As certified superintendent of The Ridge Club, Tom Colombo cares for the 6,657 yards of the privately owned championship course. Course architect Bob VonHagge incorporated distinct features to create a playing experience unlike any other in New England. With more than two decades of experience as a superintendent, Colombo enjoys the maintenance challenges associated with The Ridge Club.

The fifth hole greets visitors entering the gated community. Redesigned in 2004 to make a memorable first impression, the hole pleases the eye while challenging the players. The hole now requires a skilled second shot to avoid a water hazard fronting the green.

The Northeast has experienced an epidemic of anthracnose crown rot in recent years. This stress-related disease is especially damaging to annual bluegrass on putting green turf. By incorporating Insignia® fungicide into his preventive spray program, Colombo has been able to control the crown rot in addition to other troublesome diseases, such as fusarium patch, brown patch and summer patch. Facing dollar spot-resistance issues with the repeated use of DMI-class fungicides, Colombo began using Emerald® fungicide three years ago to add a new class of chemistry to his rotation. Colombo now incorporates the Emerald First/Emerald Last strategy, which involves spraying fairways and tees at the beginning and end of the summer season.

"We're able to get 30 days plus control, and I don't have to apply another product at the end of the season; we're clean through the fall," says Colombo. "The length of control from Emerald has resulted in both money and labor savings for our course."

To see past Holes of the Month, download a desktop image and more, visit www.turffacts.com.

Emerald® fungicide offers superintendents a better standard for dollar spot control. For more information, contact your distributor or BASF at www.turffacts.com.