



Dear TPEC Customers,

December 20, 2007

The Toro Co. and Reinders, Inc. are happy to announce that effective January 2, 2008, Reinders Inc. of Elm Grove, Wisconsin will assume responsibility for Toro Commercial Equipment and Golf Irrigation distribution in the northern Illinois area currently served by Turf Professionals Equipment Company.

Reinders, Inc. is a fifth generation family owned company established in 1866 in Elm Grove, WI, and has been a Toro distributor since 1971. Reinders provides equipment, fertilizers, chemicals, grass seed, aquatic products, fountains, low voltage lighting, ice melt products, and supplies for golf courses, sports turf managers, landscape contractors, parks, irrigation contractors, garden centers and others in the green industry.

Reinders will continue to support industry organizations in Illinois and NW Indiana including; **GCCMAA**-Greater Chicago Club Managers Association, **ILCA**-Illinois Landscape Contractors Association, **ILSTMA**-Illinois Association of Sports Turf Managers Associations, **ITF**-Illinois Turfgrass Foundation, **MAGCS**-Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents, **MGCSA**-Michiana Golf Course Superintendents Association, **MIPE**-Midwest Institute of Park Executives, **NWIGCSA**-Northwestern Illinois Golf Course Superintendents Association, and **Teta**-Turf Equipment Technicians Association.

Reinders will retain the entire Turf Professionals Chicago team and continue operating out of the current office and facility in Franklin Park. Personnel from both operations will be working together to assure a seamless transition for our customers. With the many years of experience and the great synergy that will be gained by combining two strong organizations, we are confident that both Reinders and Toro will achieve even higher levels of service to our valued customers going forward.

In addition to the new Franklin Park location, Reinders operates stores in Vernon Hills and Rockford, IL, six locations across Wisconsin, and one in Minnesota. These stores are supported by over 140 employees and a private delivery fleet covering the upper Midwest daily.

We look forward to serving all of our new customers beginning Jan. 2, 2008. All Franklin Park local phone numbers for office, service, irrigation, and mobile phones will remain the same. The new toll-free numbers for equipment parts are: ph 888-887-3302, fax 888-887-8124.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact us.

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800-785-3302

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Mark Karczewski

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www.magcs.org



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back row, l to r: H. Lovero, M. Heustis, J. Gurke, R. Kohlstedt, E. Braunsky, D. Sterr, J. Keith,
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not pictured M. Siefken
Photo Credit: Jim Trizinski

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The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents (MAGCS), founded December 24, 1926, is a professional organization whose goals include preservation and dissemination of scientific and practical knowledge pertaining to golf turf maintenance. We endeavor to increase efficiency and economic performance while improving and enhancing the individual and collective prestige of the members.

The MAGCS member is also an environmental steward. We strive to uphold and enhance our surroundings by promoting flora and fauna in every facet in a manner that is beneficial to the general public now and in the future.

All editorial and advertisement inquiries should be directed to Luke Cella, Publisher, On Course, 11855 Archer Avenue, Lemont, IL, 60439. (630) 243-7900 or visit www.magcs.org for rates and requirements. Statements of fact and opinion are the responsibility of the authors alone and do not imply an opinion on the part of the officers or members.

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Raising Standards Once Again

Congratulations. The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents is the first local chapter in the United States to go "paperless." There are still a few items that you will receive via the regular mail from MAGCS. They are: On Course (now printed on 10% post-consumer content to boot), your directory, and your dues statement. I commend the board for taking this step to promote environmental stewardship in the management of the Association. From now on, electronic communication will now take on a more important role. I urge you to keep your contact information current (especially email), visit MAGCS.org often (dare I say home page?), and/or let me know if you are not receiving our emails or are having trouble with the website. Just write and send me a letter and I will be happy to help. – Please call the MAGCS office and I will get you squared away.

All of our meeting notices will be done via email and posted on the website. For those of you who want to pay online, we do process credit card transactions through our secure server. For those of you that like to pay by check, you can still register online and select the option "pay by check" at the end of your transaction. You may then print off a copy of your registration record and submit that to your club/company for a check request. I will match up the check with your registration once it is received.

I would also like to thank Parin Schmidt for helping with the redesign of the website. Parin has a very good understanding of what works, and what doesn't, what is needed and what is just window dressing. I appreciate the time he has spent with the site. Furthermore, I look forward to improving the site and invite you to send your comments along. Managing the website is like managing a golf course. There is always something that can be done to improve the place.

If you have been flipping back and forth looking for the President's Message, you won't find it. In an effort to streamline *On Course*, the Board decided on a recommendation from the editorial committee to try something new and combine some Director's Columns, print President's Messages quarterly, and have the Executive Director write a column once in a while. You will still get all the key information coming from the Association, but not all of it will be in the format that has been used in the past.

It just so happens, my column is the first of the New Year. The New Year leads me to thoughts of what is to come, namely resolutions. I've never been big on them, because I know my

*I know most of you suffer
from the same ills as I...*

nature. I revert back fairly readily to my modus operandi, but here is one I'm going to try: Be less productive. I know most of you suffer from the same ills as I; always looking to improve things, searching for a better way, creating efficiencies to get more done, planning future tasks long in advance, preparing for uncertainties.... the list goes on. Granted, this may not be one to share with your employer, (even though I work for all of you) but I think being less productive will have its merits. A few of the ways I'm going to try to be less productive are:

Leave work at work. (I've already started this by leaving a list on my desk each night of the things I have not accomplished, so I have a place to start my next day.) It has helped me to be at home when I'm at home and relieve the guilt and stress associated with always having something to finish or complete.

Live in the moment and just be. Children are great at this. Certainly I won't look to invent games or imaginary friends, but I will try to appreciate the here and now and try not to stress out about yesterday or tomorrow. Take time to foster and build friendships, meet others and get to know them by sharing a moment or two or a cup of coffee.

(continued on next page)

Make a little more time for myself. How else can you be less productive, and maybe self-centered at the same time? Do some of the things that you want to do, not the things you feel you have to do or need to do. Take a walk, go to the batting cage or driving range, to church or synagogue, exercise, turn the music up loud, read a book, or take a nap on the couch. Do things for you, and don't feel guilty about it.

Our work gets accomplished, because that is the type of people we are. We are driven by an inner force that wills us to

succeed. I know I will soon revert back to this, as will most of you, once the smells of freshly cut grass find their way to your nose. In the meantime, try and enjoy a few months of the new year and be a little less productive.

For those of you heading south to the Golf Industry Show, I hope you have safe and expedient travel and I hope to see you at the Midwest Hospitality Reception (details on the website). For those of you not going to Orlando, I hope to see you at some point throughout the year. **-OC**

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FEATURE ARTICLE

Samuel MacKenzie, CGCS, Olympia Field Country Club

Basimid Kills – Tips and Techniques

This past fall Olympia Fields Country Club embarked on a historic renovation of its South Golf Course. Opened in 1916, the South Course was one of the first two courses built on the property. This Tom Bendelow course has for a great many years played second fiddle to the Willie Park designed North Course. Since its completion in 1923, the North Course has held the bulk of the championships and gotten all of the glory. This year that all changed for the track that is considered the “Members Course” at OFCC.

In the fall of 2005 the club enlisted the services of Steve Smeyers and his associate Patrick Andrews to develop a master plan. Work began in July of this year. We have just completed constructing 49 new bunkers, 76 new tees, a completely new practice facility, and installing a new irrigation system. We grassed nearly 75 acres, including 31 acres of bentgrass on tees, fairways, and target greens as well as sodding and seeding 44 acres of rough. With the exception of the third hole, which is totally new, the greens were enlarged to historical sizes and shapes only using sod grown on site. Thanks to the extended Fall we were able to complete all operations by late October.

In the original concept the fairways were not to be renovated. They were going to be re-contoured using a combination of sod relocation and seeding. As we developed our schedule and spoke with all of our contractors, it quickly became apparent that keeping the fairways alive during construction was going to be extraordinarily difficult at best. It was decided that renovating the fairways had both financial and practical advantages. The burden of maintaining the old irrigation system as well as the maintenance of the fairways was lifted. It also allowed the architect a free hand in shaping the fairways, without being limited by the existing contour.

We looked at a number of ways to accomplish renovation and decided to use primarily Basimid®. Roundup® was also used where it made better sense, but sixty percent of the fairway turf was renovated using Basimid. This soil fumigant has been around since 1981, and is widely used world wide in other green industry sectors from tree nurseries to vegetable and fruit

farms for controlling a broad spectrum of pests that include weeds, diseases, and insects. It has also seen success on golf courses for renovating turf. Our primary goal in its use was to reduce the amount of *Poa annua* invasion after seeding.

Seed bed preparation was the most important part of our operation. The first step was to lay the fairway shape out within the existing corridor. Roundup was then applied to all areas other than the new fairway. The entire area, including six feet around the new fairway, was then mowed using a fairway mower set to 3/16 of an inch. We mowed and verticut multiple times to remove as much thatch and mat as possible.



Scalping

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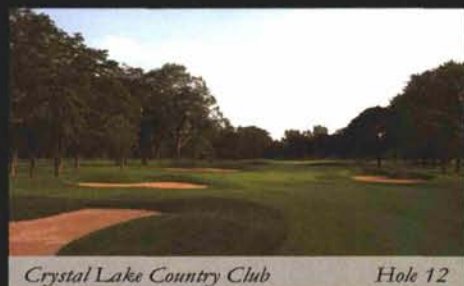
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Verticutting

Next, the fairway was aerified one time. The plugs were broken up using a heavy drag mat. The thatch was blown off the fairway and picked up. Aerification plays an essential role as it allows the Basimid to penetrate the soil. Anyway you can enhance exposure of the product to the soil is imperative, and since we were not tilling and regrading this was the best method.

One of the biggest concerns with using Basimid is preventing its contamination of water. With that in mind, we then

went to all of the drainage basins on a given fairway and covered the lids with plastic. The larger basins were covered with both plastic and a bale of straw. Ten holes on the South Course cross Butterfield Creek, so we also lined the creek in drainage swales with bales of straw to prevent any washing. Precautions should also be made to protect trees, because the surface feeder roots will absorb the product, and damage as well as death can occur. However, in our case, since new irrigation was installed, root pruning was done on every fairway. This seemed to do the trick since no trees were damaged.

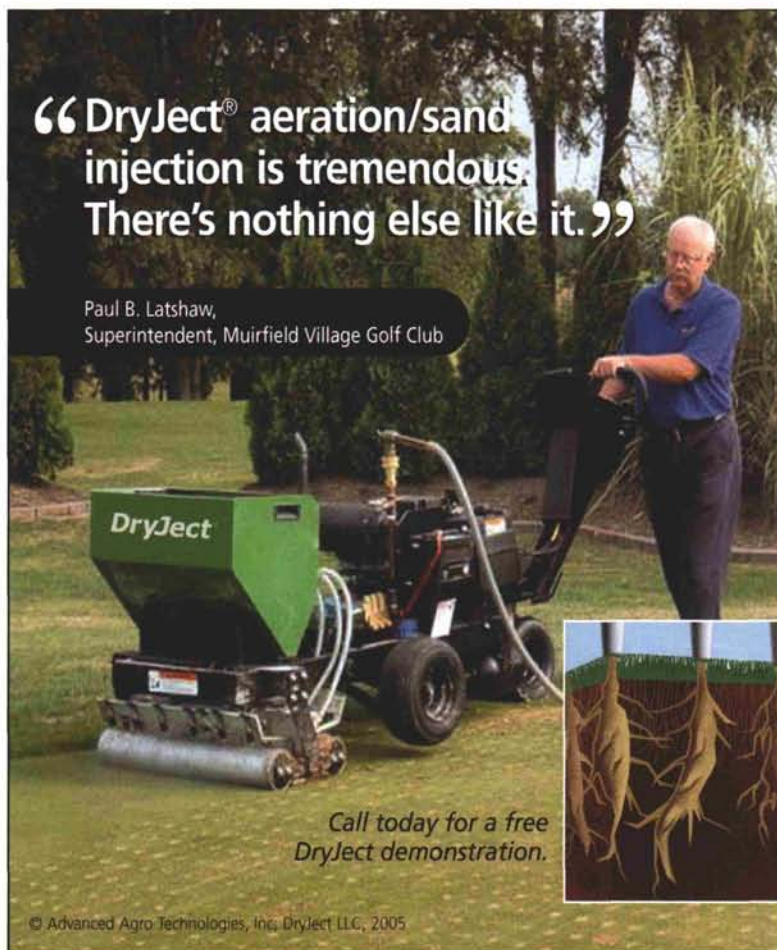


Aerification

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Drain Abatement

The Basimid application then followed on the new fairway and six feet of rough surrounding the fairway. Depending on who I spoke with the generally accepted rate of application is between 350-450 lbs. per acre, we settled on 400 pounds. Watering is the most crucial step in any Basimid application. It is what converts the product to a methyl isothiocyanate gas and is the "tent" that traps the gas in the soil. We soaked the ground during initial watering to bring the fairway to field capacity. Water was then applied, as needed, throughout the day until dark, to maintain this moisture level for three days. On the fourth day all watering ceased and everything was allowed to dry. As the soil dries the gas is released to the atmosphere.



Basimid Application



Irrigation

Typically it took one day for the fairway to thoroughly dry, and then it was ready to seed. We used a blend of Penneagle II and Pennlinks II which was applied through a drop spreader at a rate of 1 lb. per 1000 sq. ft. in two directions for a total of 2 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. The fairway was then lightly verticut to mix the seed into the remaining thatch and soil from aerification. Starter fertilizer was not applied to areas where we used Basimid; it was however applied to the areas treated with Roundup. Watering commenced immediately and was done on an as needed basis.



Seeding Operation

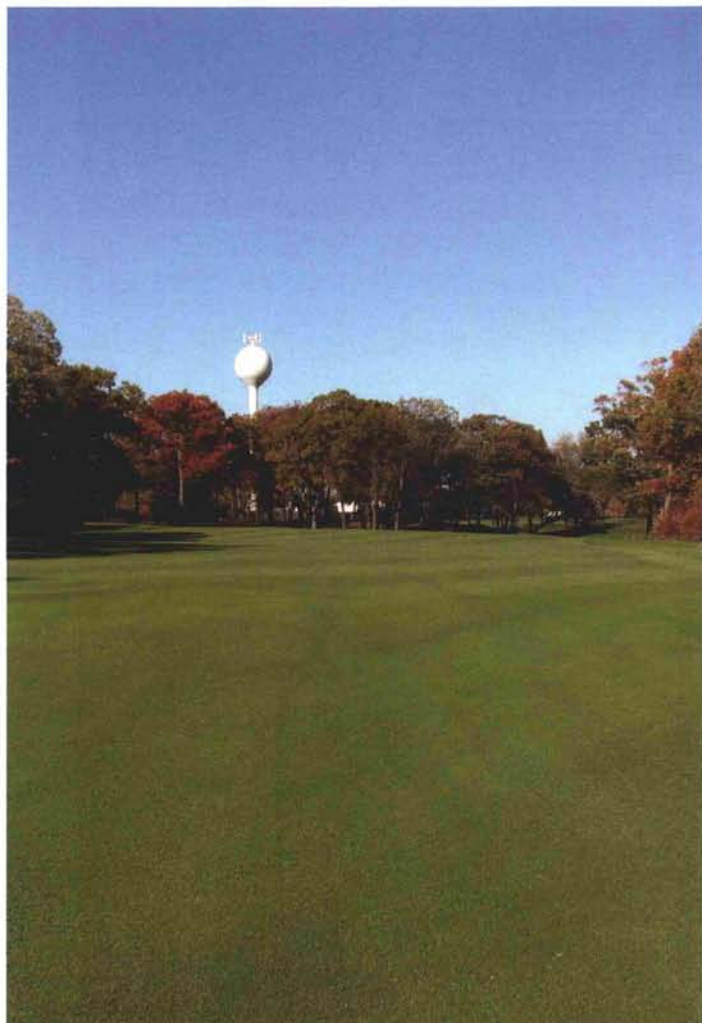


10 Days After Germination

Germination occurred within five days after seeding. Depending on the hole, the first mowing took place about seven to ten days after germination. We made our first application of fertilizer about thirty days after seeding. One of the unique benefits of Basimid is that it causes a tremendous level of nutrients, approximately a .5 lb. of N-P-K, be released into the soil and readily available to the new grass plants. We saw a huge difference in areas where Basimid was used as opposed to Roundup. Growth was much better and sustained longer. Six to seven weeks after seeding, the fairway and rough were both for the most part completely grown in and regular mowing was occurring.



First Mowing



Eight Weeks

Overall we were very pleased with the establishment of the fairways and rough where we used Basimid. The application of the product is a little bit cumbersome and precautions must be made to prevent any unintended or offsite damage. The cost of the product is considerably more than Roundup, but in my mind is easily justified, because the establishment rate is much better and *Poa annua* invasion is inhibited. I would use it again and would consider using it on greens if given the opportunity.

-OC



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