Champion Hills subject of major N.C. regrassing effort

HENDERSONVILLE, N.C. — Golf course superintendent Bill Maynard has led a massive regrassing project here at the Tom Fazio-designed Champion Hills Country Club in the mountains of western North Carolina.

The course has been converted from bluegrass to bentgrass. The newly sodded front nine opened in April and is expected to be ready sometime this month.

When Fazio designed and built the private 18-hole golf course in 1990, it was almost immediately hailed as one of the top new golf courses in the southeast part of the country.

In 1993, the Brunigar Organization — which has developed more than 80 golf courses throughout the country — purchased Champion Hills and decided it wanted to improve the golf course.

Branigar hired Maynard last April to be the course superintendent and to supervise the regrassing project. Maynard had been an assistant superintendent at The Golf Club of Tennessee and in charge of maintenance at The Virginian Golf Club in Bristol, Va., both Fazio-designed courses that have earned plaudits.

Maynard worked with Joe Duich, a Penn State professor and turfgrass expert, to develop a plan to convert Champion Hills to bentgrass. Maynard and his crew have installed more than 8,000 linear feet of drain — plus tons of gravel and sand in the eight inches beneath the top surface — to prevent the fairways from becoming soggy and spongy.

“When Mr. Fazio designed the course, he made it so that water drained naturally,” said Maynard. “All we did was give every bit of water that hits the course a bus to get on and go where we want it to. That was one of our priorities. We want to have tight, firm bentgrass fairways.”

The threat of resistance is very real. Reports are coming in that repeated applications of the same family of fungicides have forced resistant strains of disease pathogens. Brown Patch, Dollar Spot and Leaf Spot are creeping back, even after treatment.

But there's a simple way to protect your perfect cornerstone for a season-long disease and resistance management program. CHIPCO® 26019 is the proven, broad-spectrum fungicide that gives you unsurpassed control of Brown Patch, Dollar Spot, Leaf Spot, Fusarium Blight and Patch and Necrotic Ring Spot all season long. It's so effective, it even gives you control of Pink and Gray Snow Mold and Corticum Red Thread.

So don't let resistance give you a spotty reputation. CHIPCO® 26019 is the product to start with. The product to rotate around. The foundation for all your tankmix combinations. Call your CHIPCO® sales rep today.

La. expansion should be ready for Labor Day

ABBEVILLE, La. — The Abbeville Golf and Country Club here is quickly being reshaped into an entirely new golfscape. The club’s conversion from a 9-hole to an 18-hole course is well ahead of schedule, according to general manager Tom Carter. The target date for completion of the project is Labor Day weekend.

Dirt-moving was finished by the end of April and seeding started in early May, according to Carter.

Along with the work on an entirely new nine, seven of the existing nine holes are also being renovated. Carter has said the sewer site to replace the existing nine holes will be like a whole new golf course, though the name will remain the same.

Carter said he expects the new 18-hole course will significantly increase the membership of the club and usage of the course. Current membership is about 340 and Carter said he expects it to grow up to 500 in the next year.

Hendersonville Herald
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