With a unique ball-joint design and patented E-Cut Hybrid electric-reel-drive, this advanced mower allows for more movement of the cutting unit in following challenging contours than any other walk greens mower. And the mechanical drive rear drum ensures mow speed never varies traveling over undulations, keeping the frequency of clip consistent.

Visit www.JohnDeere.com/golf for a full on-line tour or contact your local John Deere Golf representative for a demo today.

And see why mowing challenging greens won’t be such a challenge anymore.
Nine weeks after application, perennial ryegrass control (in absence of bermudagrass) is influenced by low soil temperatures. This research shows that foramsulfuron (Revolver), flazasulfuron (to be marketed) and trifloxysulfuron (Monument) were all slower acting in cooler temperatures. With regard to long-term control, foramsulfuron at 17 fluid ounces an acre controlled only 30 percent of perennial ryegrass when the soil temperature at 3 inches was below 65 degrees Fahrenheit, compared to 80 percent control when soil temperature was above that threshold. Cold temperatures affected trifloxysulfuron and flazasulfuron causing slower action, but overall no long-term reductions in perennial ryegrass control.

Transition aids should be applied at a timing based on long-term forecast with favorable conditions for bermudagrass growth. Time and again, we’ve found that factors increasing bermudagrasses’ competitive ability improve spring transition. Once you see a significant amount (greater than 40 percent) of bermudagrass start greening up, help it along with increased nitrogen fertility, lower mowing height and judicious use of water before using a transition aid. More aggressive cultivars for a given area consistently yield a more acceptable transition.

Cultivars more prone to spring dead spot and winterkill show their weakness during spring transition, so updating your bermudagrass by renovating, interseeding or inter-sprigging might be something to consider. Mike Goatley, Ph.D., turfgrass extension specialist for Virginia Tech, said cultivars which tolerate spring dead spot and overcome winter injury through aggressive growth habit often do better in Virginia.

“Riviera and Patriot are two cultivars we’ve had the most success with in terms of aggressive growth habit and overcoming cold weather issues,” Goatley says.

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FLORATINE UNDERSTANDS THAT YOUR PROFESSIONAL REPUTATION AND LIVELIHOOD DEPEND ON THE TURFGRASS YOU MANAGE. That is why for 20 years Floratine has never cut corners using “cheaper” ingredients or “one size fits all” products. Because you have so much at stake, we deliver the essential elements for your success by using only the finest raw materials to create our patented foliar and soil technologies that are rooted in science. All of which is supported by a highly trained global distribution network dedicated to keeping you rooted in solutions.

Visit our award winning website, Floratine.com to learn more and to find a distributor near you.
When it comes to course appearance, there is no trophy for second place. That’s why we developed new Reserve™ Fungicide. Reserve delivers superior, broad-spectrum disease control without turf thinning that other fungicides can cause. Reserve prevents algae growth and controls just about everything under the sun including dollar spot, brown patch, snow mold, and anthracnose. And thanks to Reserve’s StressGard™ formulation technology, it helps manage course stress, maintains...
turf roots and improves turf density. Of course new Reserve is Backed by Bayer, which means all of our research and support is at your fingertips to help you create the healthiest, thickest, greenest turf possible. Because when it comes to your course, good enough isn’t good enough. To learn more, go to www.BackedbyBayer.com/Reserve.
Maintaining healthy turf is one of the most important components in pest management. Healthy turf can grow through pest invasion and infestation, fighting off attacks. Compromised, nutrient-deficient turf may need the added protection of pesticide to kill the offending pests, but having a proactive nutrition plan in place will ensure that turf is properly equipped to handle the stress of infestation and recovery from pest attacks. Ready your turf against attacks by giving it the strength needed to withstand attack and the corresponding stress. Read more at www.floratine.com.

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Riviera and Patriot have become very popular on golf courses and athletic fields in Virginia. Keep in mind that every fairway and even certain areas within a fairway may need individual attention. For instance, north-facing slopes, shady areas and low-lying areas can be three or more weeks behind hilltops and south-facing slopes in terms of bermudagrass green-up and development.

Virginia Tech researchers have developed a novel approach to spring transitioning that involves partially controlling perennial ryegrass prior to applying a blanket application of a transition-aid herbicide. Partially controlling perennial ryegrass gives bermudagrass the competitive edge in the small places that are controlled prior to the blanket application. Therefore, more bermudagrass should be in place when a blanket application is applied. More bermudagrass cover will improve quality and color that’s sacrificed by the traditional blanket transition method.

Three partial-control techniques have been tested: drip kill, sponge kill and strip kill. Between 20 percent and 30 percent of perennial ryegrass was killed using these techniques prior to the blanket application.

Partial-control techniques preserve aesthetics based on the fact that turfgrass in front and behind a small opening in the canopy will mask the appearance of that opening. The turf looks uniform when viewed from a distance of about 30 feet. The strip-kill method was the only partial control technique that resulted in a significant reduction in quality prior to the blanket application and then only when viewed with the line of the stripes. When viewed overhead, the drip-kill and sponge-kill methods look more like a natural phenomenon and less distinct. All methods of partial control resulted in significantly more bermudagrass cover after the blanket application was made.

One month after the transition, plots using partial-control techniques had 80 percent to 90 percent bermudagrass cover compared with 68 percent cover in plots using blanket treatment only. While partial-control techniques are an effective way to improve aesthetics during spring transition; further research is warranted to refine application equipment, timings, and percent of partial control needed for best results.

John Willis is a research associate and Ph.D. candidate in turfgrass weed science in the department of plant pathology, physiology and weed science at Virginia Tech. Shawn Askew is associate professor of turfgrass weed science in the department of plant pathology at Virginia Tech. He is also Virginia’s extension specialist for turfgrass weeds. For more information, visit his web site at www.turfweeds.net.

John Quinn
Jerry Quinn
Scott Welge
Kevin Cavanaugh
Bayer Environmental Science
Floratine

Photos courtesy: Virginia Tech
The Company Line

PRODUCTS & SERVICES

Out with the old, in with the new herbicide

**BASF Turf & Ornamentals** is no longer selling Drive 75 DF herbicide to the professional turf and ornamentals market. The company says it’s now focusing on selling the postemergent herbicide, Drive XLR8.

Launched in 2008, Drive XLR8 herbicide is a broad-spectrum liquid fungicide, Myclobutanil 20 EW provides both curative and protective control of nearly 20 turfgrass diseases, including: dollar spot, dead spot, brown patch, copper spot, necrotic ring spot and summer patch. It’s an easy-to-mix formula that’s a compatible tank partner with most insecticides, pesticides, fertilizers and other fungicides.

**Topdresser aims to be precise**

Turfco’s WideSpin 1540 EC Topdresser makes topdressing precise and easy. It gives an accurate, wide range of applications with the least amount of adjustments due to patented WideSpin technology and an electronic controller, which allows users to dial in and set three custom application rates from ultra-light to super-heavy, ensuring a precise spread every time. The topdresser provides a great range of spinner angle, both up and down, for up to 40-foot ultra-light applications or angled down for even better turf penetration. Belt and spinner speeds adjust instantaneously for greater productivity. Turfco also offers a three-year warranty.

**Fungicide receives registration**

**Quali-Pro** said its new Myclobutanil 20 EW fungicide has received registration from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). A systemic fungicide powered by the active ingredient myclobutanil, a demethylation inhibitor (DMI), Myclobutanil 20 EW controls stubborn turf diseases without inhibiting turf growth or root development.

“It’s a versatile fungicide with low use rates for use on greens, tees, fairways and roughs,” says Russ Mitchell, Quali-Pro’s product and marketing director. One application of Myclobutanil 20 EW provides up to four weeks of curative control and protection from new infections, according to Quali-Pro. It will also control dead spot on bermudagrass throughout the winter when applied 30 to 60 days prior to dormancy.

“A broad-spectrum liquid fungicide, Myclobutanil 20 EW provides both curative and protective control of nearly 20 turfgrass diseases, including: dollar spot, dead spot, brown patch, copper spot, necrotic ring spot and summer patch. It’s an easy-to-mix formula that’s a compatible tank partner with most insecticides, pesticides, fertilizers and other fungicides.

**Rewards program gets overhaul**

**Bayer Environmental Science** says it’s now “easier than ever” to find rewards and redeem points on its enhanced Accolades Web site. Golf course superintendents can track their point balance, review their account history, and browse from more than 4,000 rewards on BayerAccolades.com. “Since Accolades is all about rewarding the turf managers for their loyalty, we wanted to make it as easy as possible for them to take advantage of the improved program,” said Matt Bradley, Bayer’s Accolades program manager. “The user-friendly Web site and extensive variety of rewards to choose from will appeal to all existing and future members.”

After soliciting feedback from customers, Bayer made changes necessary to improve the program. More than 4,000 new rewards have recently been added.

**Earnings program kicks off**

**Dow AgroSciences** has kicked off its 2009-2010 Power of MORE earning program, which allows users of Dow AgroSciences turf and ornamental herbicides, fungicides and insecticides to earn cash rebates on product purchases made through Aug. 31, 2010. “The more customers purchase, the more they earn in rebates. Customers who purchase enough product to earn at least $500 in base rebates also will receive bonus rebates. There are more than 50 participating products that earn cash rebates for every unit purchased. Users must send in invoices and a completed claim form to qualify. Qualifying products and program guidelines are outlined in a program detailer, which is available online along with other program information at www.PowerofMORE.com.

**Compact utility loader**

The Toro Dingo compact utility loader can help golf course crews do everything from tilling, digging, grading and trenching to snow removal, backfilling, planting and transporting materials. Toro Dingo compact utility loaders offer the versatility to complete all these tasks in less time using less labor. Known for their lightweight footprint — as low as 3.4 psi on some models — and compact profile and zero-radius turning ability, Toro Dingo compact utility loaders easily opt-Continued on page 78
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erate in confined areas. This includes around existing landscaping, through tight spaces like gates, and on delicate grounds such as greens and bunkers.

Toro offers a variety of Dingo units with turf-friendly features to accommodate all terrains. Track models include the gas-powered TX 427, available in wide- or narrow-track design; the gas-powered TX 413 narrow-track unit; and the diesel-powered TX 525, available in both wide- and narrow-track designs.

Silicon-enhanced fertilizer
Excellerator from Excell Minerals provides a unique blend of micronutrients proven to enhance turf health.

Excellerator is an environmentally friendly, granular product especially designed for golf courses that provides a unique source of soluble silicon, according to the company. It also strengthens turf and enhances resiliency. Ideal for high-traffic areas, Excellerator reduces heat stress and increases tolerance against toxic elements, according to the company.

With silicon-enhanced Excellerator, the higher-mown turf in the rough tends to stand up instead of roll over under play.

Cover Up
GreenJacket introduces its AFS (Air Flow System) insulation putting green cover, a product the company says reflects the calls for a better method of insulating, while allowing for even better air movement under the Green-Jacket Turf Cover.

The AFS (Air Flow System) system is a UV-resistant, non-woven PET staple fiber, bonded with a blend of non-water-soluble acrylic resins. The company says its AFS fabric is designed to its strict specifications to meet its strict requirements, including suspending a snow/ice load of 50 pounds per square foot and allowing air flow to move freely under such a load.

The GreenJacket AFS allows air to transfer passively under the cover all throughout the covered surface.

The latest Verti-Drain
Redexim Charterhouse offers the 7621 Verti-Drain. This latest version expands the range to 18 different models. The 7621 Verti-Drain has a working width of 84 inches with a working depth of up to 16 inches. A hydraulic-tine depth adjustment has been added for operator convenience. The 7621 is a heavier built machine than the existing 7521 and has a faster-working speed for the toughest soil conditions, the company says.

Every Verti-Drain is equipped with maintenance-free, self-lubricated sealed bearings on all pivot points, three-speed gearbox, and the patented parallelogram action. This design gives forced heave to the tines thus producing the shattering effect and relieving compaction.
In Deep Water

GOLF’S FUTURE IS IN BIG TROUBLE IF FOLKS LIKE THIS BIG-CITY GOLF MANAGER REFUSE TO UNDERSTAND THAT COURSES MUST BECOME MORE EFFICIENT IRRIGATORS

BY GEOFF SHACKELFORD

I recently sat in on a big city’s request-for-proposal meeting to hear about a contract bidding process to work on the fleet of “product” (aka city golf courses). As you might imagine, it was standing-room only considering the lean economy. Architects and contractors came from throughout the country.

The architects and contractors were prepped during most of the meeting for the extensive documenting necessary when contacting the minority subcontractors they were required to hire for work, which the city was not yet ready to detail. (Key thing to remember: They’ll be checking to see that you didn’t call at lunchtime to not reach the subcontractor, the one you’re hiring for work to be determined.)

Naturally, the big-city bureaucracy had developed a cutesy acronym for the minority subcontractor-hiring process, but it turns out that even the city itself discriminates against the disadvantaged.

When an architect timidly raised his hand and asked if those with disabilities were included in the process, a hollow-eyed bureaucrat replied, “We’re not in the disability business. That’s federal.”

But the highlight of the meeting came when the city’s own golf manager got up and started talking. “If any of you have been to our courses, you know we put out a good product,” he said. “A green product.”

I, the blithering idiot, assumed he was talking about strides the city made to make its courses more environmentally friendly. After all, the city is in the early stages of a severe drought, complete with workable water restrictions on residents and now golf courses (but only after some shrewd negotiating by the golf lobby). Many of the restrictions, enforced by ticket-distributing undercover water cops, have reduced wasteful water use without harm to quality of life.

So, as I awaited the exciting explanation about how the city courses embraced the 21st century, it became apparent the green he was talking about had nothing to do with organic fertilizers or converting turf acreage to non-irrigated native grass.

No, he was talking about green grass. “I told my superintendents, I don’t care if you get a ticket, bring it to me because we will give our golfers green golf courses,” he said to the room of golf industry veterans.

You gotta love a city where the staff openly defies its mayor in a public forum.

However, it was hard to stay quiet when you know that at the same time, golf faces years of controversy, battles, skirmishes and all-out ridicule for being labeled as a huge water waster. And much of that perception is tied to this ridiculous obsession with lime-shaded turf. It became clear that even with guns to their heads, some in the game with the power to help steer us in a better direction still just don’t get how serious this fight will get.

Think “Road Warrior” and mohawked motorcycle-riding lunatics fighting over land, not for the views or the great shopping nearby but for water rights. Oh, golf courses will be in demand . . . for their wells, irrigation rights and not for the privilege of enjoying the Royal and Ancient.

Do these folks really think Ted Turner is buying up huge chunks — 2 million acres at last count — of the western United States just because he can? Or because he wants to put ranchers out of business? Or to let the buffalo roam again?

No, he wants control of the world’s largest underground water system because he knows the future will be all about water.

When will folks like this big-city golf manager begin to understand where the future is headed? Will it take the paralysis of golf before they get it?

Because we are all in that disability business.

Follow Shack, Golfdom’s Contributing Editor, at www.geoffshackelford.com or via Twitter.com/GeoffShackelford.