Compost tea slowly gaining golf converts
By ANDREW OVERBECK

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 brewers, 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 Bayelon 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...”

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Chensoff’s Calusa Pines elevates golf in Naples
By A. OVERBECK

NAPLES, Fla. — In order to compete in the ever-expanding Naples golf market, developer Gary Chensoff knew that he had to do 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 the No. 10 hole, which features natural contouring and a pond, the Rees Jones-designed course is a true test of golfing skill.

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

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Golf’s ‘big three’ weather slowdown
By ANDREW OVERBECK

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.

Textrol, which was still computing year-end numbers when Golf Course News went to press, posted a net loss of $330 million in the third quarter alone. John Deere’s net losses mounted to $64 million on the year. Only Toro managed to post positive growth for 2001 with net income up 11.4 percent to $80.4 million.

While these numbers represent entire corporations of which the golf and turf divisions make up a fraction of the total business, representatives from all...