

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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MANAGEMENT COMPANY POSTER

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PERIODICAL

Simplot, Budd make offer for ABT assets

By ANDREW OVERBECK

HENDERSON, Nev. — AgriBioTech (ABT) has reached an agreement in principle to sell its turfgrass seed assets and Professional Turfgrass Division to Kenneth Budd, former ABT president and chief operating officer, and Post Falls, Idaho-based J.R. Simplot for approximately \$65 million, plus assumption of liabilities. The two parties are also expected to assume ABT's obligations under contracts with its growers. The exact details of the Budd/Simplot deal were not disclosed.

For the past two months, Development Specialists Inc. (DSI) has been overseeing the reorganization of ABT and taking bids on the company's assets. DSI expects the deal to close by the end of June, but stresses that it must first be approved by the bankruptcy court and that competing bids may still be submitted by other parties.

Simplot has been aggressively expanding its reach in

Continued on page 4



Arnold Palmer (foreground) and M.G. Orender at the groundbreaking for The Golf Club of North Hampton.

Hampton Golf, Orender cater to beginners

By ANDREW OVERBECK

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — M.G. Orender's new management firm, Hampton Golf, is moving ahead with its beginner-friendly club management philosophy.

"The concept is simple," said Orender. "The first club I was a pro at, we had sluggish business, so I started a junior program. We started with six kids and grew to 160 kids in about three years. In that time, our gross receipts doubled and that happened because when you get kids out there, you get the parents involved too. I learned that if the beginner is comfortable and is treated well, they won't go anywhere else."

Continued on page 30

Irish golfers open new Stephen Kay links in New York

By JAY FINEGAN

UNION VALE, N.Y. — A little touch of Ireland has sprung up in New York's Hudson River Valley, thanks to the financial backing of 500 golfers of Irish descent and the talents of golf course architects Stephen Kay and Douglas Smith. The Links at Union Vale, just now opening, undoubtedly ranks as one of the most unusual golf course development projects in recent years.

The par-72, 18-hole, links-style layout is the brainchild of the Irish Golf Association (IGA), comprised of about 30 clubs clustered in the New York metropolitan area. "Much like bowling leagues, these are

Continued on page 24



The 7th hole at The Links at Union Vale.

EcoAegis changes modern hydroseeding rules

By A. OVERBECK

NORTH OXFORD, Mass. — Growing turf on bunker, tee and green surrounds was once a job that was best suited to sod. That, however, is changing.

EcoAegis, a bonded hemlock fiber mulch and seed mixture, produced by Canadian Forest Products

(Canfor) of Vancouver, British Columbia, is becoming more widely used in steep sloped areas as a seeding agent and an erosion control device.

Hydrograss Technologies, based here, is the exclusive East Coast distributor of EcoAegis.

"We first used it on landfills. Engineers used it on 3-to-1 slopes in lieu of erosion blankets and had great success," said Robert Arelllo, president of Hydrograss Technologies.

EcoAegis combines hemlock fiber with a guar bonding agent creating a matrix cover that prevents erosion by absorbing the

Continued on page 14

Manufacturers eye total course Global Positioning technology

By ANDREW OVERBECK

In today's information-crazed society, satellite-driven Global Positioning Systems (GPS) are becoming more widely used as the technology improves and costs come down. GPS systems are being used as navigational devices by back-road weary and, yes, even 300 courses in States have in-systems on golf age speedier players to pin-shot distances food and beverage revenues.

Not to be left out of the GPS revolution, large maintenance equipment manufacturers have teamed up with "clubhouse based" GPS companies to develop a total course solution that would bring the satellite technology to superintendents.

PARTNERSHIPS

John Deere acquired Boston-based Player Systems in

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Hydrograssing near the 10th green at Blackstone National GC in Sutton, Mass.

Hydrograss

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impact of rainfall.

"We put down 3,500 pounds per acre in a layer half an inch thick. It retains 12 times its weight in water," said Arelllo. "The seed is sitting in a moisture bed that blankets the soil and has a better chance at getting established."

The seed/mulch mixture is

also fortified with a seed starter and nutrients and can be combined with micro nutrients and biostimulants. It costs 12 cents per foot, or \$5,300 an acre, to apply. EcoAegis is applied by a two-man crew using a 3,300 gallon hydroseeding truck with high flotation tires and a small-capacity 450-gallon cart to get into areas that are hard to reach. The EcoAegis is drop-shipped to the

job site and the course supplies the seed and fertilizer.

The first course to use the EcoAegis product was Blackstone National Country Club in Sutton, Mass.

"We used it on all tee and green complexes, fairway bunkers and some severely sloped areas," said Jay Snyder superintendent at Blackstone National. "We moved 500,000 cubic yards of earth. We have a hole that drops 100 feet in elevation so we had some big slopes out there."

However, Snyder was initially skeptical.

"When I first learned we were going to hydroseed, I wasn't so sure. On a slope that falls on a USGA green? No way," said Snyder. "I've always taken sod and put it up to the top so that no soil will migrate onto the sand in my greens."

After testing the product on four holes, Snyder noticed the following advantages.

"By putting seed down in my green complexes, my watering practices were exactly the same as the green," he said. "If I had used sod, you have totally different watering practices."

"It held water well, we had two and a half inches of rain and there was very minimal erosion."

Snyder also was able to choose a 60/40 fescue/bluegrass blend that he couldn't get with sod.

Architect Tom Devane has used EcoAegis at some of his recent courses.

"We used it at the Orchards Country Club in South Hadley, Mass.," he said. "We did a renovation of all the bunkers and one green. The stuff held well on Donald Ross' steep bunker faces."

Devane will also be using EcoAegis at Lake Sunapee Golf Club in Sunapee, N.H. "We will put in more than 1 million square feet up there. We have a lot of areas where we need erosion control," he said.

According to Devane, the technology makes it much easier to use seed instead of sod on sloped areas.

"Seed is better than sod to begin with," he said. "But the old hydroseeding wouldn't hold the turf. This stuff holds excellently."

Ty Butler, vice president and project designer for Robert Trent Jones, has also had success with EcoAegis but noted that some developers are still more comfortable with sod.

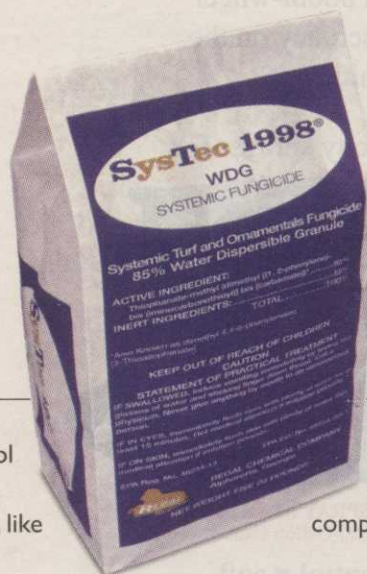
Butler used the product at Greenhorn Creek in Angels Camp, Calif. and is going to use it in some areas at Charter Oak Country Club in Hudson, Mass.

"We rebuilt four greens at Green Horne," said Butler. "We did the surrounds, bunkers and

Continued on next page



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On the Green

Continued from page 11

220-A Walk Behind Greens Mower and then installed a bracket that came with the sulky," said Miller. Then they modified the Deere sulky to go behind the walk-behind mowers.

The sulky comes with an attachment bracket made out of 1/4-inch-thick angle iron that is 12 inches long, with a hitch pin in the center. On either side of the hitch pin there are two holes.

With a magic marker, Miller and Muckelvaney marked a straight line 1/2-inch long on the outside of the holes used to mount the attachment bracket, then took a die grinder with a cutting wheel and took off the excess, making the attachment bracket 5 inches long. They then marked the two holes and drilled them into the mower frame with a 5/16-inch drill bit, then took a 3/8 x 16 tap and threaded the holes, used 3/8-3/4 bolts with a lock washer and lock-tightened them down.

Miller said the kick-stand should then be re-mounted immediately next to the sulky attachment bracket, slightly to the right, drilling through the same two holes on the kick-stand mounting bracket into the mower frame and mounting them in a similar fashion.

"The kick-stand will be slightly right of center but will still work easily and efficiently," Miller said.

"Our sulkies work so well that our other three resort courses on Kiawah Island and our fourth course - which is close by on an adjacent island - are also using

them with great pride and heightened enthusiasm," Miller said.

Osprey Point does not have a lot of elevation change, and the few hills it has do not affect the braking of the greens mower and sulky. The engine and transport mechanism do all the necessary braking in a safe and efficient manner, he said.

"Our employees really like using our greens mowers with

sulkies," Miller added. "They have become more efficient in their transporting between all areas of the course and it has saved the course a lot of money in acquiring additional turf vehicles. And the remaining turf vehicles can be used by other employees. We do not have to have two employees riding together as much as before, which sometimes is not as productive."

HARBOUR RIDGE EARNS AUDUBON DESIGNATION

PALM CITY, Fla. — Harbour Ridge Yacht & Country Club has achieved designation as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System (ACSS), the educational division of Audubon International. Harbour Ridge is the 31st course in Florida and the 216th in the world to receive the honor. The facility's courses are cared for by Tim Cann, director of golf course maintenance since 1992 and a member of Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

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Hydrograss

Continued from previous page

fairways with EcoAegis. We had a storm and it held up and germinated faster than conventional seeding.

"At Charter Oaks, we will use it around sloped areas and in the roughs, but the owner still wants to use sod on bunkers and green surrounds."

Arelo is still trying to combat the image of hydroseeding and regularly performs tests for courses.

"It takes a while for people to believe in these products," he said. "Until they see that it works well, they won't use it."

Arelo is also working on product development with Canfor and the University of Arkansas.

"We are doing work right now with sprigs at the University of Arkansas," he said.

Initial indications point to success. "It keeps the moisture in, prevents the sprig from drying out, and the mortality rate decreases dramatically," said Arelo. "If it comes together, we'll have a winner, because you can use it down South."