

# Bulk topdressing storage bin wave of the future

By TERRY BUCHEN

**S**T. LOUIS, Mo. — Open-air and covered soil-storage bins have always been popular with superintendents, and some of the newer versions even have garage doors to keep greens top dressing dry. The next generation top-dressing storage bin uses gravity and dry storage on its side, with great results.

Pevely Farms Golf Club, a new Arthur Hills-designed 18-hole public-access facility southwest of this city, installed a state-of-the-industry above-ground top-dressing storage bin.

“Our top-dressing storage bin works quite well because we do not have to use a front-end loader tractor to load any of our top-dressing machines,” said acting superintendent Dale Groenke. “We simply drive underneath the storage bin with our top-dressing machines, slide an open/close lever, and off we go with completely dry, uncontaminated top dressing.”

The storage bin is filled by a sand supplier’s pneumatic tanker truck, which simply blows the top-dressing sand into the bin through a 13-inch-diameter metal pipe that is permanently mounted on the bottom of the bin. The capacity is 36 tons of

top dressing, though they do not fill it quite that full, and there is a ladder and sight gauge to easily determine the top-dressing level remaining in the bin.

Equipment manager Bud Hoffman said the empty weight of the bin is 7,000 pounds, the total height is 19-feet 6-inches, the spout clearance is 8 feet and

the drive-through width is 9 feet.

Tractor-mounted, towed and truckster-mounted top-dressing machines will fit with ease, Hoffman said. The result is significant labor savings by not having to use a front-end loader tractor to load or unload the bin, or having to fill any of the top-dressing machines with a dump truck

and hand shoveling.

The bin is painted dark green, making it blend in with the surrounding trees and helping to hide it from the 17th fairway maintenance building location, Hoffman added.

*Bulk top dressing bin keeps it dry, with gravity loading as well.*



Terry Buchen photo

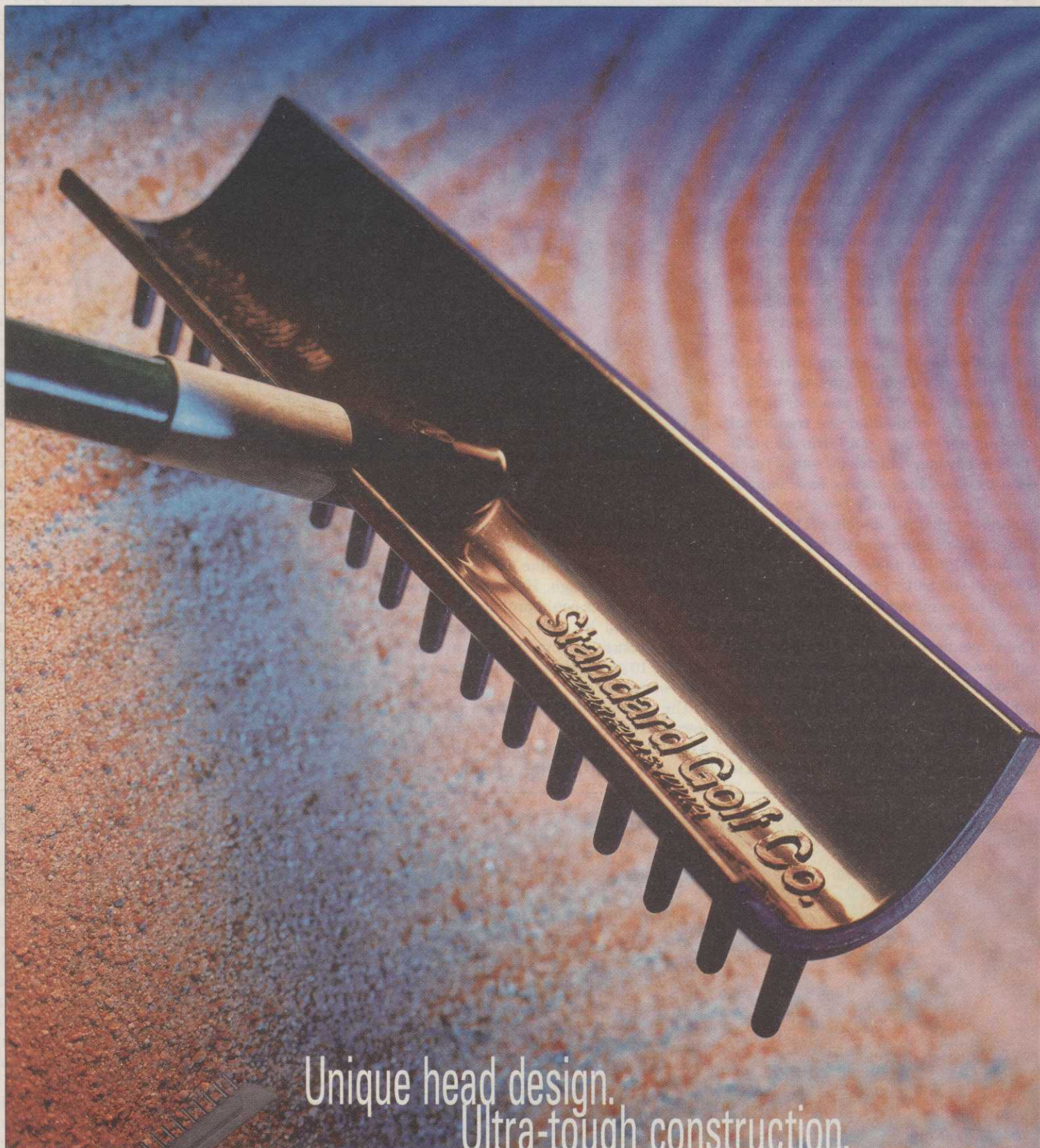
## N.J. supers honor Flaherty, Krausz

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey (GCSANJ) has presented its Distinguished Service Award to Joseph Flaherty and its Member of the Year Award to Ken Krausz.

Krausz was cited for his commitment to the association — first as director, then as a member of the executive board as secretary, vice president and now as president. He has produced and edited the award-winning *Greenside* publication and “his guidance and support during the drought emergency this past year was beyond reproach” the association said.

Flaherty served on the board of GCSANJ from 1971 to 1979, serving as president in 1978 and 1979. He worked at Baltusrol Golf Club for 36 years. While there, he hosted the 1967 U.S. Open, the 1980 U.S. Open, the 1993 U.S. Open as well as the 1985 U.S. Women’s Open. Baltusrol was honored as Club of the Year under his tenure and hosted many local and state events, including the 1998 Met Open, which included about 14 inches of rain.

He graduated from the Rutgers School of Agriculture in 1964 and has been certified since 1975.



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