



## BRIEFS

### ENVIRONMENTAL GOLF'S CLAY PUTNAM RECEIVES GCSAA CERTIFICATION

CALABASAS, Calif. — Environmental Golf, a division of Environmental Industries, announced that regional manager Clay Putnam has been certified by the GCSAA. As regional manager, Putnam oversees maintenance operations at golf courses throughout the Northeastern and Great Lakes regions. The Ohio State University graduate holds a degree in turf management. "Clay has demonstrated dedication and a willingness to expand his horizons by pursuing one of the highest levels of professional development in his career," said Dave Hanson, senior vice president of Environmental Golf.



### RMRTA CALLS FOR NOMINATIONS

DENVER — The Rocky Mountain Regional Turfgrass Association has announced the opening for nominations for the 2001 Distinguished Service Award and the 2001 Turfgrass Professional of the Year. The awards will be presented at the RMRTA's annual conference and trade show held here at the Colorado Convention Center, Dec. 5-7, 2001. The DSA recognizes individuals for long standing service in the turf industry whereas the turfgrass professional honor acknowledges outstanding contributions to the industry by an individual during the past year. The deadline for nominations is Oct. 19, 2001.

### PRITCHETT JOINS PALMER GOLF

ORLANDO, Fla. — Arnold Palmer Golf Management has named Walter Pritchett as superintendent of the Cardinal Club at the University of Louisville in Louisville, Ky. The hiring of Pritchett comes in anticipation of the club's opening this month. The new facility is a joint venture between Palmer Golf and the University Clubs of America. The Cardinal Club is the fourth alumni-themed club in operation and the third club to open this year. Pritchett previously served as the superintendent for the River Bend Links in Robinsonville, Miss.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

### EDITORIAL FOCUS: Winter Preparation

## Seed companies release new varieties for winter overseeding

By JOEL JOYNER

CORVALLIS, Ore. — This fall, new introductions will be breaking into the winter overseeding market offering golf course superintendents a salt tolerant ryegrass, improved seed blends, and higher quality turfgrasses.

The goal for golf course superintendents, particularly those below the transition zone, is to present a playing surface that's both attractive and enticing to golfers as Bermudagrass goes dormant.

The overseeding market, therefore, is a lucrative one for seed companies, and new products this year aim to bring value to golf courses and golfers alike. Although most seed companies primarily focus on permanent turf, they also have been looking at new ways to ease the golf course superintendent's seasonal challenge to accommodate golfers.

### SEED RESEARCH OF OREGON

SR 4500 is the newest perennial ryegrass to be released this year from SRO. "It's going to work better for super-



Skip Lynch

ern end of the overseeding market, it may hang in there a little too long. It has a high endophyte and offers a fairly dark green color. It's a good looking grass with lots of tillers."

A lot of companies sell individual seed components to allow superintendents to make their own blends. SRO has taken that additional step out of the process by offering their own new blends of Champion Fine and Champion Max.

"Champion Fine is a blend of our ryegrass with the SR 5100 chewings fescue," Lynch said. "It makes a little better playing surface because the ball sits up a little better. The fescue has a much stiffer leaf blade. It transitions very well, and you won't lose any color having the chewings in there."

"The Champion Max blend is basically for greens overseeding," said Lynch. "It has *Poa trivialis* in it, and you can take it down to a very fine mowing height. It has excellent color, is very dark green, and has a quick transition in the spring time."

### TURF SEED

Turf Seed is showcasing four new varieties this season: BrightStar SLT is a salt-tolerant ryegrass; Citation Fore which is their highest ranking perennial ryegrass in the latest National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) trials; and two *Poa trivialis* varieties called WinterPlay and

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**SR 4500**

intendents the further South they are in the United States," said Skip Lynch, technical agronomist. "If they're in the north-

## Dormant seeding in the fall provides greater insurance against winter damage

By KEVIN ROSS

There's been a lot of talk over the past several months concerning winter damage on golf courses. High-profile events, such as the 2001 US Senior Open at Salem Country Club in Massachusetts, (which sustained severe turf loss prior to the event), has brought this issue front and center (GCN Aug. 2001).

Winter damage is not a new phenomenon. Many states throughout the northern United States and in large parts of Canada sustain turf loss every year. Each year, many superintendents experience the same agony that superintendent Kip Tyler did this year at Salem CC. However, the work done at Salem CC has spurred much thought on how to prepare your golf course for the dreaded winter months.

### THE DORMANT SOLUTION

Dormant seeding is one technique that

has not received much attention. A successful program of dormant seeding can produce spectacular results in the spring, and it is a great insurance policy in the event that any winter damage occurs.

Dormant seeding is done in the fall, after soil temperatures have declined sufficiently, so complete germination will not occur. However, soil temperatures must be sufficient for the initial stages of germination to occur.

The first step in the seed germination process is water absorption. In the second step, the seed undergoes a swelling, which initiates several biochemical and morphological events. This ultimately results in the development of a seedling turfgrass plant.

In dormant seeding, the seed undergoes

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A view of the 15th fairway at the Country Club of the Rockies in April, 2000, following the use of overwinter dormant seed.

## Pythium outbreak in the Midwest attacks turf and budgets

By JOEL JOYNER

MORRIS, Ill. — In the last part of July to mid-August here in the Midwest, a heat wave and an extended period of high humidity created ideal conditions for widespread Pythium activity. Several superintendents dealt with the "water mold" in stride after protecting their fairways, greens and tees with a fungicide preventative, but others were forced to pay for their gamble with Mother Nature.

"With the heat wave in Chicago, just about every course had Pythium," said Paul Vermeulen, director with the USGA Green Section in Mahomet, Ill. "We had about four to five weeks of hot and humid weather. There was quite a bit of Pythium in fairways and roughs."

The weather finally broke around mid-August, but before that conditions were pretty tough, said superintendent Pat Norton here at the Nettle Creek Country Club, just southwest of Chicago. "Sometimes superintendents try to save too much money, and I've been guilty of that," he said. "You try to economize a little too much and hope to fly by without getting any Pythium, and then you get hammered."

Greens and tees were treated preventively at the course and survived the outbreak. "I don't really treat fairways preventively," Norton said, "so we had a fair shot of it. I usually do some spot treatments, but this year we

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## Colorado resort relies on overseas work force

By JOEL JOYNER

KEYSTONE, Colo. — As labor shortages continued to disrupt golf course maintenance operations this past summer, the River and Ranch golf courses here turned to international recruitment with the H-2B visa program. It worked out so well that



Visa workers at Keystone, left to right, Janella Higgins, Veronica Furze, superintendent Don Petrey, Zoe Jackson, Siobhan Greathead and spray technician Jeremy Fornachien

other courses would be wise to consider bringing in visa workers for next summer, said Steve Corneillier, director of golf courses at the Keystone Resort.

"We were struggling to get enough maintenance people for a single course,"

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## Seed companies

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WinterStar.

"There was extensive work on BrightStar SLT for salt tolerance over at Pure Seed Testing [Hubbard, Ore.]," said Tom Stanley, marketing manager. "What they did was place all the NTEP perennials into a salt water bath. They subjected them to the bath, at 17,000 parts/million, for nine weeks."

Most of the varieties were destroyed. "Some, however, still had green and growing tissue," Stanley said. "BrightStar SLT was one of the top survivors. It also has a good resistance to red thread. It will work well in areas with cool, moist, maritime winters."

Citation Fore will require less mowing, according to Stanley. "It has reduced steminess and reduced vertical growth in the spring and summer," he said. "It also has a 54 percent endophyte content, so it will be fairly resistant to above-ground feeding insects."

WinterPlay and WinterStar, two Poa trivialis varieties released by Turf Seed in limited quantities last year, will be more available this fall. "They'll be ideal for the South, where they're just going to be temporary grasses," said Stanley. "Also, the Northeastern and upper Midwest regions where there's wet, shady areas difficult for growing turf or even in shade mixes for permanent turf."

### PENNINGTON SEED

Pennington Seed, in Madison, Ga., is offering two new perennial ryegrasses that were both bred at Rutgers University.

"Applaud provides great color and has a very nice leaf texture," said Russ Nicholson, national sales manager. "We've found that it transitions very well. It's not one of these varieties you plant and have concerns about next spring in the South. It doesn't take the heat very well."

The other variety, Integra, will be available in limited quantities this fall for commercial use. "Next year, we'll step up production," Nicholson said. "It will still be in limited supply, but we'll have a few million pounds of it by then."

"Like the Applaud seed, Integra



was also bred at Rutgers for disease resistance, a dark green color, and good texture," said Nicholson. "In trials, we've found it to be a strong performer for the overseeding market."

JACKLIN SEED

Plant breeder Susan Sumudio at the Jacklin Seed Co. in Post Falls, Idaho, was one of the driving forces behind two "spanking new" perennial ryegrasses, Extreme and Galaxy.

"Extreme features excellent spring green-up, high density, and a dark green color," said Sumudio. "It also exhibits good pink snow mold resistance. It's been tested in company trials since 1997 and was entered in the 1999 perennial

ryegrass NTEP trial. It's done very well in northern trials."

Galaxy was especially developed for the Midwest, according to Sumudio. The company has tested it since 1998 at sites in Ohio, Maryland and New Jersey. "It's characterized as medium-fine texture, high density and a medium-dark green color," said Sumudio. "It also has demonstrated moderate resistance to leaf rust and gray leaf spot [GLS].



A test plot of Galaxy used in NTEP trial.

On a scale of one to nine, it's closer to a five or six in GLS resistance. But it's not being completely wiped out." ■

## Our fertilizer comes with a built-in insurance policy.



### UHS Signature Brand Fertilizers with Prospect® Plus not only provide quality nutrients, they also work to:

- Help turf establish or withstand environmental stresses
- Develop a more fibrous, extensive root system
- Enhance early plant growth and vigor
- Build greater shoot mass
- Increase uptake of soil nutrients and moisture
- Increase photosynthesis

UHS Signature Brand Fertilizers with Prospect® Plus have been impregnated with a proprietary nutrient solution that has shown a remarkable ability to improve vigor, quality and stress tolerance in turf, trees and ornamentals. The patented additive in Prospect® Plus has been tested extensively on many crops, including turf, in laboratory, greenhouse and field studies in the U.S. and several other countries.

Those studies have consistently shown a positive effect on early plant growth and development and with mature plants under stress. Sod farms results show that turf can be harvested earlier due to increased root mass and quicker establishment from seed or sprigs. Mature turf has greater root mass with a noted "tighter" visual appearance and less susceptibility to stress.

The same benefits can be found in Prospect®, a liquid micronutrient for foliar application or for use in fertigation systems.

### Effect of Fertilizer with Prospect Plus on Creeping Bentgrass Density

Ohio Turfgrass Foundation Research and Educational Center - 2000

Treatment	Rate	% Turf Density
Check		60.00
Fertilizer (46-0-0)	0.014 lb. N/1000 sq. ft.	72.00
Fertilizer (46-0-0) + Prospect Plus	0.014 lb. N/1000 sq. ft. + 48 oz./acre	77.00

Seeded on August 4, 2000 with G-2 creeping bentgrass at a rate of 2 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. Density measurements were based on % cover taken visually on 10/4 (8 weeks after treatment)

**Study Results:** "... a significant increase in creeping bentgrass establishment two months after seeding with the application of fertilizer and Prospect Plus compared to the untreated control." A 22% improvement over check and more than a 12% increase over fertilizer alone!

## Montgomery CC

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Invitational. The Southern Women's Amateur is scheduled for 2002.

Future plans are being laid for improving the landscaping around the clubhouse and enhancing the "no play" areas of the course. "It's got such a great history, not just in Alabama but in the Southeastern United States," said Greg Plotner, vice president of business development at IGM. ■

GOLF COURSE NEWS

For more information, contact your local UHS representative

[www.uhsonline.com](http://www.uhsonline.com)



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