

Business briefs

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Simplot finalizes acquisitions

The J.R. Simplot Co. finalized its acquisition of Turf Partners from Eco Soil Systems, as well as the turfgrass seed and specialty distribution assets from AgriBioTech.

The Turf Partners nationwide distribution channel will now be known as Simplot Partners and will function as a separate business unit within Simplot Turf & Horticulture.

Simplot also recently acquired the distribution locations of Garden West in Phoenix, Hill of Kentucky in Florence, Ky, and Las Vegas Fertilizer in Las Vegas.

Golf Property opens N.C. office

Golf Property Analysts, a national golf-property consulting and appraisal firm based in Harrisburg, Pa., has opened an office in Arapahoe, N.C., to serve the Southeast market.

Tyler expands operation

Elwood, Ill.-based Tyler Enterprises has expanded its custom fertilizer application system for golf courses by adding a third applicator truck to its fleet.

"When we introduced the system last October, we worked hard to incorporate the specific design and engineering features that superintendents told us were lacking in other applicator trucks," said Bruce Jasurda, Tyler's chief operating officer. "We must have done it right. We have added two more complete systems in less than a year."

Standard Golf growing

Standard Golf Co. is constructing a 30,000-square-foot addition to its existing 75,000-square-foot manufacturing facility in Cedar Falls, Iowa. The additions will increase Standard Golf's plant capacity by one-third.

GCSAA campaign passes \$4 million

The GCSAA Foundation surpassed the \$4 million mark in its "Investing in the Beauty of Golf" endowment campaign, which is closing in on its goal of \$5 million.

The foundation will provide funding to support applied on-course research and educational advancements for superintendents and others.

Rumor Is All Wet

STONE CANYON DIDN'T CLOSE BECAUSE OF WATER RESTRICTIONS

We received an e-mail last month about the closing of Stone Canyon GC in Oro Valley, Ariz., because of water restrictions. The e-mail said that Oro Valley, the course's water contractor, ceased its supply to Stone Canyon for six months because of an ongoing drought. "That would put a damper on my summer golf," the e-mailer noted.

No doubt, but the rumor is not true. Stone Canyon is closed, but not because of water restrictions. "Any time a course closes for a few months, you hear every possible rumor," said course pro Todd Huizinga, who was aware of the talk.

Truth is, Stone Canyon, which had a soft opening in February, isn't finished. Huizinga said the Jay Morrish-designed course closed so crews could concentrate on revegetation efforts and minor road construction. "We plan on having a grand opening late this fall or in early 2001," Huizinga says.

Jeff Weir, Oro Valley's economic development administrator, said people saw brown grass on the course and assumed it closed because of lack of water. But Weir says the brown grass was "by design" because Stone Canyon workers are resodding certain areas. "We're not withholding water from the course," Weir added.

Stimping: Do the Right Thing

Stimping is kind of like the weather in Chicago — inconsistent. Thankfully, USGA recognizes that and offers relief on its Web site. Check out www.usga.org/green/download/ndx.asp?content=pubs for the "Stimpmeter Instruction Booklet" to help you with your stimping distress.

You'll find related articles, too, such as "Measuring Green Speed on Sloped Putting Greens," "It's Time We Put the Green Back in Green Speed" and "S.P.E.E.D. — Consider What's Right For Your Course."

