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 Lansdell. "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 cutters, the machine can...

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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, CADD 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...

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Taking irrigation into the future
By Mark Leslie

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 Brome 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 Hurdaan, a golf course architect from...
Dr. Rossi heads Maine contingent

ROCKPORT, Maine — Talks by Dr. Frank Rossi of Cornell University and Golf Course Mechanics Association President Brian Alfond will highlight the 1997 Maine Turfgrass Conference and Show at the Samoset Resort here, March 5-7.

Following a full-day session on "Calibration and Safety of Pesticide Application" on March 5, Rossi will speak on "Enhancing Freezing Stress Tolerance with Plant Growth Regulators" and "Selecting and Establishing Bentgrasses."

Alfond will appear with others to lead a full day of sessions for mechanics on March 6.

Q&A Niemczyk

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products that are coming onto the market in the next few years?

HN: There’s an interesting family of treatments called the biorationals. One is a toxin produced by a bacteria called Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt). Micogen produces a product called M-Press. It isn’t registered yet, but it seems to work well on some grubs.

RhoMid has a product called Mach 2 that is supposed to be registered in January. It is a molt-accelerating compound called halo fenozide that speeds up the molting process causing the insect to die. American Cyanimid and Rohm & Haas have formed a joint company called RhoMid to market the product. It controls grubs, but is also effective on sod webworms, cutworms and billbugs. It is encouraging that we can target pests and not harm earthworms, mammals and other beneficial organisms.

DowElanco has a fermentation product called CONSERVE that it will market soon. It is effective against cutworms and other grass leaf-eating insects.

We’ve known for some time that an extract from the nut of the neem tree that grows in India and Burma has insecticide qualities. It also provides cutworm control by disrupting the molting process. Scotts markets such a product called Turplex that works well when the label is followed.

Leslie comment

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But I sure do admire him for the 5 Ws of this enterprise of his. He struck out to play the game he loved and found a prize greater than the game. He never made a dime on Whispering Rattlesnakes... never intended to... it was simply a chore of love. I hope he finds another. There is another back 40 somewhere that could use that kind of caretaker. Have you got one?