a drop in membership sales and one-third reported a decline in gross food and beverage revenues one year after the federal government elimi-...