

TURFGRASS PROBLEMS?

Why?

- Soil Conditions?
- Soil Fertility?
- Unavailable Nutrients?
- Drainage?
- Grass Quality?
- Irrigation Water?

TOM BURROWS:

Agronomist/Turfgrass Specialist

Consulting: Turfgrass • Soil • Tissue • Water • Physical • Plus USGA or Reconstruction of Greens

Certified Brookside Lab Consultant

36 Years Experience
Jensen Beach, Florida
Ph: (407) 692-1221

Laserturf LEVELLING

Setting the Standard

Laser Controlled Leveling and Top Dressing for:

- Golf Tees
- Sportsfields
- Tennis Courts

Call Your Leveling Experts:

- Dale Witting - Main Office
561-692-3771
- Ken Andersen - West Coast
941-743-3956
- Gary Clemmor - East Coast
561-692-3771

P.O. Box 2179
Palm City, Fl. 34991

No Rhyme Nor Reason

BY JOEL D. JACKSON, CGCS

Last winter when I wrote the free verse editorial titled, *The Superintendent*, it generated more calls and comments than any other editorial I had ever written. One fellow superintendent even sent me a framed copy of it.

So this year, I thought I'd share some other verses I wrote about golf courses. Don't panic. This isn't a trend. Consider it a belated Christmas/New Year's gift from an editor who thanks you for the opportunity to write about what we do. I hope the following lines conjure a memory or two or give you pause for thought about this great profession.

Fairways

Broad shouldered and muscular
Like pack animals
The rolling fairways carry the burden of play
Without protest

Seldom pampered and often taken for granted
Serving their masters in silence
While the greens, like spoiled children
Clamor for attention

The fairways become like the eldest sibling
Having to rapidly mature beyond actual years
To help the golf course family
Withstand the daily assault on its character

Sometimes they receive honorable mention
For their yeoman service
But mostly, they leave the spotlight and adulation
To their little brothers, the greens

Take a moment and praise the fairways
They carry us from tee to green in such grand fashion
Never asking much in return
Just a little respect and dignity

Effective, Environmental Nematode Control

It's true! Other nematicides are extremely toxic; *NEO-TROL* isn't.

NEO-TROL

NEO-TROL is 100% natural and environmentally friendly—it is non-toxic to people and animals, and it doesn't deplete the soil of beneficial minerals and nutrients. Additional benefits include minimal personal protective requirements, easy container disposal, safe for wetlands, completely biodegradable.

Nematodes hate it.

So does the competition.



Tel 713.442.9821
Tel 800.442.9821
Fax 713.590.3353
13802 Chrisman Road
Houston, Texas 77039

Winter Season

While friends and neighbors up north
Sit hunkered down in their snowdrifted
homes

Watching instructional videos and
tournaments on TV

Our snowbird golfers arrive in
migrating flocks

Every eight minutes from New Year's
Day to Easter

From sunrise to sunset
To tee it up and play golf

We can't keep enough carts charged to
meet the demand

We can hardly get the turf mowed and
get out of the way

Rainy days and frost delays cause
nothing but chaos

As precious tee times are ignored by
fickle Mother Nature

The Finance and Accounting
Department smiles at the bottom
line

As revenues skyrocket off the chart
While we watch the turf on the course
disappear

Under the endless grinding parade of
cleated feet

Days of cloudy cold fronts rob the turf
Of its vigor and nutrient reserves
And agronomic explanations of
conditions

Are met with indifference by those
seeking perfection

Overseeding decisions made in the
fall

Are either praised or cursed as the
winter unfolds

And the well made plans of
management

Become a roll of the dice at the mercy
of the elements

Somehow the course will survive
Battered and bruised, but alive
Eagerly awaiting
The renewal that always comes with
spring



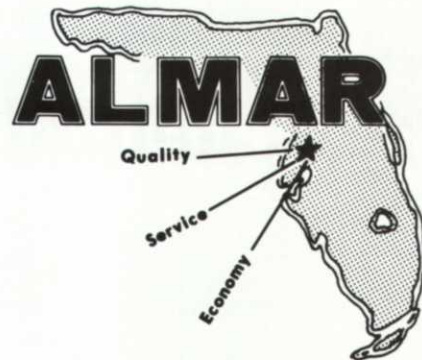
1-800-432-2214

1-561-746-0667

**Distributors for
Howard Fertilizers**

**QUALITY FERTILIZERS & CHEMICALS
FOR THE TURF INDUSTRY**

1800 Central Blvd.
Jupiter, FL 33458



CHEMICAL CO. INC.

P.O. BOX 290415

TAMPA, FL 33687

CALL

800-900-6444

**STUART COHEN
EAST FLA.**

**RUSS VARNEY
WEST FLA.**

•TURF TRACER • FOAM GARD • RUST BUSTER • BEAUT/
GREEN • PENETROL • KICK IN THE GRASS • TURF IRON • SUPER WET • EV R GREEN
KNOCK M' DED • GRIME OFF • GREEN LAPPING SOAP • RUST BAN • GREEN MAGIC
TURF KOTE • WATER PENN • GREEN MASTER • SCRAM //



Thunderstorm

First I heard it,
Rumbling off in the distance.
Then I saw it,
Purple, black and grey.
Rushing in from the west,
Devouring the horizon.

Blotting out the sun,
It turned day into night.
Illuminated only by
Blue-white lightning flashes.

Crack! Pow! Boom!
Cannon shots. Tympani drums.
The thunder claps shattered the clouds
And rolled across the heavens.

Then the rain began.
Big fat splattering drops at first.
Then like a solid grey wall,
Shutting out the world.

Puddles turned into lakes and rivers,
And then into tumbling waterfalls.
Carving deep canyons
In the faces of the sand bunkers.

In twenty minutes it was over.
The golfers and the crew
Emerged from their hiding places
To resume the serious business of golf.



**Aquatic
Management**

- ✓ Friendly, professional service
- ✓ Competitive pricing
- ✓ Certified, degreed biologists
- ✓ Fast response time
- ✓ Guaranteed compliance
- ✓ Over 16 years of statewide service

The Lake Doctors, Inc.

1-800-666-5253

**CERTIFIED TURF GRASSES
NOW AVAILABLE IN
PALM BEACH COUNTY
FROM:**



Rainbow Grass

- ⊕ Certified: Tifway (419)
Tifdwarf
Emerald Zoysia
- ⊕ Conventional and hydro sprigs
- ⊕ Member of the Southern Seed Certification Association

Rainbow Grass

17464 N. State Road 7 • Boca Raton, FL 33498
(561) 482-1401 • (561) 487-3190 Fax
(800) 543-6905

The Logo Man

I'll tell you true,
I don't feel dressed.
If I don't have a logo,
On my sleeve or my chest.

Got my Jacobsen hat,
And my Toro jacket.
My Rain Bird shirt,
With the three button placket.

Got a Swinging Mickey shirt,
and white Goofy shorts.
I even have three hats,
From NBC Sports.

Got shirts like Ashworths, Antiguas,
Polos and Gants.
Also have green, brown, and blue pairs,
Of new Docker pants.

Burlington Gold Toe,
Is the brand of my socks.
And I jog around town,
In pumped up Reeboks.

Shark on my sleeve,
Bear on my chest.
Umbrella on my collar,
I'm really well dressed.

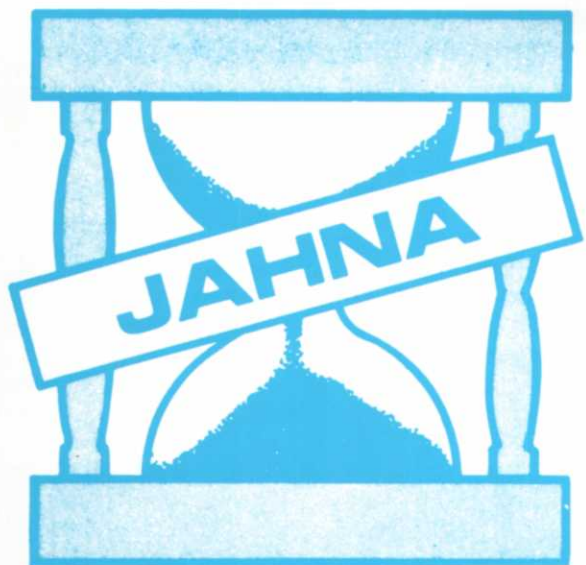
Sartorial splendor,
Was never my plan.
Fate had me picked
as the new Logo Man.

Sundown

Was there ever a better time
to see a golf course
than at sundown?

All the cares and worries
and harsh realities of the day
are softened.

And in the twilight,
the turf turns from tweed
into velvet.



Your Sand Man

Choker Sand • Greens Mix Sand • Pea Rock

White Trap Sand • Dolomite • Hi-Cal

Dry Sterilized Top Dressing Sand

All Sands meet U.S.G.A. Specs

E. R. JAHNA INDUSTRIES, Inc.

Lake Wales, FL 33859-0840 • (941) 676-9431



1997 Photo contest - Category 3 — Native plantings, Gulf Muhly. No. 17 tee at Disney's Eagle Pines GC. Photo by Joel Jackson

3rd Annual Florida Green Photo Contest under way

Category 1 - Wildlife on the Course: includes mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians.

Category 2 - Course Landscape: Formal Plantings: includes annuals, shrubs, trees, entrance and tee signs

Category 3 - Course Landscape: Native Plantings: includes aquatic vegetation, grasses, shrubs, trees and wildflowers.

Category 4 - Scenic Hole Layout Shots: includes sunrises, sunsets, frosts, storms and any other golf hole view.

Prizes

- 1st Place (\$100) and 2nd Place (\$50) in each category
- Editor's Choice-Best Overall Photo - \$100.
- All winning entries published in the Fall 1997 issue.

Easy Rules

1. Color prints or slides. Only one entry per category.
2. Photo must be taken on an FGCSA member's course. Photo must be taken by an FGCSA member or a member of his staff.
3. Attach a label to the back of the print or slide which identifies the category, course and photographer. **DO NOT WRITE DIRECTLY ON THE BACK OF THE PRINT.** Each photo shall be attached to a sheet of 8.5 x 11 lined paper. Line up the photo with the vertical and horizontal lines to square the photo on the page. Attach the print to the paper using a loop of masking tape on the back of the photo. Slides must be easily removable for viewing.
4. A caption identifying the category, course and photographer should be typed or printed on the sheet of paper below the print or slide.
5. Judging will be done by a panel of members of the FGCSA not participating in the contest.
6. Mail entries in a bend proof package to: Joel D. Jackson, 6780 Tamarind Circle, Orlando 32819. No entries accepted postmarked after August 15, 1997.

Thanks to Shelly Israelson and Bob Sanderson for responding to my entreaty in the last Florida Green for answers to explain why so many

superintendents don't participate in the various turf research rebate programs we've established. The fact that they were the only ones who responded makes me conclude that apathy is, indeed, the primary reason.

Reasons Bob and Shelly offered included: distributors shipping a

generic brand even though a name brand was ordered; tight budgets closely monitored by accounting departments; and just being too overwhelmed by job and family concerns to get involved.

Bob also expressed a concern about how much of the money we donate actually makes it to the research program or scholarship we designate. For Bob and everyone else who doesn't know: the reason we like to put everything through the FTGA is because the FTGA has a special arrangement with IFAS. One hundred percent of every dollar we donate goes directly into the project we designate. Most other contributions are charged about 25% for overhead, so we are fortunate to be given this "favored" status.

I am extremely happy to report that the Valent Corporation will still be making the \$20,000 donation (\$10,000 each to the FTGA and FGCSA) for turf

research we had projected. There were concerns the effect on Orthene sales from the introduction of Chipco Choice and the generic Orthene. I hope all superintendents who have contact with Peter Blum will thank him for his efforts in initiating this program.

On November 18 and 19, FGCSA President Dale Kuehner, FTGA President Roy Bates, Tim Hiers, David Barnes, Ron Garl and I went to Tallahassee for a golf industry summit meeting. The meeting was organized by the PGA Tour under the auspices of the Florida Sports Foundation.

The purpose was to bring together the various golf industry organizations to express views and concerns, and see if there was enough interest and support to warrant the formation of an umbrella organization. The consensus was, yes an umbrella organization was needed to collect and disseminate pertinent information and to help pull the golf industry together for mutual benefit.

Without a doubt, thanks in large part to Tim Hiers' outstanding presentations each day, our contingent seemed the best organized and most professional of any of the organizations in attendance.

A follow-up meeting was held on Dec. 4 in Orlando, and Roy Bates reports that he volunteered the FTGA as the interim caretaker of this as-yet unformed association.

We all are hopeful that this is the beginning of an organization that will finally unite the golf industry's various factions into the economic and political force it can and should be.

Dark Clouds and Silver Linings

Mark My Words



Mark Jarrell, CGCS
Assistant Editor

I have to admit my skepticism. After all, I did put a lot of time and effort into the failed Florida Golf Council a few years ago.

There seem to be so few outside of our side of the business who can see the big picture or have a vision of the future. A perfect example is the Hobe Sound golfer who wrote complaining to Golfweek after their issue completely devoted to "Golf and the Environment"

Mr. Ken Chilvers wrote: "I find it impossible to believe that Golfweek thinks its customers (avid golfers) would be

pleased to have it devote virtually an entire issue to 'Golf and the Environment.' What could be adequately said in three paragraphs you've managed to cram into thirty pages or so... come on! We buy your magazine to read about golf. Not to have some liberal nut try to make us feel guilty about playing a great game."

If Mr. Chilvers represents the "average golfer," (and I think he does, which is why I quit writing for *Golfweek* after eight years), then how are we ever going to harness all this potential golf industry clout when our typical customer doesn't

have a clue about the influence and power of the environmental movement and its correlation to escalating golf course development, construction, and maintenance costs?

Too many golfers categorize golf as just a game like tennis or bowling are just games, and fail to acknowledge golf's unique connection to the environment or their responsibilities as players. The mentality seems to be, "Golf costs a lot to play. I pay the freight, and I don't want to be bothered with the details. If it begins costing too much, fire the superintendent and get somebody in that can do it cheaper!"

Thank God only a small fraction on the working side of the golf industry has this attitude, or golf would already be dead. If golfers don't begin getting a clue, golf will be dead in the not-too-distant future.

Enough negativity!

On the positive side, I'd like to report that we are making progress with IFAS and the turf program at the University of Florida. This column was due before I could get an update on the Turf Coordinator position, but last I heard we had narrowed the field of applicants from seventeen down to five.

In addition, the program review team has been selected and the review will take place in mid-February.

But the most encouraging news I have to share (remember you heard it here first) is that the two people named to the new half-time positions in turf breeding at the university are absolutely first rate, enthusiastic and dedicated! Drs. Brian Scully and Russell Nagata have been "playing" with turfgrasses for the past year or so in their spare time from working with corn, beans and celery.

David Barnes and I got a private tour of their turf collection and facilities in Belle Glade on Dec. 4 during the station's 75th anniversary celebration. These guys are extremely sharp, and I predict great things from them in the near future if our industry properly supports them!

We owe IFAS Vice President Dr. Jim Davidson a big thank-you for those appointments.

FLORATINE



"My greens were very thin going into fall (1995) after 100 inches of rain. Using **Floratine** products, I had great lateral growth in the spring, covering all bare areas by April."

Scott Corwin, Supt.
Belleview Mido
Clearwater, FL

KEEPERS OF THE GREEN

"**Maxiplex** has reduced granular fertilizer use by 40% while maintaining consistent color. (With **Floratine** sprays) the turf recovers more quickly after drought or cold stress."

Stu Hazard, Supt.
Lansbrook Development
Palm Harbor, FL



Floratine of Florida
(a division of Tampa Bay Turf)

Terry Brawley
(813) 441-1636

Richard Beck
(813) 786-5449

Jim Lawson
(941) 995-0215

Hold that Tiger! Hold that Tiger!
Yes, that 20-year-old golfing phenom,
Tiger Woods, passed through my
backyard last October.

**‘Tiger Tees’
may get
new
meaning**

For looking and acting like a nice young man, he sure did a rotten thing to my golf course. By bouncing second shots off of previously unreachable par fives, he changed forever the perception of difficulty on the venerable Magnolia Course.

When Jon Brendle and Mark Russell of the PGA Tour, told me Tiger was averaging over 300 yards on his drives to Big Bad John Daly’s 288-yard average, I asked. “How? The USGA sees to it that we’re all using the same equipment according to the laws of physics.”

Well, according to the laws of physics, Tiger’s got “The Technique.” Translate that into a limber 20-year-old back. Coupled with good living and right thinking, Tiger’s got the golf world and Madison Avenue by the tail.

If his lumbar vertebrae hold up, we’ll all be retrofitting our courses with Tiger Tees.

It was amazing to see the impact that young Woods had on our tournament.

As soon as we had his signed commitment to play in our hands we doubled up on the hot dogs and Port-o-lets. I don’t have final numbers and I couldn’t print such state secrets anyhow, but suffice it to say, they were the largest

galleries and biggest sales we’ve had in a long time.

I’ve never seen security escorts walking a pro around 18 holes before. Of course, I’ve never seen a 20-year-old gazillionaire up close and personal before either.

Before Tiger mania sweeps the entire golf world, I did note with some interest that it was the veteran players Tom Watson and Fred Couples who walked off with \$360,000 in the recent Skins Game.

Tiger did manage to make my annual salary by earning one skin. I guess what they say really is true — “Drive for show. Putt for dough.”

I wish young Mr. Woods well. He has brought a spark of interest and a new energy to golf with his game from another galaxy. He’s going to break a lot of old records and write some new legends and folklore before he’s done.

...

Before I’m done, please note my new work phone number on the masthead page of the magazine. I am returning to Disney’s Osprey Ridge Golf Course after the first of the year. We are reorganizing some of our roles at Disney under the leadership of Gary Myers, CGCS, our new manager of golf course maintenance. Gary comes to Disney from TPC Scottsdale in Arizona. In addition, Gary also had responsibilities for several TPC courses in the mid-Atlantic and southeast regions.

Happy New Year everyone, and remember: Keep the green side up!

**Green
Side Up**



Joel D. Jackson, CGCS
Editor