



Ted Horton Signs with Environmental Golf

Environmental Golf has announced a joint venture with Ted Horton, CGCS, of THC Consulting. Under the agreement, Ted Horton Consulting and Environmental Golf will share expertise on environmental stewardship, indigenous landscaping, and habitat protection at Pelican Hill and Oak Creek Golf Courses in California as well as strategic business planning and project support.

"As an environmental steward and recipient of many prestigious industry awards, Ted offers valuable counsel for timely and cost-effective golf course agronomic and environmental practices," said Terry McGuire, director of business development. "His ability as a leader in horticulture and agronomic practices will provide our clients with an effective and powerful team of experts."

In announcing the partnership, Ted Horton commented, "I am thrilled to align with Environmental Golf, a company that has specialized in maintaining many of the nation's finest golf courses for more than 40 years. Together, we have formed a philosophy that will enable us to be leaders in environmental stewardship and agronomic excellence throughout our golf course maintenance and facility operations."

Observations Around The Southwest

by Patrick Gross, Director
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Hot summer temperatures - Summer is here, with record high temperatures in many areas of the Southwest. Due to the lack of rainfall earlier in the year, many superintendents started their summer management programs in the spring to prevent diseases and stay ahead of soluble salt accumulation in the greens. So far, most courses have been doing quite well as a result of these programs. Careful water management should continue to be the focus of maintenance programs throughout the summer. There have been a few warnings of electricity shortages if high temperatures persist. Courses that have upgraded their irrigation pumping systems and conducted energy audits are reporting cost savings compared to last year.

Disease pressure - Most courses are doing quite well so far this summer, with very few disease problems observed at courses throughout the Southwest. Minor infestations of fairy ring and yellow patch were observed at a few courses in the past few weeks. Anthracnose and summer patch have not been a problem yet this year. Many superintendents implemented good programs earlier in the year for leaching greens and preventive disease control that has helped keep these diseases at bay.

Employment records - Several courses have been contacted by the Social Security Administration for an audit of employment records. Some of these courses have lost

golf course maintenance employees due to discrepancies in Social Security numbers and false employment documentation. Unfortunately, this has left several courses short-staffed during the busy summer season. A word to the wise - make sure your employment records are in order.

Fairway topdressing - Courses in Northern California have been applying sand topdressing to fairways for the past four years in an effort to improve fairway firmness during the winter and reduce the negative effects of earthworm activity. Unfortunately, many of these courses have little results to show for their efforts because they do not apply the sand heavy enough or often enough. It is important to accelerate topdressing applications during the first few years to get 1" of sand on the surface of the fairways as soon as possible to get any benefit from the program. Additional applications should be made in subsequent years to eventually build a 4" to 5" topdressing layer on the surface.

English daisy control - Pat Finlen, CGCS at the Olympic Club, and Josh Heersink at the Presidio Golf Course in San Francisco have had good results reducing English daisy infestations on fairways with spray applications of calcium nitrate fertilizer. The applications appear to desiccate the flowers and foliage of the weed while stimulating turf growth. The spray applications are made in the morning at approximately 1/8 to

1/4 lb. of nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft. and allowed to dry on the foliage before irrigating later in the evening.

Use of effluent water expanding - Several courses in San Francisco, Southern California, and Las Vegas are preparing for the use of effluent water in the coming months. Courses should prepare for the use of effluent water by obtaining baseline soil tests and developing good programs for aeration and the possible use of soil amendments to insure good water percolation and drainage to help control soluble salts. While effluent water is well suited for turf irrigation, the biggest management problem appears to be controlling algae blooms and aquatic weeds in the storage ponds.

Quick Quote

A feature common to Muirfield is that the straight, bold stroke rarely if ever is in any way seriously punished. But the timid, the gutless, and the wayward rarely will escape retribution."

—Pat Ward Thomas—