Golf Course News

The Newspaper for the Golf Course Industry

Volume 11, Number 7
July 1999 • $5.50

Research Dollars
USGA Green Section prepares for another round of research funding

Bermudagrass Report
Existing varieties improved, new types are on the developmental horizon

Of ants, flies and other friendly pests
By Mark Leslie
FAR HILLS, N.J. — Ants that devour the eggs and larvae of cutworms, grubs and other pest insects. Parasitic flies that kill mole crickets. The risks, or lack thereof, associated with golfer exposure to pesticides.

The U.S. Golf Association (USGA) Green Section will reveal the results of investigations into these and many other matters in a soon-to-be-released report on the latest USGA-funded research projects. The research covers a gamut of topics from course construction practices and integrated turfgrass management to turfgrass genepool enhancement, the environmental impact of golf and the Wildlife Links Program.

But key to the entire program are naturally occurring biological controls, which are becoming more routine.

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Sports & Fitness expanding its portfolio
By Peter Blais
MANCHESTER, Mo. — It’s going to be a busy summer for Sports & Fitness Management, the Missouri-based golf and health club management firm.

Sports & Fitness will open Fred Couples/Gene Bates-designed Stonebridge Golf Club in Bossier City, La., later this summer and recently agreed to purchase Garden Valley Golf Resort in Tyler, Texas. The firm is also about to break ground on a Gary Kern-designed course near St. Louis called Aberdeen and is negotiating a three-course purchase with a management firm operating facilities in Louisiana and Texas, according to Vice President Dick Phelps.

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Ocean Trails Golf Course suffers landslide between the 12th and 18th fairways, losing a bulldozer into the chasm.

Tests reveal good & bad of ultradwarfs
By A. Overbeck
BELTSVILLE, Md. — As ultradwarf Bermudagrass continues to find its way onto golf course greens across the United States, independent research and on-site testing suggest that best management practices for these "super dwarfs" are radically different than for standard Bermudas.

In cooperation with the United States Golf Association and the Golf Course Superintendent’s Association of America, the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) is currently in the second year of a five year ultradwarf test at eight courses across the

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Ocean Trails
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-ers are now faced with the task of reconstructing the damage. It has always been complicated with this project,” said developer Ken Zuckerman, who has spent 15 years trying to turn the Ocean Trails concept into a reality. “This is nothing new, and everyone knows how to accomplish what must be done.”

Zuckerman knew about the ancient landslide prior to construction and took the following measures to ensure that golf course irrigation would not affect the stability of the land.

“We put down a three-foot layer of impermeable clay and six inches of sand and then a herringbone drainage system,” said Zuckerman. “That fed into a sump pump, which pumped the water to an irrigation lake on the course.” Unfortunately, the leaking sewer line was buried beneath the clay cap.

Dye, who was on his way to Ocean Trails the day of the slide to give the course his final stamp of approval, has already examined the damage.

“When I got there the next day it looked like the shoreline had been there for a million years, you could see the fairway, the bunkers and the green,” said Dye. “I have been around for 73 years and I have never seen anything like it.

There are a couple of repair options available to the developers, according to Dye. “They can put the hole back where it was without a great deal of fight, or you could leave it out there,” said Dye. “All you really have to do is clean out the valley, grass

CLARIFICATIONS
Recently, it has been reported in many golf course and grounds maintenance media that the manufacturing and marketing of the Cushman range of turf utility vehicles is now being handled by E-Z-GO Textron, a subsidiary company of the Textron Golf, Turf Care and Specialty Products Group. Please note that this integration of operations only affects the Cushman line of industrial vehicles — products that are sold to warehouses, manufacturing facilities, shipping and rail yards, etc. — NOT the vehicles sold to the turf maintenance industry. Sales and marketing of Cushman vehicles, such as the Turf-Truckster, Jr. Turf-Truckster, Hawk and White Truck, will continue to be the responsibility of Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products.

The autonomous mower story which ran on the front of the June issue should have been datelined Gainesville, the site of Ironwood Golf Course.