Golf catches the new technology wave

Restoring greens for play in 24 hrs.

By MARK LESLIE

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. — Coming soon to a golf course near you: Sand Channel Greens. The company, which promises to add drainage channels to old pushup greens and have them playable in a day, is expanding this winter into Southern California, Arizona, Las Vegas and the Northwest, according to Marketing Director David Lansdier. “And we’re looking to establish a machine on the East Coast. We have two machines going full-time now, and we want to be up to five next year.”

The former “Cambridge greens” process, which used a vibratory plow so disruptive it took months for turf to heal, also has a whole new life: cutter wheels. With these cutter wheels, the machine can

Continued on page 32

Flyovers foresee future of turf health

By MARK LESLIE

THANK YOU, Dr. John Schott. Schott, of the Center of Imaging Science at Rochester (N.Y.) Institute of Technology, was an early proponent of digital enhancement of infrared images. Today, combining that technology with Global Positioning Systems, CAD and digital mapping from LinksManager software, golf course superintendents can “see” situations developing on their turfgrass weeks before they are visible to the human eye.

“It’s an exciting prospect to integrate all these technologies for the maintenance, construction and redesign of a golf course,” said Bob Katula, president of Links Diagnostics, Inc. (LDI) here.

In its agronomic service, LDI flies over a property taking infrared images revealing the photosynthetic rate of the plants.

Continued on page 38

Taking irrigation into the future

By ST. BRUNEAU, Quebec, Canada — A golf course irrigation control system that may change the industry has been installed at one of the oldest golf courses on the continent, Mont Bruneau Country Club outside Montreal, and at Widow’s Walk Golf Course in Scituate, Mass., which will open in July.

“They just might revolutionize the irrigation industry,” said Dr. Michael Hurzdan, a golf course architect from

Continued on page 37

Niemczyk on non-traditional turf treatments

Dr. Harry Niemczyk is professor emeritus and coordinator of turfgrass entomology research at The Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center of the Ohio State University in Wooster. He received his bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees from Michigan State University. His research on turfgrass insects and behavior and mobility of turfgrass pesticides has been widely published. Recently he has been doing extensive research on biological controls of turfgrass insects.

Golf Course News: Could you describe the progress of your work regarding biological controls for insects?

Harry Niemczyk: I’ve been studying the effects of entomopathogenic nematodes, parasites that destroy cutworms, grubs and other insects. Several have shown good results. They are introduced live into the soil, seek out the insects and cause them to die.

GCN: What products are showing promise?

HN: There’s a number of products on the market. LESCO has a product called Vector that’s been pretty successful with cutworms on golf greens. It is supposed to be irrigated into the green. But that can be complicated. Vector is often mixed in a spray tank and applied along with other products, like a contact fungicide. But contact fungicides should not be watered in. So you end up applying two products together that have different requirements for post-treatment irrigation. That’s a problem. Vector can be effective if it’s used according to the label directions.

GCN: Are there any other biological or biological-like treatments?

Continued on page 37