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A Closer Look At The New Grand Cypress Golf Club

By JOEL JACKSON

Tom Alex is a very busy young man. In fact, Tom has been busy since June 1983 when he became the Superintendent of the Grand Cypress Golf Club. Most of you know by now that the Grand Cypress Club is the new golf course that Jack Nicklaus has designed with a Scottish flair and a definite distinctive look quite different from other area courses. Ground clearing for the course began in February, 1982 in a 160 acre area of old citrus groves. The resulting sandy soil with some hardpan was blended and worked into a good mix that Tom says drains well even after some pretty hard rains. The only major problem during construction was the erosion on some of the plateau ledges and severe trap and mound faces from heavy rains which had to be reworked and backfilled. The course was planted with Tifdwarf greens and Tifdwarf II tees, fairways, and roughs. The unique sculpted, minialp-like mounds bordering each hole were seeded with Bahia grass and millet. The golf course opened for play on December 15, 1983.

Tom came to Grand Cypress after serving as an assistant Superintendent and acting Superintendent at the Tournament Players Club at Ponte Vedra, Florida. Before coming to Florida, Tom worked at Washington Golf Club in Washington, Connecticut after grduating from the Stockridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts in 1981 where he earned his degree in Turf Management. Tom is quick to praise his staff for the fine efforts they have made in grooming the course to its excellent condition. He is assisted by Sigrid Drew (landscape), David Pedersen (course maintenance), Wayne Pixley (head mechanic), and a crew of 26. Tom's staff is responsible for maintaining the 18 hole course, a 9 hole pitch and putt course at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, and the landscape around the clubhouse and north entrance complex.

Because of the small greens and tees, plateaued fairways, severe slopes and pot bunkers, a lot of handmowing is required. It takes four people two days to flymow all appropriate areas with part of a third day to touch up anything needed or missed. HF-5 hydraulic mowers are used on the fairways and roughs and mowable slopes.

Irrigation of the golf course is accomplished by two Varitime II Master Controllers with 88 satellites and 1,250 Toro valve-in-head sprinklers. The system is supplied by a combination of well and effluent water. Due to the sandy soil mix, Tom uses only slow release fertilizer at a rate of 1 lb. N per month on the fairways and 1 lb. N every 3 weeks on greens in the summer and $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. N during the winter supplemented with iron.

Speaking of winter, Tom had just overseeded his greens with a blend of 50% Poa Trivialis, 25% Red Top Bentgrass, and 25% Penneagle Creeping Bentgrass. The rest of the course except the mounds was seeded with ryegass. Tom is constantly working on those distinctive mounds to reach a relatively uniform 2 foot high grassy mound. To that end broad leaf weeds are selectively sprayed out and pre-emergent herbicides are used to protect surrounding turf areas from weed seed germination. Tom has had only a few instances of goose grass and soft crabgrass instrusion. This year he is going to try some wildflowers in those grassy mounds.

Last June Tom assumed responsibility for the landscape of the clubhouse and north entrance areas, and word is out that an additional 12 holes will be started this fall. Nine holes will be of regulation length differing from the original 18 by having more woods and water and less severe sloping and more easily mowable mounds. The other 3 holes, consisting of a Par 3, 4, and 5 will be used for golf instruction. In addition, Tom must provide some support for the construction of a railway that runs from the hotel to the clubhouse and is requiring relocation of some of the original irrigation system. Also, 50 villas to be started next year are planned between the first and third holes with four more phases possible in the future. Tom will be responsible for their landscaping. Like I said, Tom Alex is a very busy young man.

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Overseeding and Disease -Interactions?

CAROL P. MULLER-TURINA Graduate Research Assistant

T. ED FREEMAN Professor of Plant Pathology Plant Pathology Department

CHARLES H. PEACOCK Extension Turf Specialist IFAS, University of Florida

Overseeding dormant warm-season turfs in the south improves the appearance and playability of putting greens and other athletic fields during the winter. Besides the aesthetic influence, the damage to the dormant turf from wear is minimized by overseeding.



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Jacksonville 1741 Hamilton St. 32210 (904) 387-0516

11405 Rio Grande Avenue 32085 (305) 841-8460 The primary cool-season turfgrass used for overseeding is perennial ryegrass whether in blends or single cultivars. These grasses are applied at very high seeding rates and remain juvenile throughout the winter period under proper mowing heights for fine quality turf. It is a general belief that the new seedlings are highly vulnerable to diseases during establishment of the overseeding. However, fungicide dressings and more resistant cultivars have been able to minimize initial problems.

Current ideas about the interaction of overseeding and plant disease organisms led to the belief that the overseeding positively influenced the casual organisms involved in the disease. This would mean an increased chance of the disease becoming a serious problem on the dormant and actively growing turf. This increased disease incident is also linked to the aggressive nature of the overseeded grasses and base grasses resulting in an accumulation of thatch that would directly relate to increased disease incidence. However, contemporary putting green maintenance practices, including light and frequent topdressing, light vertical mowing, judicious use of nitrogen can help keep thatch to a minimum and alleviate many of the disease problems.

A study at the University of Florida, Gainesville documented disease organism population dynamics under overseeding conditions. Basically, the research was attempting to answer the question of whether or not the fungal disease organisms were increasing during overseeding. Specifically the study investigated the population dynamics of Pythium spp., Helminthosprorium-Curvularia spp., and Rhizoctonia spp. during the overseeding period (October-June) beneath swards of 'Tifgreen' bermudagrass overseeded with a blend of 'Marvelgreen Supreme" perennial ryegrass.

The research data yielded some interesting facts concerning the distribution and dynamics of fungal populations. Overseeding has little affect on the distribution of the fungal population vertically in the soil profile from a depth of 0 to 5 cm. The greatest numbers of fungal propagules were recorded from the top 2.5 cm where the thatch layer is present. There was a 10x difference in the fungal population from the 0 to 2.5 cm soil depth for *Rhizoctonia* spp.

Numbers of fungal propagules did vary between species and seasonally. The least number was detected for *Rhizoctonia* spp., regardless of whether they were pathogenic or saprophytic. *Pythium* spp. had intermediate numbers while the *Helminthosporium-Curvularia* complex had the highest counts. Increases in fungal populations is more noted in late winter and early spring necessitating more scrutiny by turf managers for detecting disease outbreaks.

Disease incidence was independent of overseeding vs. nonoverseeding indicating other factors are more important in prompting disease outbreaks. A well prepared plan of dethatching and monitoring for disease conditions including a thorough understanding of environmental conditions which may initiate a disease outbreak is vital to prevent problems.

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Leading Turf Equipment Company Is Opening Up Communications Within The Industry

(TAMPA, Florida, November 12, 1984—) DeBRA Turf and Industrial Equipment Company, the industry's leading equipment distributor, has become involved in a series of programs aimed at opening up communications between manufacturers, distributors, customers and students in the turf industry.

"No longer can an equipment dealer just sell equipment to customers and expect those cutomers to be satisfied," said M.J. Mclaughlin, general manager of the Tampa office of DeBRA. "Today, dealers have to understand customer's requirements in order to serve them properly."

And this understanding works two ways according to McLaughlin. "We not only have to learn about our customer's needs and problems, they need to learn from us as well.

"In the past, equipment was far more simple than today. Now machinery has become very specialized and complicated," reported McLaughlin. "It is necessary to educate our customers on this new machinery as well as educate ourselves on what problems this new equipment can present."

In order to increase communications between themselves and their customers, DeBRA is presently involved in several turf seminar programs.

A recent in-house service seminar in Tampa attracted more than 70 people according to McLaughlin.

"This is one way we can make purchasers more aware of what machinery is available and the proper use and servicing of that equipment. By making them more familiar with the equipment, we can ensure they choose the right machinery for their needs and help them avoid problems which might lead to unnecessary repairs."

Those in attendance heard talks on repair techniques, the proper use of turf machinery and equipment maintenance by personnel from DeBRA and Jacobsen, the world leading manufacturer in turf machinery. Tom Jochimsen, one of Jacobsen's leading service experts, was the featured speaker.

Hands on experience was also offered with access to newly introduced machinery so that paticipants could take a look at state-of-the-art turf maintenance equipment.

Plans are being made to hold a similar seminar in the Hollywood office which should attract nearly 200 participants.

DeBRA has also started a program in which they invite a customer to speak to the firm's employees on particular problems faced in the field. "We have invited golf course superintendents and other professionals to speak to our employees about what difficulties they run into when maintaining their properties," said McLaughlin. "By allowing our people to hear what problems customers have directly from the customers themselves, our employees will have a better understanding of how they can assist buyers," he continued.

One final program in which DeBRA is involved is the Annual Field Day and Dinner for seniors at Lake City Community College. We've been involved with the field day for nearly 10 years and look forward to many more.

The annual event, geared to those students in the turf program at the Community College, features equipment and representatives from co-sponsor Jacobsen Manufacturing Company. This allows students to see and learn about the latest turf machinery. A dinner in honor of the students is held the night before the field day.

"The students seem really pleased with the chance to see the equipment and talk to professionals from the industry," said McLaughlin. "It's a definite advantage for the seniors who are about to start their careers in this profession. We are proud to help them in this way.

"It's a definite advantage to the industry as a whole to create channels of communication within the profession," concluded McLaughlin. "We are pleased with our success and will continue our programs as long as they can be of use."





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GOLF TURF NEWS

BRUCE J. AUGUSTIN Extension Turf & Water Specialist AREC Ft. Lauderdale CHARLES H. PEACOCK Extension Turf Specialist Gainesville

A New Florida Statute Requiring Antisyphon Devices On All Irrigation Systems

A new statute (487.055) has recently been passed by the Florida legislature requiring the installation of antisyphon devices on all irrigation systems that inject chemicals into the irrigation water. This statute includes all golf courses that inject fertilizers into the irrigation system (fertigation). The Florida Irrigation Society and other groups have worked to make this a fair and equitable bill to help prevent ground water contamination.

All irrigation systems now under construction are required to incorporate an antisyphon device into the system immediately. All existing irrigation system have 18 months to install an antisyphon device.

The following is a copy of the new statute (487.055), definitions (487.021), and diagrams of the antisyphon device assemblies.

Section 17. Section 487.005, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

487.055 Antisyphon requirements for irrigation systems. -

(1) Any irrigation system used for the application of chemicals shall be equipped with an antisyphon device adequate to protect against contamination of the water supply, provided that an irrigation system installed prior to the effective date of this act shall be equipped with such device within 18 months from the effective date of this act.

(2) It shall be unlawful for any person to apply chemicals through an irrigation system which is not equipped with an antisyphon device as required by this section.

(3) The department shall establish specific requirements for antisyphon devices by rule. The department shall adopt such rules on or before November 1, 1984. (4) Any governmental agency requiring antisyphon devices on irrigation systems used for the application of chemicals shall use the specific antisyphon device requirements adopted by the department.

487.021 Definitions. —For the purpose of this chapter:

(7) "Antisyphon device" means a safety device used to prevent backflow of a mixture of water and chemicals into the new water supply.

(10) "Chemical" means any substance which is intentionally added to water for agricultural purposes.

(19) "Emergency exemption" means an exemption as authorized in Section 18 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodentcide Act.

(32) "Irrigation system" means any device or combination of devices having a hose, pipe, or other conduit which connects directly to any source of ground or surface water, through which water or a mixture of water and chemicals is drawn and applied for agricultural purposes. The term does not include any handheld hose sprayer or other similar device which is constructed so that an interruption in water flow automatically prevents any backflow to the water source.

5E-2.30 Antisyphon Requirements for Irrigation Systems

(1) Definitions

(a) The term "antisyphon device" means a safety device used to prevent backflow of a mixture of water and chemicals into the water supply.

(continued on page 19)

(continued from page 18)

(b) "Toxic Chemical" means any pesticide whose label bears the signal work "Danger" or "Poison".

(2) Antisyphon Device System, General. Any irrigation system designed or used for the application of chemicals shall be equipped with the following components:

(a) Functional check valve on the irrigation pipe. This valve shall be located in the irrigation supply line between the irrigation pump and the point of injection of chemicals. This valve, when installed, shall be on a horizontal plane and level. A deviation of not more than 10 degrees from the horizontal shall not be set.

(b) Low pressure drain. Such drain shall have an orifice size of at least ³/₄ inch diameter. It shall be located on the bottom of the horizontal pipe between the functional check valve and the irrigation pump. It must be level and must not extend beyond the inside surface of the bottom of the pipe as shown. (Example, Diagram 3). The outside opening of the drain shall be at least two (2) inches above grade.

(c) Vacuum breaker. A vacuum breaker shall be installed on the top of the horizontal pipe between the functional check valve and the irrigation pump and opposite to the low pressure drain. The vacuum breaker shall have an orifice size of at least $\frac{3}{4}$ inch diameter.

(d) Functional check valve on the chemical injection line. A check valve shall be installed on the chemical injection line. If injector pumps are used, they shall be installed so that when water flow ceases, the injector pumps will not operate. A method shall be provided for positive shut off of the chemical supply when the injection system is not in use.

(3) Antisyphon System, Specific:

(a) A single antisyphon device assembly (Example, Diagram 1) shall be used for those systems where non-toxic chemicals such as fertilizers will be injected.

(b) A double antisyphon device assembly as shown (Example, Diagram 2) shall be used for those systems where toxic chemicals will be injected. The functioning of each device in the double assembly system must be capable of being checked independently of each other to insure effectiveness of the system.

(4) Chemical Storage Tanks. Tanks shall be constructed and maintained in a manner to insure containment of the chemical and to prevent contamination.

(5) Variances.

(a) None of the antisyphon device components shall be altered in any manner which would render the antisyphon system inoperative or ineffective.

(b) AN IRRIGATION SYSTEM WHERE ONLY FER-TILIZER IS INJECTED INTO THE IRRIGATION PIPES AND WHERE SURFACE WATER IS THE ONLY WATER SOURCE, AND WHERE BOTH A CHECK

VALVE ON THE OUTPUT SIDE OF THE PUMP AND A FOOT VALVE AT WATER INTAKE IS PRESENT, WILL BE APPROVED AS A VARIANCE TO THE RULE.

(c) Specific variances of equipment not covered by this rule but which may be in compliance with this rule shall be considered on a case by case basis by the department.

(6) Maintenance. All check valves, low pressure drains and vacuum breakers shall be maintained free of corrosion or other build-up and operative at all times during operation of the system. Cleaning agents used exclusively to maintain or clean an irrigation system shall not be subject to the regulations provided for herein.

(7) PENALTY. ANY PERSON WHO SHALL USE ANY IRRIGATION SYSTEM FOR THE APPLICATION OF CHEMICALS, WITHOUT THE REQUIRED ANTI-SYPHON DEVICE INSTALLED OR WITHOUT THE ANTISYPHON DEVICE IN OPERATING CONDITION, SHALL BE SUBJECT TO AN ADMINISTRATIVE FINE NOT TO EXCEED \$1,000 FOR EACH VOILATION.

Specific Authority: 570.07(23) FS.: Laws of Florida, Ch. 84-388, Sec. 17 (Sec. 487.055(3) FS.)

Law Implemented: Laws of Florida, Ch. 84-388, Sec. 17 (Sec. 487.055 FS.) ■

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South Florida Sunshine



From Developer To Private Country Club

By KEN ANDERSEN

Many superientendents have asked me how working for a developer differs from working for a private country club. Having been employed as superientendent of a private country club and a developer, I have had the opportunity to see both sides of the fence.

Let me start with the developer. The developer I am talking about is the company (usually banks) who purchases a large amount of land, usually 500 to 1,000 acres, builds and maintains a golf course with all the fixings to go with it. This includes a pool, tennis corts, clubhouse, lounge, restaurant, etc. To make it attractive to home buyers who are looking for a country club atmosphere.

The developer is not in the golf course business but is in the business of breaking down the large amount of land purchased into single family home lots, condominiums, townhouses, etc. This is where the real profits can be found. Of course the developer does not want a poorly maintained golf course, but one that is inviting so they are willing to spend a considerable amount of money for landscaping common ground and for golf course maintenance.

The golf course superintendent is hired and usually answers to a project manager, not a clubhouse manager, nor a greens committee. This is a very important point. The superientendent does not have 300 to 400 members to answer to, or a greens committee, or a professional golfer. All negotiations for contract purposes, capital expenditures, budgets and problems are solved through the project manager. Now, let me say here, there are always exceptions but from my experience and talking with other superintendents in the same position, they all have similar circumstances. In my particular case all beefs, large or small were directed to the project manager before handed to the superintendent. The project manager would discuss with me any changes, additions or subtractions to the golf course.

Well, so far many of you private country club superintendents and others are probably saying, gee that is the type of situation I want to be in. There is one drawback, eventually the 300-400 members to be, or whatever the particular club can accommodate, will own and operate the golf course. This may be two years, it could be ten years, in my case it was six years. All of a sudden you have 300-400 bosses who think they know all there is to know about running a golf course. I call them sidewalk superintendents.

I personally felt much more secure discussing turf management with one project manager. You could build a good close relationship with him and feet at home discussing problems or projects. When discussing problems with a greens committee all it takes is one person who doesn't like the way you comb your hair or thinks he knows a little bit more than you about running a golf course. This is where your problems can start. You go home that evening and think about how to get that man to understand what your intentions are. You finally figure it out and the next day another board member disagrees with another point you have made or suggests we do it this way and not the way you have been doing something successfully for years. It then can snowball where you start second guessing yourself, lose confidence and your game plan is disrupted.

In my particular case a committee was appointed prior to the takeover. Well, almost immediately there were committee members walking through the premises taking notes, asking questions and observing every move the superintendent or his employees made. I even had a committee member greet me at 5:50 A.M. to ask me some questions. It was at this point I asked myself, "Do I really want to work under these conditions?" Well I cooled off after a few days and thought, O.K. after all they are going to own the club and they have a right to see how we operate. Up to this point even though I was answering to a project manager, I knew if I were to continue on as superintendent I would have to meet some if not all their demands. This turned out to be the most difficult time for me. If the members wanted a sand trap put in and the project manager did not, I would be caught in the middle of the line of fire. This is only one example, there were many more. O.K., enough of that. Next a letter was sent to all department heads (superintendent, pro, manager, etc.) as to the committee making a decision to keep or replace each particular position. I thought this would be good because the decision would be made by June 30, 1984 and the members would not take over until December 1, 1984. This gave me five months to search for a position in the event the committee chose to replace me. (continued on page 22)