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MOVIN' ON UP

Ever since the century-old Monterey pine that stood near the 18th green at Pebble Beach Golf Links succumbed to lightning and disease last fall, the plan was to replace it. After searching far and wide for a suitable replacement, the course found one – a 67-foot cypress tree – right on the property. See story on page 3.

Photo: Freddy Bird

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Ron E. Jackson of Meadowbrook Golf and golf industry consultant Michael A. Kahn assess the value of management companies.

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COUNTERPOINT

Editorial Focus: Turf & Seed

Turf Seed forging ahead with naturally Roundup resistant turf

By ANDREW OVERBECK

HUBBARD, Ore. — While it continues to work on transgenic Roundup ready turfgrass, Pure Seed Testing, Turf Seed's research corporation, is also pressing forward with its decade-long effort to develop naturally Roundup resistant turfgrass.

"Ten years ago I asked the marketing guys what they would like to see in the future and they said herbicide resistant grasses," said Pure Seed Testing president Crystal Rose-Fricker. "I decided to start work on Roundup because it was the most accepted herbicide and most usable to kill grassy weeds like Poa annua."

Rose-Fricker has already developed Aurora Gold hard fescue, and Pure Gold and Tomahawk RT tall fescues that tolerate higher than usual rates of Roundup. All three

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Crystal Rose-Fricker in the field

Textron continues refocusing efforts

By ANDREW OVERBECK

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — With its manufacturing and engineering facilities mostly consolidated to its Charlotte, N.C., and Ipswich, England, facilities, Textron Golf, Turf and Specialty Products is pushing forward with other initiatives to retool the company.

These ongoing efforts involve condensing product platforms, rolling out a new walk-behind greens mower line and opening a new testing facility that will include a par-3 golf hole. Over the long-term, the company also plans to convert to a build-to-order company instead of a build-to-stock company giving its dealers and distributors more control over inventory and costs.

"Charlotte is the center for turf engineering globally," said Michael Vickers, Textron's new vice president of engineering for turf products. "When we moved here from Racine [Wis.] we assembled a new team of engineers because there were very few people who wanted to transfer down here."

"We ended up with a team that is extremely diverse from both an experience and a industry point of view," he continued. "We have engineers from aircraft, automobile, agricultural and construction,



Michael Vickers

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AGC defamation suits proceed in Illinois

By DEREK RICE

GENEVA, Ill. — In late May, Santa Monica, Calif.-based American Golf Corp. (AGC) and disgruntled Eagle Brook Country Club member Tom Doyle finally had their day in court to address lawsuits filed by each side alleging defamation.

AGC alleges that Doyle's Web site that criticizes Eagle Brook is defamatory. Doyle

alleges that he and his wife were defamed when their names were posted at the club as deadbeats. He also claims breach of contract and fraud on the part of AGC-operated Eagle Brook.

At the May 23 hearing, Judge Patrick Dixon set a late-June court date for a preliminary hearing on the suits. At this hearing, both sides will be forced to play all their cards, which is essentially what Doyle said he has been seeking from the beginning.

At issue is the status of maintenance issues at the club, as well as Eagle Brook's insistence that members join a resigning members list and wait for a set number of members to join before existing

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Oneidas building on casino, golf successes

By DEREK RICE

ONEIDA, N.Y. — The Oneida Indian Nation has broken ground for construction of the first of two new golf courses to complement its Shenandoah Golf Club at Turning Stone Casino.

"What the nation is looking to do is to shift Turning Stone from a casino that has a golf course to a golf destination that happens to have a casino," said Mark Emery, a spokesman for the Oneida Nation.

The decision to build the two new courses was based on the increased demand for golf in the

area surrounding the casino, Emery said.



The Oneida Indian Nation in New York is building two new golf courses at Turning Point Casino to complement Shenandoah Golf Club, the 12th hole of which is pictured above.

"Golf is very popular here, and people have been thrilled with the

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CourseCo

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who heads up the environmental horticulture program. Working with administrators they created a curriculum that offers guest speakers from the industry and several field trips to area golf courses including Monarch Bay GC in San Leandro, Lake Chabot GC in Oakland and the reconstruction project at MGL.

tion project at MGL.

"The kids are very receptive," said Edgerly. "We have had 88 11th and 12th grade students in the program in its first year. People like Ray Davies and CourseCo had the vision to incorporate what they are doing in Oakland with the new golf course and involve children of color in programs to get them involved in turf management. It is an answer to my prayers."

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Davies also worked with Merritt College to design the program to fit with its landscape and horticulture degree. Ideally, the program will feed students into that and other community colleges and perhaps even state institutions like California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo.

Though the program is still in its infancy, Edgerly is confident that it is already making a difference.


"Perhaps only half will continue in this field, but the other half will use these experiences and apply them to other fields in the world of work," he said. "This program gives them confidence in themselves."

In addition to bringing future

college graduates from the program into the CourseCo fold, Davies hopes that the Oakland program will provide a model for other inner city initiatives.

"The FFA is already looking at us as a model," he said. "They see how we are bringing the FFA to the inner city. We would like to add five more schools to the program once this takes off." ■

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Available Phosphate (P ₂ O ₅)	2.0%	Typical Spreader Settings (Coarse Grade)	
Soluble Potash (K ₂ O)	8.0%	1 lb N/1000	375
Calcium (Ca)	2.0%	5 lb N/1000	375
Total Magnesium (Mg)	1.0%	10 lb N/1000	375
0.50% Water Soluble Magnesium (Mg)		20 lb N/1000	375
Total Sulfur (S)	2.0%	30 lb N/1000	375
2.0% Combined Sulfur (S)		40 lb N/1000	375
Boron (B)	0.05%	50 lb N/1000	375
Copper (Cu)	0.02%	60 lb N/1000	375
Iron (Fe)	2.0%	70 lb N/1000	375
Total Manganese (Mn)	0.2%	80 lb N/1000	375
Molybdenum (Mo)	0.005%	90 lb N/1000	375
Zinc (Zn)	0.2%	100 lb N/1000	375

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Turf Seed

Continued from page 1

varieties are currently on the market, but cannot be labeled as Roundup resistant until trial work with Monsanto is completed. That could be wrapped up as early as the end of this summer.

"The tricky thing is that you can kill these with high rates of Roundup. So we cannot call them Roundup ready," said Rose-Fricke. "But we have been able to kill Poa out of them with four and eight ounce per acre rates and Rutgers University has done trials that show that Aurora Gold can take 16 ounces per acre."

Rose-Fricke is also working to make other species such as creeping bentgrass and ryegrass naturally Roundup resistant.

"We have screened some Penn bents and creeping bents," she said. "I have something that is close, but I have to do more turf testing to see how it performs in turf."

Another challenge facing the program are the more powerful Roundup formulations that have hit the market since it went off patent.

"It has become hotter and it is trickier to handle because the strength has changed," Rose-Fricke said. "We are doing studies now on different formulations from Monsanto."

LESS CONTAMINATION RISK

While Rose-Fricke said genetically altered turfgrass can tolerate any level of Roundup, the natural option reduces the risk of cross contamination.

"We have done out crossing studies but because of the genetics involved, it is not a single dominant gene like you have with transgenic varieties. It can't just outcross with another variety and make it resistant," she said.

According to Rose-Fricke, naturally resistant bentgrass and ryegrass could make it to production in two years. On the transgenic side, Turf Seed's HybriGene division is still testing transgenic Roundup ready bentgrass. However, in order to beat the contamination odds, it is working with male-sterile lines.

"That is more difficult," said Rose-Fricke, "but we think it is the only way to go with gene stewardship issues. We have plants right now that we are waiting to verify with genetic tests. We could know something this summer." ■