

Tools of the Trade...at Joe Charbonneau's Gleneagles Golf Course

MANCHESTER VILLIAGE, Vt. — Superintendent Joseph Charbonneau oversees the management of 1,200 acres of property here at the historic Equinox Resort.

At the 230-year-old hotel here, Ethan Allen's Green Mountain Boys planned their attacks on British redcoats during the American Revolution.

The Equinox also is home to the Walter Travis-designed Gleneagles Golf Course that dates to 1927. Charbonneau has been at the course, situated at the base of the 3,816-foot Mt. Equinox, since 1978.



Joe Charbonneau

A championship layout with spectacular mountain views, the course underwent renovation work by Rees Jones in 1992. "I worked as the construction and grow-in superintendent from 1991 to 1992," said Charbonneau. "We have bentgrass from tee to green, 112 bunkers and a lot of rolling terrain."

Charbonneau manages a crew of 16, maintaining the track to high standards. "The bunkers are the predominant hazard on the course," he said. "About 90

hours per week are invested in the maintenance and grooming of our four acres of bunkers."

THREE-FOOT HOSE

One of the most crucial aspects of maintaining the superb greens involves proper water management. "The sprinklers supplement the plant by applying water at night to make up the deficits," Charbonneau said. "During the day, the greens must be cooled off by applying a light amount of water to close the plants' stomata to reduce water loss."

With a course full of golfers, cooling off greens can prove difficult with a traditional 100-foot hose. "One is always in the way with the hose," he said. "At Gleneagles, we use a snap valve key, a three-foot hose and a three-quarter inch nozzle."

"With this contraption, a putting green can be effectively cooled off in less than a minute with no inconvenience to our guests," he said. "This idea was given to me by retired superintendent David Clement, and we've been using this method successfully here for about four years now."

Greens mowers: 3 Toro Triplex, 8 Toro 500 hand mowers

Tee mowers: 3 Toro Triplex 3100s, 6 Toro GM1000s

Fairway mowers: 3 Toro 5200s

Rough mowers: Tractor w/gang

Riding bunker rake: 1 Toro, 1 Cushman

Turf utility vehicles: 2 Cushmans, 1 Toro workman, 4 Carryalls, 4 Yamahas

Greensaire, 1 Toro FW, 1 Toro Hydro

Topdressers: 1 Hahn, 1 Turfco

Tournament speed roller: 1 Toro Triplex, mounted

Reel grinder: Foley

Bedknife grinder: Foley

Irrigation pump station: PSI/Flowtronics, 1100 GPM

Irrigation system: Toro network 8000

Golf car fleet: 75 Yamahas, gas

Flagsticks: Par Aide/Prestige Flags

Computer & accessories: 2 computers, Toro built

Primary herbicide: Trimec

Primary insecticide: Battle G.C.

Primary fungicide: Daconil

Primary slow-release fertilizer: Earthworks

Cannot live without: My sense of humor

Oldest piece of equipment on course: A 23-year-old greens mower

Total square footage of

maintenance building(s): 9,000 sq. ft.

Annual rounds of golf: 21,000

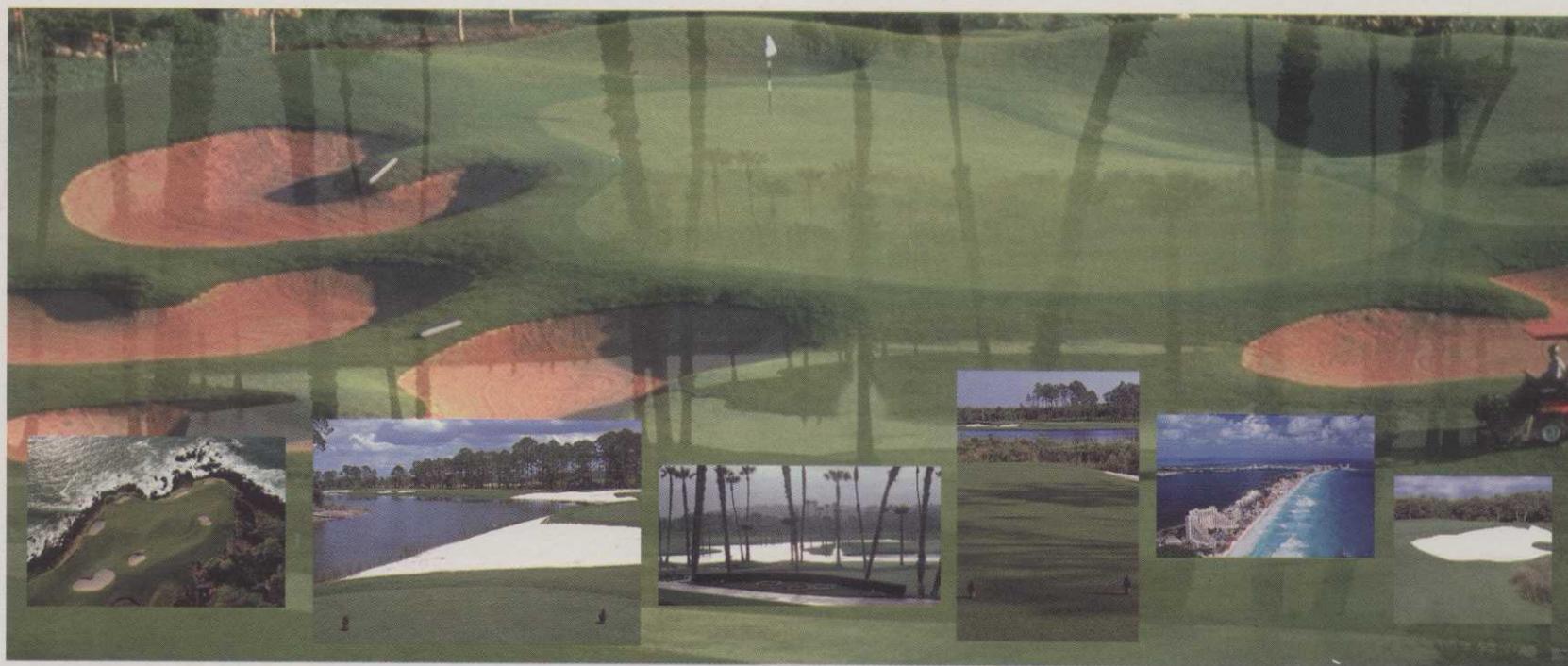
Normal green speed: 9'



Charbonneau hosing down the first green at Gleneagles

Verti-cut reels: 3 Toro 3100, 5 Toro 5200 thatching units

Aerifiers: 1 Toro Greens, 2 Ryan



Ideal for Salt Challenged Fairways, Tees, Roughs and Transition Areas

SeaIsle 1, a new salt-tolerant (halophytic), drought-resistant, warm-season turfgrass, is now available as "certified" sod or sprigs. In fact, it's one of only two "certified" seashore paspalums currently for sale anywhere in the world. After seven years of extensive research at the University of Georgia's Griffin Experiment Station, combined with careful evaluation of 35 small-plot golf course locations, SeaIsle 1 was released in 1999 by plant geneticist Dr. R.R. Duncan. Unlike Adalaya, Futurf and other earlier medium and coarse-bladed paspalum cultivars, SeaIsle 1 is similar in texture and wear tolerance to the hybrid bermudagrasses. And SeaIsle 1 has a number of other advantages, especially under difficult environmental scenarios. First and foremost, it can handle multiple stresses: prolonged drought, high salt levels, low light intensity, waterlogging and extremely high or low soil pH levels. Secondly, SeaIsle 1 can tolerate most types of alternate water sources, including wastewater, effluent, ocean water, gray water and brackish water.

It also requires less irrigating, less fertilizer and only minimal pesticide applications when compared to other warm-season cultivars. As water quality and water conservation become even more critical in the days ahead, SeaIsle 1 may be the best choice for fairways, tees, roughs, home lawns, commercial landscaping, athletic fields, and land stabilization and reclamation projects. SeaIsle 1 not only thrives in difficult environments, it also gets very high marks for turf quality, cold-hardiness, turf density and turf strength, disease and pest resistance, and rapid recovery from normal wear and injury. On top of that, SeaIsle 1 has the most attractive, rich dark green color of any of the warm season grasses. See for yourself. Schedule a trip to see SeaIsle 1 at one of the quality-conscious producers licensed to grow and sell certified SeaIsle 1 seashore paspalum sod and sprigs.

SeaIsle¹

Certified Seashore Paspalum
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