



## 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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## MAINTENANCE

### Dormant Seeding

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the initial stages of germination during the late fall and early winter period before entering a frozen state throughout the winter. In this period, the enzyme and carbohydrate processes that occur during actual germination become dormant. Because the seed is partially germinated, it is four to six weeks ahead of a spring planted seed.

#### TIMING IS CRITICAL

I have used this technique successfully for over 15 years in the New England states and presently in Colorado. This work has primarily involved using bentgrass, but I



For more dormant seeding tips from Kevin Ross, visit [www.golfcoursenews.com](http://www.golfcoursenews.com)

have seen it work with all cool-season grasses. Depending on your region, the timing may change slightly.

Establishing test plots is the best way to determine the proper timing in your area. The easiest method can be achieved by using a hex plug cutter, removing the plugs, and using your standard divot/seed mix, seeding these plugs. During the time period you think might work best, you can seed one hole (plug) per day, over a 14 to 21 day period.

I have observed dormant seed germination as early as the first week in April when soil temperatures are in the high 30s to low 40s. This can catch some people by surprise and is a critical time period for the germinated seed because warm and windy spring periods can cause failure. Proper water management of these areas and close monitoring will spell success.

#### COST

Excluding the cost of fairway seeding, a typical program with bentgrass for greens, and divots on tees and fairways is about \$2,500. This is a small price to pay for an insurance policy which can provide very large dividends in the spring. ■



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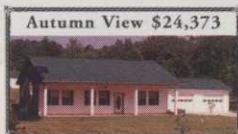
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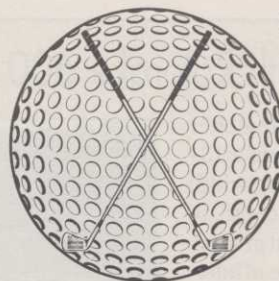
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