MANCHESTER VILLAGE, 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.

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

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

SealIsle 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 paspalum 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, SealIsle 1 was released in 1999 by plant geneticist Dr. R.R. Duncan. Unlike A. dasye, E. festuca and other earlier medium and coarse-bladed paspalum cultivars, SealIsle 1 is similar in texture and wear tolerance to the hybrid bermudagrasses. And SealIsle 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, SealIsle 1 can tolerate most types of alternate water sources, including seawater, 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. At water quality and water conservation become even more critical in the days ahead, SealIsle 1 may be the best choice for fairways, tees, roughs, home lawns, commercial landscaping, athletic fields, and land stabilization and reclamation projects. SealIsle 1 not only thrives in difficult environments, it also shows 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, SealIsle 1 has the most attractive, rich dark green color of any of the warm season grasses. See for yourself Schedule a trip to see SealIsle 1 at one of the quality-conscious producers licensed to grow and sell certified SealIsle 1 seashore paspalum sod and sprigs.

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