Chipco Triton is a new broad-spectrum fungicide that is descending on turf diseases everywhere. Now you'll be able to get rid of anthracnose, brown patch and dollar spot while keeping your turf healthy and green. Even better, when you combine Triton with other Bayer products containing StressGard, like Chipco Signature, you get unbeatable protection against the stress your golf course faces, even in the summer heat.

As always, you're Backed by Bayer. And that means our team of professionals is your team of professionals. All of our research and support is to ensure you have the most effective products available. Superior products and superior support - only from Bayer.
The Good Doctor
Rees Jones is more than the USGA’s Open Doctor for Torrey Pines. He’s the chief of medicine. He’s tweaked myriad U.S. Open venues, but the considerable time he has spent at the public venues that host the national championship illustrates his dedication to growing the popularity of golf and giving back to its public players.

He coined the phrase “The People’s Open” prior to the 2002 U.S. Open on the Black Course at Bethpage State Park. His complete overhaul of the A.W. Tillinghast layout is well documented. “We had to resuscitate Bethpage,” he says.

And before the success of the first People’s Open could be determined, Jones was on to his next public tour de force: Torrey Pines.

It was a dream of Jay Rains, a San Diego attorney who spearheaded a private trust of 29 donors that came together as The Friends of Torrey Pines, which eventually raised about $3.5 million to finance renovations at Torrey. Rains, now a USGA vice president, recruited Jones in 1999 to help woo the USGA to San Diego.

Jones finished renovations in 2001, and Torrey was awarded the 2008 Open in 2002. At about 7,640 yards, it will be the longest U.S. Open in history.

“There was a lot to do to ensure we still had a wonderful public venue but still a U.S. Open venue,” Jones says. “We built the bunkers deeper and built a lot of contours in the greens. We built greens on diagonals and put a lot of plateaus on the backs of the greens to make it hard to access for the best players in the game yet with a lot of open entrances to the green so the average public golfer could still enjoy the golf course if he played the safe routes.”

Jones donated much of his time the past few years making small tweaks, including moving the No. 4 fairway closer to the bluff that overlooks Black’s Beach.

Jones also has been modifying The Black Course to prepare for next year’s national championship when it goes back to Bethpage. Among the changes will be new pin locations on No. 14 and a new bunker to guard them, a new championship tee on 13 along with a new fairway bunker, and new or enlarged championship tees on holes three, five, seven and nine.

The changes won’t amount to the drastic face lift needed for the first People’s Open, but organizers hope it will still generate the groundswell that made the country’s first public open a success.

“In order for golf to grow, we need to embrace the public player because there are more public players than private players,” Jones says. “With Torrey and then Bethpage next year — along with Pebble Beach (2010), Pinehurst (2014) and now Chambers Bay (2015) in the rotation, there are five golf course that can be accessed by the public.”

Just watch your ball in that secondary rough.
— David Frabotta

to take the boards off the clubhouse windows as one of his first tasks of taking it over. When he visited the facility while interviewing for the job in 2005, he said “golfers were everywhere, but the building had boards over the windows. I wasn’t sure what was going on.”

You wouldn’t think a business plan and renovation schedule would be a hard sell to residents who watched their golf facilities dwindle into disrepair, but Woodward eventually won them over. That’s little surprise for those who know him. A self-described type-A personality, Woodward has thrived in the community enterprise throughout his professional life.

His previous job involved a 31-year stint for the city of Mesa, Ariz. He eventually grew to manage two golf courses, parks and a cemetery. He was a fixture in that community, and in just three years his status evolved in San Diego from golf pariah to savior. The Open will generate about $100 million for the city in addition to worldwide attention.

But his plight hasn’t been easy. Besides death threats and disgruntled local golfers, Woodward has prepared for the national championship amid the South Course’s 60,000 annual rounds, dozens of renovation projects and years of neglect that had to be amended (the North Course welcomes more than 90,000 rounds each year).

“It takes three to five years to get ready for a championship of this caliber, and we were probably 15 years behind the eight ball because of deferred maintenance and general neglect of the golf course and the facility as a whole,” he says. “I told my boss I wouldn’t have given him $25 for the experience when I got here. It was in that poor of shape.”

These were no small projects, either. Although the South Course had a major renovation in 2001 by of Rees Jones, heavy play and poor maintenance created some serious agronomic issues.

First, Woodward had to deal with the traffic, so he created a continuous cart path around the South Course. Neither the United States Golf Association nor the PGA Tour, which runs the annual Buick Invitation in February on the North and South Courses, wanted to take primary responsibility for the

Continued on page 34
Derived from quality USDA approved ingredients.
Contains no manures or sewage sludges.
Highest level of amino acids in a commercial fertilizer.
Dozens of university tests confirm effectiveness.
Thousands of turf professionals validate results!

(800) 252-4727 • www.naturesafe.com
4221 Alexandria Pike • Cold Spring, KY 41076
The par-3 third hole will feature new teeing grounds that could make it the shortest par-3 at a U.S. Open in eight years.

Continued from page 32

positioning of the cart paths. So Woodward walked the course himself and dialed in exact locations with a global positioning system.

"By the time the championship starts in June, it will have been 13 months of cart-path only on the South Course," Woodward says. "The difference has been remarkable. There are no bare spots, and there's no compacted areas, so it's come light years."

Once he successfully removed traffic from the turf, it was time to replace it — almost all of it. Woodward used about 1 million square feet of kikuya grass from seven different sources to resod the fairways on the South Course. As the ryegrass dies off in the summer, officials expect fairways to be almost 100 percent kikuya, and the roughs are predominantly kikuya as well, although there will be a fair amount of ryegrass in the secondary rough.

Woodward needed so much kikuya, that he started stripping it out of the North Course and made some calls to area golf courses to see if they could spare any. Lake San Marcos Resort and Country Club, StoneRidge Country Club and Rancho Bernardo Golf Resort all had a fairway or two of kikuya that they were trying out and decided to help Woodward's cause. Woodward, of course, bought his colleagues turfgrass of their choice to replace the kikuya.

"West Coast Turf and Landscapes Unlimited harvested it, and thenmade the transition in a day or two in each case," Woodward says. "One day they had kikuya fairways, and the next they had hybrid bermuda."

To prepare for the kikuya, Woodward sprayed out the fairways just 18 months prior to the tournament. USGA officials, architect Rees Jones and others were on hand to witness the fairways turn brown less than two years before the big tourney. But no one was worried.

"It looked a little brown," Jones recalls with a laugh. "But I wasn't worried at all. Mark had an aura about him of confidence. He knew what he was doing, so I knew it would be fine."

The greens were completely regrassed as well to allow Poa annua to take over. Once the decision was made to make the Open a Poa surface, Woodward seeded the greens with Pencross so Poa could infiltrate, Jones says.

Continued on page 36

The Mike Davis Rules

Setup artist Mike Davis will vary angles of play and distances more than in U.S. Opens of recent past. The USGA's senior director of rules & competitions was instrumental in crafting new teeing areas around Torrey Pines that will give players a unique perspective on many holes compared to the PGA Tour's setup of Torrey Pines' South Course for the Buick Invitational.

Among them, a new championship tee on the par-5 13 requires a 240-yard carry to clear a ravine.

"We are going to use three of the teeing grounds on 13," he says. "I think it's a neat thing to do so it's not the same hole seven days in a row."

The third hole, a par 3 playing toward the ocean, will feature a new tee as well, decidedly shorter than the 195-yard tee used for the Buick. The new slightly elevated tee will be a wedge shot for most of the pros, Davis says. He hopes that wind conditions allow him to use it two of the days.

"If you can bring different architectural features into play or present different risks and rewards from different teeing grounds, then that's a good thing," he says.

The course will play firm and fast, to be sure, but it won't feature razor-thin fairways typical of previous Opens. Davis narrowed only two fairways slightly, and he widened four of them in spots.

A graduated rough will be used to penalize players based on the degree they miss shots. But don't expect anyone to pull up lame out of the secondary rough. Yes, the kikuyagrass is monstrously thick, but Davis is taking down the height compared to last year. Davis originally expected the secondary rough to play at about 5 inches, but after seeing the nasty stuff about a month before the tournament, he told Golfdom he's taking it down to 4 inches, and it might come down more closer to tournament time. Likewise, he took the primary rough down a half-inch to 2 1/4 inches.

"Our intent with the first cut of rough is to get it to where it's penal enough to take the spin off the ball but still allow the players to play to the green," Davis says. They will, however, need to chop it back from the tall stuff, even at 4 inches.

The only wildcard is the weather, Davis says, remembering that an unprecedented fog occurrence cancelled the entire first round of the U.S. Women's Open at Newport (RJ.) Country Club in 2006. "Nothing can make you look sillier than fog," he says.

— David Frabotta
OREGON FINE FESCUE COMMISSION
1193 Royvonne Ave. S / Suite 11 / Salem, OR 97302

OREGON GROWN FINE FESCUE

Plant the Easy-Going, Environmentally Friendly Fescues!

OREGON TALL FESCUE COMMISSION
1193 Royvonne Ave. S / Suite 11 / Salem, OR 97302

OREGON GROWN TALL FESCUE
Continued from page 34

USGA Senior Director of Rules & Competitions Mike Davis is excited about the transition.

"The greens are basically 100 percent Poa, and they look great," Davis says. "We're going to be able to get the conditions we want because of Mark Woodward and the fabulous job he has done turning Torrey Pines around. If we had this Open two years ago, we wouldn't have been able to do some of the things that we're going to do this year."

Woodward also transitioned the aprons and tees to hybrid bermudagrass.

All of the grass changes required rigorous changes in cultural practices. Prior to Woodward’s tenure, Torrey's greens were mowed with triplex mowers three to four times a week. Woodward implemented a walking program seven days a week, and he aerified the greens on the South Course 22 times since he took over in 2005, "which has got to be an all-time record for any golf course," he says. "That’s a lot of punching the greens."

He also maintains the approaches like a second set of greens by walk mowing every day and periodic aerification to create firm conditions for the Open.

But the cultural practices didn't end on the golf course. Woodward knew he couldn't just throw money at the new turfgrass and expect the crew to care for it differently. He had to imbue the crew with a sense of entitlement. So he started piling on the amenities.

First, he supplemented the fleet with $1.5 million in equipment.

"The staff loved that," Woodward says. "Then we gave them a new lunchroom, kitchen, locker room, office and showers so they could finally hang out and feel proud. Then we started noticing the difference on the golf course because we raised the level of maintenance."

The conditions haven’t gone unnoticed by the golfing public. Longtime Torrey golfers commonly stop Woodward on the practice greens — a spot you’ll commonly find him talking on his cell phone because it doesn’t get reception in his office — to tell him that the course has never looked or played better.

Those close to the Open have taken notice as well.

"It really takes one of the best in the business to get the job done with so many players," Jones says. "He has really brought it into championship conditions, and he’s been essential to the success of where we are today."

Woodward gives some of that success back to the community of San Diego, its golfers and all of the Open supporters that have made the 2008 Open a success.

"The merchandising and corporate sales are setting records," he says, adding that the attendance should be the second highest in Open history behind the 1999 tournament at Pinehurst. "And I guarantee that this Open is going to be one of the greatest Opens ever. It’s going to be hugely successful in every way, and it’s extremely special for me because of my background as a municipal operator."
Throughout the history of the turf management industry, professionals who develop innovations in equipment, products and methods have eagerly handed down their wisdom and experience to the next generation. That's why SePRO Corporation is proud to establish its legacy in the form of the latest advancement in turf growth regulation.

New Legacy Turf Growth Regulator incorporates patented synergistic growth regulation technology resulting from its dual sites of action and absorption. No other product can match Legacy's combination of enhanced growth suppression, extended spray intervals, improved turfgrass color and quality, suppression of *Poa annua* and more uniform growth regulation on mixed turfgrass stands. The next generation of turf growth regulators is here in the form of an innovation that will be passed down for years to come.

Make it a part of your golf course's tradition by visiting [www.sepro.com](http://www.sepro.com) or calling 1-800-419-7779 to learn more about Legacy or any of SePRO's products, services and technologies.

*Trademark of SePRO Corporation. Always read and follow label directions. The synergy derived from the combination of Type IIA and Type IB PGRs is covered under U.S. Patent No. 7,135,435. ©Copyright 2008 SePRO Corporation.*
THE ARMY KNIFE OF TURF HERBICIDES

An Employee-Owned Company
800-821-7925 • pbigordon.com/q4

ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW LABEL DIRECTIONS 00610
Q4™ is a registered trademark of PBI/Gordon Corp,
U.S. Patent 6,849,579

CRABGRASS • YELLOW NUTSEDGE • BROADLEAF WEEDS • TURF TOLERANCE • SPEED

PATENTED SYNERGISM REQUIRES LESS ACTIVE INGREDIENTS

CRABGRASS • YELLOW NUTSEDGE • BROADLEAF WEEDS • TURF TOLERANCE • SPEED

pbigordon.com/q4
An Employee-Owned Company
800-821-7925
Weird Science?

Some superintendents swear by Marc Logan’s agronomic method to rid greens and fairways of Poa annua and moss. Others are just plain skeptical.

BY ANTHONY PIOPPI
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

For years, salesmen and companies have promoted products and methods they say result in that magic combination of improving turf quality while saving money. Rarely has the reality matched the hype.

But on layouts in California, Oregon and Montana, established golf course superintendents say that Greenway Golf Vice President Marc Logan has come up with such a panacea. They say his method of ridding greens and fairways of Poa annua and moss while encouraging the growth of desirable grasses not only improves conditions but also reduces maintenance budgets.

Not everyone buys into the program, however. Many, including academic types and superintendents, have continued doubts.

Logan’s plan is simple: Increase the acidity of the soil through iron applications while reducing fertilizers, especially nitrogen. When nutrients are required, elemental fertilizers should be used. He also calls for lessening disturbance through the reduction of hollow-core aeration. He wants greens mown as low as possible in an effort to reduce organic buildup.

“Bentgrass requires an acid environment,” Logan says. “So I asked myself: How could you put that in place and have a playing surface people expect day in and day out.”

Logan, 47, is a native of Australia where he earned a turf degree and became a head superintendent. It was during that time that Logan said he was struck by how many links and seaside courses around the world had turf dominated by bentgrass and fescues with Poa annua making up a small percentage of the grasses. Logan said he looked into the reason and uncovered research compiled over decades from places such as the United Kingdom, South Africa and the United States that said soil high in acidity favors bentgrass while providing unsatisfactory growing conditions for Poa annua.

Continued on page 40
Continued from page 39

Jesse Gooding, superintendent at the municipally owned 36-hole Heron Lakes Golf Course in Portland, Ore., subscribes to Logan’s theory and has proof that it works.

“You just have to ask the golfers, that’s my proof,” Gooding says, adding that at the same time the players were raving about his course’s condition, he was cutting his pesticide budget by as much as $20,000 a year.

Down the coast at the 36-hole Monterey (Calif.) Country Club, where superintendent Bob Zoller has been running the show for more than 30 years, he has cut back significantly on his fertilizer applications. Where once he applied as much as 1 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet a month on greens and fairways, he has reduced that to 3 or 4 pounds a year on his greens and as little as 2 pounds a year on the bentgrass/fescue fairways of his Dunes Course, a Rees Jones renovation of a Seth Raynor design. At the

Continued on page 45