



## BRIEFS

### ENVIRONMENTAL GOLF PROMOTES LINDSEY

CALABASAS, Calif. — Environmental Golf Industries Inc. has named Curt Lindsey superintendent at The Plantation of Leesburg in Leesburg, Fla. Lindsey, who has been with Environmental since 1995, was promoted from assistant superintendent at The Plantation.



Curt Lindsey

### PTI HIRES TIDWELL FOR FARMLINKS

FAYETTEVILLE, Ala. — Pursell Technologies Inc. (PTI) has hired John Tidwell as superintendent for FarmLinks, PTI's 18-hole research and demonstration course opening next spring. He will work with Tim Lacy, director of grounds and golf, to oversee the remainder of construction.



John Tidwell

## CourseCo develops turfgrass program for inner city kids

By ANDREW OVERBECK

OAKLAND, Calif. — As part of its redevelopment of Oakland's Metropolitan Golf Links, CourseCo has developed the Oakland Turfgrass Education Initiative.

CourseCo created the program in partnership with Castlemont High School, Merritt College and various organizations including Future Farmers of America (FFA), the United States Golf Association and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

"We are hoping that five or six years down the road we will have some kids coming out of this program that we can hire in management positions," said CourseCo principal Ray Davies. "The real goal of the program is to open doors to the green industry for inner city kids in Oakland. They don't even look at the green industry as a career opportunity."

"We are trying to take advantage of the kids' interest in Tiger Woods and the fact that we are building a new golf course down the road and tie that all into the program," he continued.

Creating a community service program was part of Oakland's contract conditions for the Metropolitan Golf Links (MGL) project. "They wanted to have us give

internships as a social welfare thing," Davies said. "But I decided to go bigger because I knew about the initiatives that the FFA and GCSAA were taking to develop a national teaching golf and turf management program and I wanted to get



Students check out the putting green at Monarch Bay GC in San Leandro.

one started in the inner city."

As a result, Davies spent two years developing the program even though CourseCo had yet to win the bid for the 40-year lease for the MGL from the city. CourseCo is paying \$5 million up front for the construction of the Johnny Miller and Fred Bliss-designed course and will pay city \$30 million to \$40 million in rent over the course of the lease in exchange for all operating revenues. Work on the course started this spring and Davies projects an opening in spring 2003.

With the idea in hand, Davies approached Castlemont High School's Eric Edgerly,

Continued on page 8

### Editorial Focus: Turf & Seed

## Rough notes: Spring Creek converts

By ANDREW OVERBECK

COLLIERVILLE, Tenn. — Though the private Spring Creek Ranch Country Club here is just three years old, the facility is tearing up its disease-prone fescue roughs in favor of new Palisades zoysiagrass.

"We had a blend of Trailblazer and Lancer 2 fescue and we have fought



All lake banks, greens and bunker complexes were sodded with Palisades at Spring Creek Ranch. The sixth hole is pictured above.

Pythium and brown patch from the start," said superintendent Michael Dieckhoff. "Nine months out of the year it was great but the three months that we had most of our member play it was 60 percent at best. We gave it one more year and then came to the harsh realization that there is no amount of money that will make it acceptable for play in the summertime."

Dieckhoff estimated the cost of water, fertilizer, fungicides and labor to keep the fescues going ran about \$300,000 a year. Converting to Palisades zoysiagrass will cost the club \$400,000, but Dieckhoff expects to recoup that in cost savings

Continued on page 9

## Cleaning intakes helps reduce pump station repairs

By KEVIN ROSS

It is easier to see problems that occur on the surface, but because those that lurk underwater or underground are harder to predict, they deserve more attention. One such area that should be dealt with regularly is the pump house wet well and intake piping.

After years of use, intake screens can become clogged and the intake piping and wet well can become contaminated with silt. Most golf course managers will agree that the most important part of the golf course starts with the pump house. So, this is a great place to investigate what lurks below and address it on a preventive basis.

There are diving companies throughout the United States that will do this type of investigative work. One company, American Underwater Services (AUS), of Fort Worth, Texas, has made a niche for itself specializing in desiltation of wet wells and intakes.

"Thousands of dollars are spent annually on pump station repairs and replacements that could often be eliminated by removing accumulated sediment, rocks, and other debris

from wet wells or pump basins," said Anthony DiIulio, president of AUS.

DiIulio, who has a team of former offshore divers that also services power plants and big dams, got into the golf business five years ago when it was contacted by a course in Houston. "We had never really thought about the golf market, and now it is 70 percent of our business," DiIulio said.

Companies like AUS can prevent such disasters by a thorough inspection and cleaning of the intake screen, piping and wet well. AUS has built special equipment that allows them to move a tremendous amount of silt in a short period of time.

A 2,500-gpm hydraulic trash pump is the principle cleaning unit used. The unit rolls into the pond (like a mini ATV) and is positioned at the opening of the wet well intake. Once the diver has removed the intake screen, he then fishes a six-inch suction hose through the intake pipe



A diver from AUS entering a wet well

and removes all rocks, sediment, leaves, and other debris from within the line. When the hose reaches the wet well, the diver will exit the pond and climb into the wet well to vacuum out the debris and silt. When this is complete, the diver returns to the pond to

Continued on page 10

## Rutgers unveils new turf management degree program

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. — Rutgers University and the Cook College Office of Continuing Education along with the Center for Turfgrass Science has announced its 2002/2003 Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management School.

The course is presented in two 10-week sessions over a two year period. During the program students will learn the technical skills required for all superintendents including turfgrass establishment, maintenance of greens and tees, botany and physiology of turfgrass and ornamentals, and weed identification. The course will also cover management and computer and communication skills. The program is recommended for superintendents, assistant superintendents, irrigation technicians and mechanics that have a minimum of two years working in golf turf management.

The fall session will be held Oct. 7 - Dec. 13 and the winter session will be held Jan. 6 - March 14, 2003. Applications are due by Aug. 1. For more information, contact: (732) 932-9271 or e-mail ocpe@aesop.rutgers.edu.



## CourseCo

Continued from page 6

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."

ment. It is an answer to my prayers."

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." ■

# An organic based fertilizer specifically designed for fairways



### 20-2-8 Fairway Formula

Guaranteed analysis		Application Rate	
Total Nitrogen (N)	20.0%	Fairways, Athletic Fields, Lawns	7 lbs. N/1000 sq. ft. = 3.5 lbs per 1000
0.90% Ammoniacal N		3 bags per acre	
5.30% Urea N			
3.00% Water Soluble Organic N			
5.00% Slowly Available Water Soluble N*			
5.80% Water Insoluble N*			
Available Phosphate (P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> )	2.0%	Typical Spreader Settings (Coarse Grade)	
Soluble Potash (K <sub>2</sub> 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

Derived from: Feather meal, meat and bone meal, urea, methylene urea, potassium sulfate, dicalcium phosphate (bone meal), monoammonium phosphate, kelp meal, iron oxide, iron oxide, ferrous sulfate in derivation, magnesium oxide, magnesium sulfate, manganese sulfate, zinc oxide, copper sulfate, calcium borate, molybdenum oxide.

Fairway formula is a natural, organic-based specialty fertilizer derived from plant and animal meals, fertilized with both slow release and quick release soluble nitrogen.

\*10.8% Slow or controlled release Nitrogen derived from feather meal & methylene urea.

Net 50 lbs. (22.67 kg)

roots inc. 3120 Weatherford Road • Independence • MO • 64055 • tel: 800 342-6173 • www.rootsinc.com

- Improved density & root mass
- Excellent color response
- Beneficial microbes

## 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." ■