

MAINTENANCE



BRIEFS

DELHI TO OFFER EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE

DELHI, N.Y. — Responding to concerns about the lack of qualified turf equipment mechanics, SUNY Delhi has teamed with the New York State Turfgrass Association to create a college certificate in turf equipment management. The college will introduce the program in January 2003. The program will be geared toward both new students and those who have field experience. Courses will be offered in the off-season. For more information, contact 607-746-4545 or www.delhi.edu.

LEBANON CUTS ROYALTY CHECK

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. — Lebanon Seaboard Corp. has presented a check for \$102,934 to Dr. William Meyer of Rutgers University to further turfgrass research. Lebanon Seaboard has numerous ongoing cooperative projects with Dr. Meyer and Dr. C. Reed Funk at Rutgers that have led to the release of several top-rated turfgrass varieties. The amount represents royalties for some of these varieties of tall fescue, Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, hard fescue, creeping red fescue and chewing fescue.

CHIPCO TRAINING ONLINE

MONTVALE, N.J. — The Chipco Professional Products group of Bayer Environmental Science is conducting a free online training program entitled "Poa annua Control" on its Web site www.bayerchipco.com. The training session addresses how professionals have been challenged with Poa annua and will review strategies for control and management. Participants will learn about cultural practices and herbicides to consider depending on the control method and situation.

ENDORSE CONTROLS ANTHRACNOSE

DAYTON, N.J. — Results from Rutgers University field tests this year have demonstrated that Cleary Chemical's Endorse fungicide provides control and management of anthracnose. Endorse is a translaminar, systemic antibiotic fungicide. In the Rutgers trial, Endorse was used in a preventive program on a Poa annua/bentgrass green at a rate of four ounces per 1,000 square feet at a 14-day application interval.

Going native: Proper management ensures playability

By KEVIN J. ROSS, CGCS

One area of golf course design and course aesthetics that clash with playability is the proliferation of native grass areas. The addition of native grass, which has been labeled the "Scottish look," has sparked a debate, as architects incorporate more and more of these grass areas into designs.

Most of these layouts are sites with limited trees and open land, which need mounding features for hole separation and definition. But the use of native grass can also be found as bunker surrounds and wildlife habitat areas. Some courses have also incorporated native areas to reduce mowing and labor costs in out-of-the-way areas.

True native grass can be defined as grasses indigenous to the area that are growing in nearby fields. These species survive with natural rainfall, no fertilizer and no mowing. Native grass cultivar selection often results in grasses that are not truly native to the area. There is no

problem with this, however many times mistakes are made in selection. The typical mistake is choosing a cultivar that performs more like a true turfgrass than a true native grass.

Another typical mistake is the seeding rates. Many times superintendents/architects use rates much too high and create a stand that is far too dense. For example, the normal seeding rates for native fescues should be 50 to 75 percent less than a turf stand. This will provide

a much more playable situation with a thinner stand. The grass will develop a more clump-type growth

habit with the ability to seed better and get that wispy, seedhead look.

Continued on page 9



Sand Hills Golf Club in Nebraska is an example of a course carved out of true native grasses.

Winter irrigation systems protect Colorado courses

By ANDREW OVERBECK

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Here on the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains winter weather does bring snowfall, but it doesn't stick. Because of the brutal winds and lack of steady snow cover, courses are forced to irrigate in order to stave off desiccation.

"We historically get 50 inches of snow," said Fred Dickman, superintendent at the Broadmoor Golf Club in Colorado Springs, which sits at 6,800 feet in elevation. "But it blows off and we have a lot of sunny days that open us up to desiccation. We have to keep the plant and soil moist in the winter months."

To accomplish this frigid task, Dickman has a winter irrigation system that consists of Drisco pipe laid below the frost line and connected to limited areas on the fairways and greens.

"We blow out our regular lines and shut off our regular system and then we repressurize the main line to run the winter system," he said. "Our watering window is

Continued on page 9

Seeded zoysia shows promise in lower transition area

By ANDREW OVERBECK

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Purdue University is working in conjunction with the University of Kentucky to study the viability of seeded zoysia grass in the lower transition zone. The results so far are promising, according to Purdue's turfgrass extension specialist Zachary Reicher.

"We are in our third full year of research here," said Reicher. "We think zoysia is the best overall choice for fairways and tees in the lower transition area from Kansas to Maryland because of its ease of maintenance. It also requires less inputs and it survives the winter better than bermudagrass."

Research has focused on the best approaches to seeding zoysia, specifically studying the best tim-

ing and rates and when herbicides can safely be applied. Work is also being done to determine the best



Seeded zoysia establishes faster than plugs

With seeded varieties, more courses could get the benefits of zoysia without the initial expense.

Previously, zoysia has been only widely available as sod, strips or strips. Seeded zoysia costs \$1,500 to \$2,000 an acre compared to \$15,000 for sod and \$5,000 for strip sod.

According to Tim Bowyer of Patten Seed Co., which is supplying the studies with its Zenith seeded zoysia grass, there is now a ready supply of seeded zoysia on hand.

"Before it was an inventory issue," said Bowyer. "Now we can produce the volume of seeded zoysia that the market needs. But there has been no work done on seeding it because it has traditionally been

all plugging and sodding. It can

Continued on page 10

Haines puts PermO₂Pore to work at San Pedro GC

By DAVID HUBBARD

BENSON, Ariz. — For more than 10 years, Lou Haines consulted with golf course superintendents on porous ceramic technology. Now, as a part owner of San Pedro Golf Course here, the veteran agronomist and golf course superintendent is utilizing his innovative soil conditioning system in his own project.

Slated to open in early December, San Pedro Golf Courses promises a "pure golf" experience that preserves the spirit and tradition of golf.

Carved from high desert terrain in the San Pedro River Valley, 30 minutes southeast of Tucson, Colorado-based Arizona Golf Systems has constructed a much-needed top quality, affordable layout in this area of the state.

With the help of noted Denver-based course designer Mark Rathert they have masterminded a 7,300-yard classic configuration free of real estate development or other distractions from the game. There are no out-of-bounds markers on the course,

Continued on page 10

Manage native grass for playability

Continued from page 6

Trying to balance design integrity and aesthetics with playability is the challenge that superintendents face when managing native areas. To achieve this balance, most agree that proper irrigation design is the key.

Native areas that are watered, or get partially hit by water, turn into the so-called jungle. For a new golf course, it is imperative to be able to control or turn off the watering once the course is established. The most difficult area to manage is the interface area where mowed rough meets the native area. The mowable rough needs water, but it is very difficult to water it 100 percent without some overspray hitting the native grass along the edge.

This is when you hear the golfer commenting, "I would rather hit my ball 10 feet in the native than a foot into the native." They are referring to the fact that the interface zone is jungle, but 10 feet in, it is dry and playable. In this case, you can either live with some rough on the dry side, or control that fine line of native by selective mowing.

How to manage native grasses around bunkers and bunker faces is another contentious issue. Golf purists agree that bunker faces ringed with native grasses have a look second to none. Adding surrounding native grass to a bunker

can make the hazard two to three times larger, but any of these areas that receive water tend to become thick and practically unplayable.

Unfortunately, golfers often misunderstand design principles, strategy and hazards. Most golfers today expect every square



Dry native grass offers playability and contrasting color.

foot of the golf course to be manicured and playable. While bunkers are hazards by the rules of golf, the native grass edging is not a hazard but plays as difficult or even more difficult. If you can even find the ball, faces or fringes of the bunker may be totally unplayable.

Where does all this

leave the debate? It seems there is no complete answer from a playability standpoint. The decisions on managing native grass will lie with each individual club and their objectives for speed of play and playability. The design intent of the architect should be considered before changes are made in native areas. Careful irrigation management/design, species selection and seeding rates can also ensure a more manageable native grass situation. ■

INTRODUCING A NEW GRASS ROOTS ORGANIZATION.

Winter irrigation

Continued from page 6

pretty small because you can't put water out when it is below freezing. We are in the 20s every morning so we can't water anything until at least 10 a.m."

Dave Hare, superintendent at The Sanctuary in Castle Rock, also has a winter irrigation system that he uses to protect against desiccation.

"Our main line is at a depth of four feet and we have frost-free hydrants around the tees and greens," said Hare. "We have not had to water fairways yet. Last year we watered three times before March."

To further protect bunker faces and minimize winter irrigation, Hare soaks them for eight hours to try to get as much water into them before the ground freezes. Then on the south-facing bunker slopes he applies a three-quarter-inch jute mat to keep the sun intensity off the turf.

Even to the north in Granby at 8,000 feet in elevation, superintendent Greg Chambers at Grand Elk Ranch & Club irrigates in the winter. However, the system he relies on – a pickup truck and a water tank – is a more low-tech option.

"We watered in December and again in the beginning of February to defeat desiccation," he said. "It still gets really cold, but because of the sun on slopes it takes the water. It is time consuming but it is worth it." ■

GOLF COURSE NEWS



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