There are many choices when it comes to improving golf courses. Spring Creek Ranch CC is converting its roughs from bunker drainage and converting turf to a fescue blend to Palisades zoysiagrass. TPC at Four Seasons in Scottsdale, Arizona, calls for ‘good sense’ in debate about the use of Roundup resistant turfgrass. The course found one — a 67-foot Monterey pine that stood near the 18th green at Pebble Beach Golf Links. After searching far and wide for a suitable replacement, the plan was to replace it. After searching far and wide for a suitable replacement, the course found one — a 67-foot Monterey pine that stood near the 18th green at Pebble Beach Golf Links. After searching far and wide for a suitable replacement, the plan was to replace it.
Advanced Turf Solutions merges with Turf Professionals Choice

FISHERS, Ind. — Advanced Turf Solutions and Turf Professionals Choice, two Indianapolis-area distributors, have merged under the Advanced Turf Solutions name. The combined company, which focuses on post-patent chemistry, now serves all of Indiana and Kentucky as well as Southern Ohio.

Alex Cannon is the president of the new company and Dan Dunnham is vice president of operations. Vic Garcia, the founder of Turf Professionals Choice, has ownership in the company and serves on the board of directors. Garcia will continue to service his customers in the field and play other key roles in management.

The company distributes a full line of professional turf maintenance products and golf course accessories. Advanced Turf Solutions is headquartered Fishers where it has a 28,000-square-foot facility. The company also has a smaller facility in Lexington, Kent.

Textron focus

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and turf backgrounds. We are taking a fresh look at all of this equipment.

Among the areas being looked at said Vickers are next generation cutting units, alternative power sources, and technology from Textron's other divisions such as Omniquipt and Bell Helicopter.

Vickers' first task will be to streamline Textron's product platforms.

"We will whittle down the number of configurations and go to a minimum number of platforms," he said. "For example, we have duplicate platforms in the triplex mowers but we have to target that while retaining functionality for all the markets.”

At the same time, Vickers is also working on new products.

"We have the new LF 1880 fairway mower out there right now and we will be looking at how we can add a greens mower and a trim mower to that new platform," Vickers said. "We will also be concentrating heavily on walk-behind greens mowers because our competition already has an advantage there. The first phase of new line of walk-behind greens mowers will be announced later this year."

Textron is also ramping up its testing facility at its 270,000 square-foot factory in Charlotte.

"We will have a 24-hour-a-day track for outdoor durability testing and we are also putting in a par3 hole that will give us all of the elements of the golf course right there at the factory," said Vickers.

The 125-yard hole will have a 6,000-square-foot green, three different tee boxes and will have sand traps and waste bunkers.

"It will give us the capability to look at different aspects of a development program without having to go to a golf course," Vickers said. "It will also allow customers to try out our new products at the factory."

Syngenta

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Syngenta remains confident that Syngenta will remain on top in the turf and ornamental market. "Acquisitions and consolidations and mergers have been a big part of this industry in the last five to seven years and as a supplier you learn to deal with it," he said. "We will continue to be number one in turf and ornamentals after the acquisition." As part of the Aventis acquisition, European Union officials and the U.S. Federal Trade Commission have forced Bayer to shed several insecticide products (see story on previous page). Pulliam said Syngenta might be looking to pick up the pieces. "We are always interested in opportunities if they present themselves," said Pulliam.

"For example, we have a lot of Syngenta customers in the field and play a role in everything that they do," he said. "We will also allow customers to try out our new products at the factory."