Liquid Fertilizers
• Nitro-30 (30-0-0) with 85% SRN
• Nitro+K (22-0-16) with 82% SRN
• 18-3-6 with 50% SRN plus Micros
• Triple Ten (10-10-10) with 40% SRN
• Hi-Kal (15-2-15) with 50% SRN plus Micros
• 0-0-25 Liquid Potassium
• 0-30-0 Liquid Phosphorus
• All Season K 8-4-24 with 50% SRN
• Starter Plus 8-32-5 with 50% SRN

Natural Organic Liquids
• Essential - Soil Amendment & Biostimulant
• Companion Microbial Inoculant
• Control De-Thatcher 15-0-0 with 15% SRN
• pH Reducer 5-0-0 (Citric Acid Solution)

Micronutrients
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• Micrel Total with 9 Chelated Micros
• Calcium Chelate 8% (6-0-0)

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Bermuda On Target

Superintendent praises Bull's-Eye for surviving an extreme, unforeseen water shortage

Open since last January, Barona Creek GC is a 250-acre course nestled among the rolling terrain, natural rock ledges and hundreds of oak trees on the Barona Indian Reservation in Lakeside, Calif. Since the club shares its water supply with the tribal community and a casino — both of which get first priority — a conservation-minded design plus a tight water budget were planned to keep the championship course within a safe yield of the aquifer. But no one foresaw the kind of water shortage that would occur during construction, leaving acres of newly installeld sod high and dry.

The problem
The water shortage began during construction in the spring of 2000. Installation crews had already finished several large lakes, small ponds, recirculating artificial creeks and 12 holes of sod when they realized the water lines were becoming restricted. The distribution network, some of which included 40-year-old piping, could not supply water to the community and casino, fill the needed 31 million gallons of water features and irrigate the newly laid sod all at the same time.

“No one anticipated this amount of restriction in the lines,” says superintendent Sandy Clark. “As we were filling the lakes and irrigating more and more turf, it became evident very quickly that this water distribution system was not going to work.”

By August, the catastrophe hit critical mass. Clark and his team were forced to ration water to the turf — first to the more established sod and then to the newer, more vulnerable areas. The sod received about 50 percent of the water it was suppose to receive during 60 hot days in September and October.

The solution
Aside from postponing the course’s opening from October to January for renovation to the pipelines, Clark says the solution to his water shortage was the improved bermudagrass specified for the course.

Clark and designer Todd Eckenrode, then with Gary Roger Baird Design International, knew the course called for drought-tolerant grasses that also perform well and look beautiful. While they chose an old standby for the fairways, Tifway 419, they selected a new bermuda called Bull's-Eye for the roughs. Introduced in 1999 by West Coast Turf, Bull's-Eye bermuda comes highly ranked in quality studies conducted by the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program. It ranks well in its tolerance of drought, heat, heavy foot traffic and poor water quality, including effluent water. “We put Bull’s-Eye through stresses that I would never recommend any superintendent consider,” Clark says.

Along with its high-stress tolerance, Bull’s-Eye is valued for its look, which includes a course texture and a deeper blue-green color.

“Bull’s-Eye really creates a
nice contrast between the roughs and fairways, which is what we were going for,” Clark notes.

Bull’s-Eye also has a compact growth habit, featuring tightly packed leaves near the soil’s surface. The ball doesn’t sink down in it for good playability, Clark says.

Outcome
“After an initial shock response of going a little off color, Bull’s-Eye recovered,” Clark says. “We’ve seen recovery virtually every place.” Clark says he was also happy with the turf’s transition last spring.

Eckenrode, now a principal of Origins Golf Design, says Bull’s-Eye proved its drought tolerance.

“It’s capable of handling the stress and is an excellent grass for low-water use,” he says. “Sandy has been able to produce a playing surface that is high in quality despite the obstacles. In addition, the course is playing fast and firm, which is a classic design trait we wanted from the beginning as it allows the strategies and many alternate routes of play to come to life.”

A multi-million dollar expansion is planned for the reservation, including another casino and a resort hotel. Mindful of community concerns regarding the course’s water usage, plus the possibility of another drain on the water distribution network, Clark continues strict water management. “We’ve got to make sure we don’t take more than our share,” he says.

The design, which includes only 90 acres of sod, helps, too. Clark estimates the course will only use between 200 to 310 acre-feet of water per year, depending on rainfall. About 15 percent is currently recycled effluent from the casino’s waste-treatment plant and the rest is from the reservation’s wells. However, as future development on the reservation grows, Clark estimates he’ll have nearly 750,000 gallons of recycled effluent water available per day for irrigating. “This will be more than enough water for our needs, and Bull’s-Eye has a high-tolerance for effluent water,” he says.

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06  O  55 Other Golf Courses (please specify)_________________________
07  O  60 Golf Course Architect
08  O  70 Golf Course Developer
09  O  90 Golf Course Builder
10  O  105 University/College
11  O  100 Others Allied to the Field (please specify)_________________________

2. Which of the following best describes your title? (fill in ONE only)
12  O  10 Golf Course Superintendent
13  O  15 Assistant Superintendent
14  O  25 Owner/Management Company Executive
15  O  30 General Manager
16  O  35 Director of Golf
17  O  70 Green Chairman
18  O  46 Club President
19  O  75 Builder/Developer
20  O  55 Architect/Engineer
21  O  60 Research Professional
22  O  65 Other Titled Personnel (please specify)_________________________

3. What is your facility’s annual maintenance budget?  
23  O  A More than $2 Million  27  O  E $300,001-$500,000
24  O  B $1,000,001-$2 Million  28  O  F $150,001-$300,000
25  O  C $750,001-$1 Million  29  O  G Less than $150,000
26  O  D $500,001-$750,000

4. If you work for a golf course, how many holes are on your course?
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31  O  B  18
32  O  C  27
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   03 30 Private
   04 40 Resort
   05 50 City/State/Municipal
   06 55 Other Golf Courses (please specify)
   07 60 Golf Course Architect
   08 70 Golf Course Developer
   09 80 Golf Course Builder
   10 90 University/College
   11 95 Others Allied to the Field (please specify)

2. Which of the following best describes your title? (fill in ONE only)
   12 10 Golf Course Superintendent
   13 15 Assistant Superintendent
   14 25 Owner/Management Company Executive
   15 30 General Manager
   16 35 Director of Golf
   17 45 Green Chairman
   18 40 Club President
   19 50 Architect/Engineer
   20 60 Research Professional
   21 65 Other Titled Personnel (please specify)

3. What is your facility's annual maintenance budget?
   22 25 $500,001-$750,000
   23 20 $750,001-$1 Million
   24 15 $1,000,001-$2 Million
   25 10 $2,000,001-$2.5 Million
   26 05 $2.5 Million+

4. If you work for a golf course, how many holes are on your course?
   27 00 9
   28 00 18
   29 00 27
   30 00 36+
   31 00 Other (please specify)

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112 124 136 148 160 172 184 196 208 220 232 244 256 268 280 292 304 316

45
The summer of 2001, with the usual manic activity of the season, has made me realize there are things vital to make my life and the lives of other turfheads easier. I’m a nonlist person, but I had to assemble this list of can’t-do-without-items for you. The items are in no particular order, and brand names are not being changed to protect the brilliant.

**An e-mail address** — While communication is critical, it’s also time consuming. Nothing can take away more time and yield nothing than using the phone. E-mail gives one the ability to communicate more effectively. It’s really great for superintendents, who are known to work strange hours.

Write messages, return messages, keep in touch, speak clearly and effectively, have the ability to edit your thoughts before the temperature of the day gets to your head — all of this is improved with e-mail.

**A digital camera** — This item goes along nicely with the item above. I can’t tell you the number of times people have called me to describe their problems with their best intentions, but they fail to create accurate pictures in my mind. Later, if I do get to see the problem, it is almost never what I expected.

Imagine being able to e-mail a picture just taken. Then all the parties involved have the true scene of the crime in their heads. A quick shot of the new bunker project sent to your architect could keep you from being in the crosshairs on his next visit to the facility. A good printer and some easy-to-use software lets you edit the photo you took and show green committee members just how bad that new planter they want on the tee will look.

**A large area spreader** — If anything has ever made me want to return to growing grass, these babies are it. The Ty-Crop and the Dakota spreaders have made material-handling issues a thing of the past. Spread sand, fill bunkers, spread soil amendments — and be cooler than the fire engines at the local parade with one of these units.

Don’t forget about saving more than the machine’s cost in labor and contractual services because it does the work.

**A dedicated verticut unit** — For years, I’ve been saying that the standard triplex-mounted verticut heads are great grooming tools, but they are not good thatch-removal tools. But along came the Graden Verticutter, and now we have a powered surgical thatch-control device. Fill up three or four utility vehicles with 12 percent to 15 percent of the thatch from a 5,000-square-foot green, keep from freaking out and joining the circus for four days while things heal, and understand how you can’t live without one.

**A Turfnet subscription** — It doesn’t matter to me that a competing magazine owns Turfnet (www.turfnet.com). Peter McCormick is the brains behind this amazing subscription service which includes a monthly print newsletter. The Web site provides access to the best Internet discussion forum in golf, as well as many amazing extras. McCormick takes no prisoners with his tell-it-like-it-is writing and hosting style. If you’re selling something, stay away and let the turfheads talk. They’ll invite you if they need you.

**Fine-mesh calciums** — They’re expensive, but worth it. Now that new technology exists to handle materials smaller than 500 mesh, we gain calciums with increased solubility, quicker mass flow, the ability to be blended with other minerals, and have the pelletized ease of handling that lime and gypsum need.

**The Smart Level** — If you don’t know and have to ask, then you need to just go buy one of these laser-guided wonders, which for under $300 will have you never doing anything that won’t drain again. Hold it right, roll the ball and it will even double as a Stimpmeter.

I probably missed a few things to put on the list. If I did, drop me a line with your ideas. But when you’re all about cool stuff, the stuff above is freezingly good.

Dave Wilber, a Sacramento, Calif.-based independent agronomist, can be reached at dave@soil.com.
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**Hustlin' Without Rushin'**

Frank Dobie will never be accused of not looking out for his fellow superintendents. The superintendent and general manager of Sharon GC in Sharon Center, Ohio, sent us a list of ways for golfers to increase their pace of play without rushing so we could pass it on to you. Dobie and his crew compiled the list, which includes tips for golf course maintenance, and mailed it to members. He thinks you might want to do the same.

“I know these techniques work, and many players do not use them,” Dobie says. “Most are common sense and are things faster players do without thinking. They can help you keep your pace of play under four hours.”

Without further ado, here's Dobie's list:

1. Tell your foursome at the first tee to hit when ready. The first player that is ready should be the first to tee off and so on. If your fairway and approach shots are about the same distance from the green, the player who is ready should go first. If you insist on playing honors, then make sure you're the first person to be ready.

2. Put a ball mark repair tool and two ball markers in your pocket at the first tee.

3. Carry a spare ball in your pocket so you don't have to go back to the cart if you need to hit a provisional ball.

4. Do not start a conversation with another player if either of you are up.

5. Have an idea of what club you'll need even before you get to your ball.

6. If you're the car driver, drop off the passenger at his ball and immediately go to your ball. Do not wait for him to hit his shot before going to your ball.

7. If you're the passenger and the car driver is "away," take your club selection and walk to your ball. After your shot, walk to the cart or down the fairway. Do not wait for the driver to pick you up.

8. When you finish a shot and go to the car, do not put your club in the bag. Get in the car with club in hand and wait to put it away until you hit your next shot or have to wait for another player to hit.

9. Take a divot mix bottle with you to the tee so you don't have to go back to the cart and get it after everyone has teed off. The same holds true when you're hitting a short iron that normally causes a divot. Filling divots with sand takes less time than replacing them.

Continued on page 60
**Tips**

*Continued from page 59*

**10.** Simplify your set-up routine. It's important, but it doesn't need to be so elaborate that it's time consuming.

**11.** Take only one practice swing. If you take multiple practice swings, do it before your turn so you can just hit the ball when it's your turn.

**12.** If you're the passenger and aren't sure of which club to hit, take several clubs and send the cart driver to his ball.

**13.** Locate your yardage to the hole before it's your turn.

**14.** If your next shot is a wedge or pitch shot, automatically take your putter with you and tell the driver to go on without you.

**15.** If you're ready to putt and the person who's away is not, then putt first.

**16.** Line up your putt before it's your turn so when it is, you're ready to putt.

**17.** Use the continuous putting rule whenever possible.

**18.** Fix ball marks on the green before or after it is your turn to putt.

**19.** If you're the first one in the hole, pick up the flag pole so you can replace it after the last person has putted.

**20.** Never record scores at the green. Do it at the next tee.

**21.** If you have a bunker shot, take the rake with you into the bunker before your shot.

**22.** Never place a rake near another rake in a bunker. After raking, place the rake with the head in the bunker and the handle out. This saves time for the next player.

**23.** Park your car on the path between the green and closest distance to the next tee.

**24.** Always be aware of the gap between you and the group ahead. There shouldn't be more than a half a hole open between you. If you fall behind, announce to your group, "We need to pick up the pace." Do not be concerned about the group behind you as long as you are keeping pace with the group ahead.

**25.** After your round is completed, do not add up scores until you've left the green with your cart.

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