Add more green to your red, white, and blue.

Summer holidays like the Fourth of July are great for business but can be tough on turf. As you’re preparing for all those extra feet, add an application of Honor® Intrinsic™ brand fungicide to your list. In addition to unsurpassed control of key diseases, it also provides improved plant health in the form of stress management. Now is the perfect time to make sure your course stands up to drought, heat, and crowds all summer long.

Learn more at IntrinsicPlantHealth.com
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*StressGard™* Formulation Technology never rests.

**Protect your course with the most powerful technology out there.** When it comes to overall plant health, Bayer fungicides with *StressGard™* Formulation Technology give you control when it matters most. We’ve developed these products to work at a cellular level, strengthening turf and fighting against evil stressors like heat, drought and traffic. Anytime. Day or night. So you can sleep better knowing that you have the strongest, healthiest turf and happy golfers. At Bayer, we know you go above and beyond for your course. We have a technology that does too.

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Six courses. 200 employees. To put it mildly, Shawn Emerson, Director of Agronomy at Desert Mountain, has a lot on his plate. Which is why he counts on John Deere to keep this collection of Jack Nicklaus courses in perfect shape. From our hybrid fairway and greens mowers to our heavy-duty utility vehicles, Shawn and his crew use only John Deere equipment, sun up to sundown. Says Shawn, “There’s a lot of things I worry about. But John Deere isn’t one of them.”

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Ask ‘em anything

The phone rings all day, everyday at Standard Golf. So it’s a good thing they have Bonnie and Joanie — the warm voices of SG Express. These gals are customer service pros. With 26 years of combined experience, there isn’t a call they can’t handle.

Ask any question — from the difference in 200 and 400 denier flags to the recipe for Bonnie’s rhubarb bars (trust us on that one).

Need to place an order (like maybe for 18 individually customized flags for an upcoming event)? The SG Express gals will guide you from art placement to delivery.

In the rare event your question stumps both Bonnie and Joanie, rest assured seasoned sales pros like Steve Tyler are just a chip shot away. With 18 years experience as a superintendent, he knows the ins and outs of the industry.

SG distributors like SG Express too, because it helps streamline the ordering and shipping process, so their customers get their products quickly and they still get credit for the sale.

Need quick answers (even to tough questions)? Got a rush order (even on custom products)? **Give Joanie and Bonnie a call at 866-743-9773.** While you’re at it, do yourself a favor and ask Bonnie about those rhubarb bars. Rhubarb’s in season now, and nobody bakes them fresher (or better) than Bonnie.
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Every time I follow a man onto an airplane, I have backpack envy. ¶ It seems all the new backpacks have a place dedicated for a water bottle, a few extra pockets and maybe even a straw peeking out. My backpack has all of three pockets, a hole in the bottom of it and a corner where a pen once exploded, turning everything crossing that territory blue. ¶ But I’ll never abandon my backpack. Because it has one feature all others lack: a reminder of a friend.

John Wake was the student programs manager at GCSAA back in the late 1990s and early 2000s. We were co-workers, but more importantly, we were friends. The calendar tells me now that it was 10 years ago that he passed away somewhat unexpectedly from complications of sickle cell anemia. The backpack, which Wake once left behind in my car after we got back from the Indy 500, tells me it really wasn’t that long ago.

Wake’s backpack has now been with me to seven different countries, nine Golf Industry Shows, and to who knows how many of golf’s majors, including the year it had a brand new golf shirt stolen out of it while it was momentarily left alone in the media center. (Somewhere out there, there’s an out-of-work golf journalist and he’s wondering where his career went awry. Answer: the day you committed a crime against your fellow golf writer and stole something out of John Wake’s backpack!)

Last week, backpack in tow, I drove from a business meeting in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to Chicago to visit my old college roommate. Will moved to Thailand not long after we graduated, and currently he’s a journalist working in Cambodia. It’s safe to say that I don’t get to see him often. Will was the best man at my wedding, yet it had been almost four years since I last saw him.

I spent all of one evening in Chicago with Will, laughing and trading stories from when we were younger and dumber. We definitely told a few Wake stories, including our all-time favorite: the night we all spent together in a Chicago jail. For that story, catch me over a beer and just say, “Wrigley Field.”

Will thanked me for making the long drive to see him. I’ve got two young kids and a busy life, and he appreciated the effort it took. I told him right then that I’d always make an effort, for the rest of our lives, if he just gives me a little head’s up. Losing a friend like Wake in your 20s, when you feel invincible, makes you appreciate people, and the fragile nature of life.

Yesterday I walked into a power meeting filled with key players in my life: the owner of this magazine, along with my publisher, as well as a group of our key advertisers. I flew in and out of the same city on the same day specifically for this meeting. I was the last one to arrive. As I approached the door, I caught my own reflection in the window: sports coat and slacks, fresh haircut, the picture of professionalism.

And then I spotted the beat-up backpack. It looked out of place, maybe even unprofessional.

But I can’t trade it in. Wherever I go, I feel like my friend Wake is there with me in spirit, partly because of his old backpack.

It’s lasted me 10 years. I think with a little duct tape it’ll last 10 more. And I hope you’ll forgive me if I arrive at a meeting with you with this dusty old bag over my shoulder.

Email Jones at: sjones@northcoastmedia.net.

“Losing a friend like Wake in your mid-20s, when you feel invincible, makes you appreciate people, and the fragile nature of life.”

SETH JONES, Editor-in-Chief
The new Smithco Star Command System is about to change everything. And that includes lowering your annual chemical costs by up to 30%. When’s the last time you bought a product with a return-on-investment like this?

“The best purchase I ever made!
The Smithco Star Command Spray System saved me 30% in chemical costs.”

— Robert Main, CGCS
Colonial Country Club, Cordova TN

3 integrated modules make the hard-to-believe happen.

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• Save up to 30% on chemicals annually!

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Never overspray. “AS-APPLIED” MAP of the application is created by the GPS-guided sprayer’s individual nozzles. Save up to 30% of your chemical budget.

The Star Command System controls the on and off spraying function right at the tip. Shut off and back on is instantaneous.

The new Smithco Star Command System is about to change everything. And that includes lowering your annual chemical costs by up to 30%. When’s the last time you bought a product with a return-on-investment like this?

Smithco.com
In May, Tennessee government officials unveiled an exciting new lineup at Bear Trace at Harrison Bay, a course on the Tennessee Golf Trail in Chattanooga.

The lineup: A large all-electric fleet of golf course maintenance equipment. By swapping its gasoline-powered equipment for an all-battery-run lineup, Bear Trace has established an important environmental precedent for other state-owned golf courses in Tennessee to follow.

“We’re the guinea pig, the prototype,” Bear Trace CGCS Paul L. Carter said.

Bear Trace’s all-electric fleet comprises 18 pieces of equipment, including seven Jacobsen Eclipse 322 all-electric riding greens mowers; two Tru-Turf greens rollers; two Smithco Super Star bunker rakes; five Toro MDE utility vehicles; and two Club Car Carry All Turf IIs.

“As fuel prices continue to climb and additional emission and noise regulations are put in place, we expect more superintendents will seriously consider electric and hybrid technology for their maintenance equipment,” said Chris Fox, product manager for Jacobsen.

Tennessee government officials assert that the new equipment will provide an estimated 300 percent decrease in annual operation expenses. And because the equipment produces zero emissions, Carter said the course expects to reduce its carbon emissions by 215,000 pounds annually.

“Anything we can do to protect the environment and conserve resources, that’s always on the top of our list,” Carter said. “This project falls hand in hand with our mission.”

That mission started about seven years ago, inspired in part by the presence of wildlife on the course.

Carter dreams of one day having solar panels on the maintenance building “so we’re generating as much power as we’re using.”

In the meantime, “I’m glad to be part of an organization that’s willing to go out on a limb and say, ‘This is where we need to be. We need to look at this electric equipment.’”

---

Groundwater levels in the United States are shrinking, a recently released U.S. Geological Survey study has found.

After examining 40 U.S. aquifers, the USGS study found that from 1900 to 2008, U.S. aquifers were depleted by more than twice the volume of water found in Lake Erie alone.

In a statement, Acting USGS Director Suzette Kimball said groundwater stored in aquifers is vital in that it provides drinking water and water for irrigation, maintains ecosystems and supports the flow of streams and rivers.

The study examined changing groundwater levels as they pertain to municipal, industrial and agricultural uses. Although water levels have shrunk considerably since 1950, they have experienced even higher rates of draw down from 2000 to 2008, dropping an average of 25 cubic kilometers per year when according to the USGS the historical average is 9.2 kilometers annually.

The Ogallala Aquifer is especially at risk, the USGS says. Located across 170,000 square feet under the High Plains, its depletion over the last eight years has amounted to 32 percent of the aquifer’s cumulative depletion during the entire 20th century.

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Pinehurst Resort & Country Club announced recently it will soon convert greens on Pinehurst Nos. 8, 3 and 2 to Champion ultradwarf bermudagrass. Nos. 8 and 3 will be converted this summer, while No. 2 will undergo its conversion in July 2014, after the course hosts the men’s and women’s U.S. Opens.

According to a Pinehurst release, the conversions mark “the next stage” in creating championship conditions at Pinehurst year-round, even in hot temps.
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† Shake well before using.
AS TOLD BY Jim Rattigan, superintendent/general manager, Schuylkill CC, Orwigsburg, Pa.
For more with Rattigan, check out My Second Office on page 14.

“\n
The superintendent when I first started here was Ziggy. Ziggy was a great guy, beloved by everyone, and taught me so much about the course. Plus, he was always good for a funny story or two.

My first week, we had a leak in the clubhouse, and we needed to find the valve to shut the water off. We’re on the front lawn of the clubhouse; I’m armed with a shovel, Ziggy has a metal detector. He picks up a beep, so he says, ‘Dig here.’ I dig a hole, nothing. He gets another beep a few paces away, I dig another hole...

This goes on for about two hours, I’ve dug up holes everywhere and everyone in the clubhouse is watching us. Ziggy’s clearly mad. All of a sudden he hurls the metal detector all the way into the woods and starts cussing at himself. ‘Ziggy, what’s wrong?’ I ask him. He points down and shouts, ‘I’m wearing steel toe boots!’”

Seth,
I loved your column about Carrie Parkhill Wallace (“How we make the sausage,” May 2013.) People like her are ‘magic’ to me, as the art direction of a publication is a true mystery to me. Great job of recognizing her efforts, and I love the sausage analogy!

Jeff R. Wendel, CGCS
Executive Director
Iowa Turfgrass Institute

GOLFDOM WISDOM

Dear Mr. Country Club,
If we had your putting stroke, we’d also think the greens were inconsistent. #golfdomwisdom

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