New disease spreads east
Researchers focus on single cell fungus that is attacking cool season turfgrasses in the Carolinas

Added length = added costs
New golf ball and club technology will significantly increase course development costs

Compost tea slowly gaining golf converts

With mounting environmental pressures and increasing chemical costs, some superintendents are turning toward sustainable agricultural techniques. On the forefront of this trend is compost tea, a higher-tech version of a centuries-old technology that "brews" compost to create a concentrated liquid "tea" that delivers beneficial microbes and low levels of nutrients to turfgrass. The brews, which have been commercially available since 1998, are used most heavily in agricultural settings. While there is no scientific evidence to directly support it, superintendents using compost tea report less disease pressure, less need for fertilization and irrigation and all-around healthier turf.

"Three years ago I was getting dollar spot that was unbelievable," said Charles Clarke, superintendent at Woodbury Country Club in Woodbury, N.J. "I was getting five days of control out of Bayleton and seven days out of Daconil. Two years ago I started spraying with compost tea every seven days and by the end of the summer I saw results. This year I was getting 15

Chensoff’s Calusa Pines elevates golf in Naples

NAPLES, Fla. — In order to compete in the ever-expanding Naples golf market, developer Gary Chensoff knew that he had to create something radically different in order to elevate his new project above other area courses.

Chensoff, who was also involved in the development of the Rees Jones-designed Naples Grande Golf Club, has succeeded both literally and figuratively here with the November opening of Calusa Pines Golf Club.

Enlisting the services of Hurdzan, Fry Design, Course Doctors and superintendant Eric von Hohen, Chensoff transformed 550 acres of flat land into an undulating property that has 58 feet of elevation change and features the highest point of land in south Florida.

In order to reach such heights, Course Doctors, working with local mass excavator LeeMar, blasted through tons of rock to dig 72 acres of 25-foot deep lakes. Part of

Golf’s ‘big three’ weather slowdown

It’s no secret that 2001 was a tough year for the golf business. With the economy flagging, budgets tightened, new construction slipped and golf rounds were down. The events of Sept. 11 have simply exacerbated the situation.

While many companies are struggling to maintain the status quo, the big three turf equipment manufacturers definitely felt the contracting golf economy land on their bottom lines with a resounding thud.

NGCOA, Club Car ink partnership deal

CHARLESTON, S.C. — The National Golf Course Owners Association has signed an exclusive agreement with Club Car, Inc., to form a "premier partnership."

In addition to providing pricing incentives for NGCOA members, Club Car will sponsor golf car fleet management programs and educational seminars and work with the association to grow its membership. The agreement will run for a term of five years and has replaced the NGCOA’s previous deal with Yamaha Golf Car Co.

Moving beyond a pricing deal was a key part of the agreement, according to Club Car’s vice president of marketing Chris Plummer.
Del Webb, Troon
Continued from page 29

"We thought the previous 'Smart Buy' program was very limiting," he said. "We were not interested in serving up discounts to customers just because they were in the business of buying golf cars. We thought we could bring more value to the association by helping them educate their members and grow membership."

According to Plummer, there are a number of Club Car clients who are potential members. When a non-member rolls over their Club Car fleet, a membership with the association will be included.

"That is a big part of the deal," said NGCOA executive director Mike Hughes. "It will help people become more familiar with our association and our efforts to grow the game."

Additionally, Club Car will be involved in formulating education seminars for the association on subjects ranging from improving profitability to fleet management to energy efficiency.

"Doing this gets us in front of potential customers," said Plummer. "But you are not going to see a seminar on Club Car's golf car. We are going to help the association by providing content and expert facilitators."

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