Hole of the

Hole No. 12 | Southern Hills Country Club | Tulsa, Oklahoma
As host of 14 major championships and the upcoming 2009 U.S. Amateur, Southern Hills Country Club is a historic gem and a golfer’s fantasy.

Golf legends Ben Hogan and Arnold Palmer have called the course’s 12th hole one of America’s greatest par fours. Its right-to-left sloping fairway demands a precision drive down the slight left dogleg onto a blind landing area. A second shot, made with a long to middle iron, must careen past water and sand bunkers onto a well-banked green. Even the pros are likely to bogey. But the real challenge of outsmarting the course’s obstacles falls on certified golf course superintendent Russ Myers.

“Tulsa’s mid-America climate can be as unforgiving as the course’s hazardous slopes and slants,” Myers said.

Unlike other regions that enjoy transitional seasons between freezing and sweltering, the city’s flat, arid landscape offers little variance between climate extremes.

“We may experience 30 days of ice cover, then get hit with two and a half months of straight rain and then dry heat,” he said. “I have to trust my experience, not the forecast, to keep the greens in championship shape.”

Myers is no stranger to managing tournament turf. He trained at Augusta National Golf Club, has participated in 23 majors and PGA Tour events and worked as Card Sound Golf Club’s head superintendent for eight years in Key Largo, Fla.

When Myers was faced with an outbreak of *Pythium volutum* on the greens at Southern Hills, he turned to monthly applications of Insignia® fungicide at a rate of 0.9 ounces per 1,000 square feet to keep the disease at bay.

“Insignia is an absolute staple in our rotation,” Myers said. “It is an effective preventive treatment and works well to cure infection that’s been exasperated by spouts of damaging weather.”

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