

taking something away from them and they would never get it back. So one of the challenges was to keep the members happy and they did this by keeping one course open throughout the the course reconstruction by Joe Lee.

"The other problem was during the grow-in process. We had to get all the courses up to their potential as quickly as possible and that was a time-consuming, tedious process. And, we were doing the growing-in during the drought, and that made it even more difficult.

"Today there is still a challenge, every single day," said Benefield. "We want to get to the point where we're recognized as one of the best facilities in the area. One of the things we have done is create a landscape maintenance division that is involved with all the common areas, the community association areas and the residential lawns.

"As the number of homes increases, this division will increase in size as well. Right now, 20 to 30 percent of my budget is attributed to that area. In time, the percentage will be larger — double my



## Golf Course Accessories

Ballwashers • Detergent • Mounting Pipes & Bases • Tee Signs • Spike Brushes • Hole Cutters • Flag Poles • Flags • Cups • Rakes • Benches • Tee Markers • Practice Greens Markers • Whipping Poles • Course Signage • And More.

Requested by players. Preferred by course professionals. Specified by designers and used with pride wherever golf is played.

Call your Par Aide dealer today for our **FREE CATALOG**, or call us at 612/779-9851 for the name of the dealer nearest you.

© 1990; Par Aide Products Co., St. Paul, MN.

# CUSTOM CONCRETE BORDERS

**Border Cart Paths... Putting Greens... Flower Beds!**



**COLORS** & **CSUHSATPOMS**

Call for prices and specifications



**Consulting services for paving and drainage problems!**

Contact Dell Haverland

**Haverland Blackrock Corp.**

**Boynton Beach, Fla.**

Office: 407/369-7994

Fax: 407/369-0535

**Excavating • Cart Paths • Drainage**

# GOLF COURSE RENOVATION

golf course budget — because of the volume of homes that will be there.”

BallenIsles also faces a problem which many golf courses in the state now face — the availability of water. Benefield said it's vital that superintendents learn to articulate the value of a golf course to the water districts that create the water regulations.

“We're a big fat target sitting out there. We're a rich man's game... or we are perceived as such. So you have a lot of bad public perceptions that have to be overcome. We are being run roughshod over. We are being pushed into taking care of what is a community cost... recycling reclaimed water.”

Benefield said the water situation has two problems of public perception.

“First of all, it's an educational process for the board of directors of the water management districts to let them know what is going on in the real world of golf courses. They call us wasters of water, but they really don't understand we are not.

“For instance, my permit here at BallenIsles allows me to use 5,232 acre-inches of water a year. In the first four months of this year, I got over 33 inches of rainfall. Everything on my property drains to 220 acres of lakes on my property. So I am recharging these

33 inches of rainfall. Let's say that instead of 33 inches of rainfall, it was only 10 inches. I have 1,300 acres here. That's 26,000 acre-inches of water that I'm recharging back into the water table. I'm putting back five times what I'm allowed to use.

“Golf courses aren't wasters of water, they are huge collection basins for rainfall. We're the exact opposite of someone who wastes water.”

Then there's the matter of reclaimed water. Benefield believes golf course superintendents need all the communication skills and the political awareness they can muster to correct erroneous assumptions by public officials.

“Golf courses are being forced to take and to pay for more reclaimed water,” he said. “We are providing an acceptable disposal method for the community's semi-hazardous waste. We

are willing to take the water, to distribute it on millions of dollars worth of land — land the community does not have to purchase to dis-

pose of the water. We are willing to use millions of dollars worth of irrigation systems and pump stations to get the water to our property. We are providing a service to the public.

**“Golf courses are being forced to take and to pay for more reclaimed water...”**

**“For us to have to pay to provide that service is ludicrous...”**

**“They call us wasters of water, but they really don't understand we are not...”**

“For us to have to pay to provide that service is ludicrous. The water district looks at this and says, ‘let's run this thing through the Public Service Commission.’ The Public Service Commission is going to nail us. It won't matter to them if we pay a dollar a thousand gallons.

“We need to tell the public and the water districts and the governor and the DER what we think is ethical and fair in this regard. If golf courses weren't here, where would they put this wastewater?

“Instead of being charged, we should be receiving credits for what we bring to the table. And what we bring is the fact

that our golf courses are allowing them to dispose of their reclaimed water, and thus saving hundreds of mil-

lions of dollars to the public. I think it's pretty cut and dried.

“But,” Benefield says, “unless someone steps in and gives a more definite push — someone like the governor's office and the DER — we are going to have a problem throughout the state.

“I hope there's enough intestinal fortitude among the people who have been appointed to the boards of governors of these different water management districts to recognize what is fair, accurate and reasonable, and go forward.

“But I do think it will be a tough call to make.”

## LANTANA PEAT & SOIL

10570 Hagen Ranch Road

Boynton Beach, Fla.

732-4116

1-800-433-5552

STERILIZED SOILS • TOP DRESSING

TOP SOIL • MULCH • POTTING SOIL

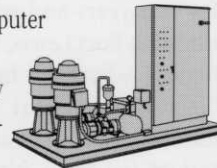
*“Keeping Golf Courses Green”*

# USING OUR VARIABLE SPEED PUMP STATION CAN HELP YOU SAVE VITAL PARTS.



Let's face it, in this business it pays to be backed by an industry leader. Because when your pump system goes on line, so does your reputation. And Flowtronex can help you keep both your golf course and your reputation intact with our incredibly reliable, power-saving pump station.

And how do we do all this? With an engineering breakthrough called Smoothflow™. Developed in 1986 by our team of engineers, Smoothflow is a sophisticated computer software program that automatically monitors and controls our pump station.



Which means you no longer have a need for a pressure control valve. And because of this precise control, our Flowtronex variable speed pump stations (VSPS™) have made pressure spikes and pump-related line breaks nearly extinct on our more than 200 golf course installations.

Smoothflow software also helps budgets by slashing energy use 15 to 50% when compared to conventional pump stations using control valves. This is one of the many reasons our VSPS is the industry's most popular. In fact, superintendents have bought twice as many variable speed systems from us as all our competitors combined.

So if you're in the market for a reliable, power-saving pump station, call Flowtronex International. We've got quite a track record for standing behind our customers. And their bottom lines.

For more information, call **1-800-537-8778** or **903-595-4785**. Or write Flowtronex International, P.O. Box 7095, Tyler, Texas 75711.

 **FLOWTRONEX**  
International

*Business job kept him inside, so...*

# He looked to golf to get outdoors

BY KIT BRADSHAW

“I used to sit there in the credit offices of Maas Brothers in Tampa and go crazy seeing all the beautiful weather while I was indoors. I think that’s why I was so easily enticed when the opportunity came to work on a golf course.”

Back in 1952, Bob Sanderson was an eminently practical man. He earned a degree in economics, a nice, stable choice of majors, at Hobart College in Geneva, N.Y. He went into the Army for two years and was stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington, where, as he says, “it’s a beautiful three months of the year, and the rest of the time, it’s rainy and foggy and miserable.”

When his hitch was over, it didn’t take much for his parents to get him to visit them in Florida, and once here, he decided to stay. But because of his economics degree, he chose to work for Maas Brothers — inside.

“In 1960, my wife, Mary Ann and I went to visit her brother-in-law, Dave Wallace, who was working for General Development on the Sinners Course in Port St. Lucie,” Sanderson recalls.

“After showing us around, Dave said he might be calling me to work for him. I hadn’t thought about working on a golf course until that time, but when the call came two weeks later, it took me about five minutes to decide.

I was in Port St. Lucie in two weeks.”

Thirty years after joining Wallace in Port St. Lucie, the man who just wanted to work outdoors was awarded the FGCSA’s President’s Award for lifetime achievement in golf course management.

He learned the skills that merited the award the old-fashioned way — in the field.

“Two years after I went to Port St. Lucie, General Development and Mackle Brothers, who did the development work, had a disagreement. Everyone who was in Port St. Lucie was moved elsewhere. I was selected to be the superintendent at Port Charlotte, a 120,000-acre development where there was an 18-hole golf course.

“I was excited about the chance to be a golf course superintendent, but it was really tough on my wife. They were developing shopping malls in Port St. Lucie and she could hardly wait to do some serious shopping. But we moved to Port Charlotte and there was really nothing much there at the time.”

Sanderson said the isolation at Port Charlotte made it difficult to get the solid information on golf course management as well. He relied at that time on advice from fertilizer and chemical salesmen and a lot of trial and error.

“I made a lot of errors, but I learned a lot, too,” he said.

Despite good advice from sales reps, Sanderson still longed for more inter-



*Bob Sanderson*

*Helped organize the FGCSA*

Photo by Philip Pettus

*President’s Award  
for  
Lifetime Achievement  
1991*

*Tom Mascaro  
John Hayden  
Carl Smith  
Harvey Phillips  
C.R. ‘Bud’ Pearson*

action among golf course superintendents. During the 1960s, more golf courses were being built in Fort Myers and Naples, and there was increased communication among the superintendents. But they still needed to travel to Tampa or Miami for educational courses.

To get this information on a local level, the superintendents formed the Everglades Golf Course Superintendents Association in 1968. Two years later, Sanderson was involved with the creation of the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association.

"The organization (FGCSA) didn't get off the blocks as well as we wanted it to," Sanderson said. "It was more of a paper organization at that point. But in 1978, we met in Orlando — Tim Hiers, Bill Wagner and others — and we really went to town then. Tim was elected as the first president. He really did an outstanding job, particularly for a young fellow. And then Bill became president and did a great job, too.

"The organization has gotten bigger and the people and the talent that have come along since then are unbelievable. There are people in this state who are outstanding. They are interested in the organization; they have created great educational programs for the superintendents. I see the organization just getting better and better in the future."

Sanderson remained active with the FGCSA, serving as secretary/treasurer in 1982. He also stayed in Port Charlotte for 25 years, until he left in 1985 during a change in management. For a brief time, he worked with David Moote until he went with Del Tura in North Fort Myers in 1986.

As the golf course superintendent, Sanderson has the overall responsibility for two courses. Del Tura CC is a 27-hole executive course complex, complete with a large clubhouse, pro shop and recreational areas. When the manufactured home community sells out in the next few years, there will be approximately 1,500 families living at Del Tura.

Most recently, Sanderson has been involved with the creation of Del Vera CC, which opened nine regulation holes in January. Construction is scheduled to start on another nine holes in 1992. Ron Garl is the architect for Del Tura and Del Vera golf courses.

"There are definite differences between the two complexes," Sanderson said. "The Del Tura course has 419 bermuda on the fairway and tees and 328 bermuda on the greens. We've got about 25 acres of the 100 acres in lakes. The three courses get a

lot of play. At Del Vera, there is 419 Bermuda throughout the course with the greens in Tifdwarf. The course has huge greens — some of them as large as 8,000 square feet.

"We also have large sand traps and waste areas, and our tees are three to four times bigger than normal so that we can spread the wear on them in peak periods of play. We have water along the sides of the fairways which are a little narrower than usual. And, we even have an island green. I think this course is really going to be a test of golf for the members."

The courses share some of the same problems with nematodes, mole crickets and periodic fungus, but Sanderson says the older course has unique problems because of its age.

"As a golf course gets older, about the fourth year, you can develop problems with dry spots or you didn't get quite the right mixture on a green or tee and it starts to show. Then you have to make adjustments to the course, to keep it in good condition. I'm lucky, because I have two great assistant superintendents, Curt Conrad and Mike Sorrell. They've been a godsend to me. They do all the outside work and I've concentrated on the inside work, such as doing the budget and keeping up with the regulations."

These regulations, Sanderson said, are one of the challenges for today's golf course superintendents. "Particularly in the last 10 years, there have been so many regulations and so many governmental agencies involved with golf courses that it's difficult to stay on top of everything. I think that it's certainly different than

when I began in this business. I don't think a young superintendent could learn this business just by working on a course. The young person coming along now really has to know a mind-boggling amount of information to run a golf course."

"It was really a joy to be part of a new association that started out at the bottom and now is one of the most respected in the nation," Sanderson said.

The responsibilities of a golf course superintendent have changed over the years, and there are more to come, Sanderson said. "As a result of the increased use of computers at courses, I think the high tech is really going to be a great part of the future for golf course superintendents. We may even find that it's possible to do a lot of work at night with radio controlled equipment or with robots cutting greens. There'll never be a day when you can completely replace people on a course, but there may come a day when we are automated much more than we are now."

## Bob Sanderson

**Current Position:** Golf Course Superintendent, Del Tura CC and Del Vera CC, North Fort Myers

**Age:** 63

**Education:** B.A. Economics, Hobart College, Geneva, NY

**Previous Employment:** Golf course superintendent at Port Charlotte CC for 23 years. Before that he was employed at Port St. Lucie during its golf course development.

**Other Employment:** U.S. Army, Maas Brothers

**Professional growth:** Helped start the Everglades GCSA and was its first president. He later helped organize the Florida GCSA, and served as one of its first directors. He later served as Secretary/Treasurer of FGCSA. He has also served as Secretary/Treasurer of the Florida Turfgrass Association.

**Personal:** Married to Mary Ann since 1955. Has a daughter, Pamela, who is a graduate of the University of South Florida with a B.S. in marketing.

# Crowfoot weekend grand at Grand Cypress

On Aug. 5, the Grand Cypress Resort performed to perfection its swan song as the host for the Crowfoot Open. The original 18 holes, the north and south nines, were used this year to separate the hackers from the duffers, which left the golfers to take home the prizes.

Using combinations of the North, South and East nines, and the New 18-hole course, Grand Cypress has been the site for this event for the past five years. Next year the committee expects to move the tournament and weekend activities to either The Bay Hill Club or Walt Disney World.

The weekend got started Saturday, Aug. 3, with the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association Summer Board Meeting and Annual Meeting and Election of Officers for 1991-92. Special guests addressing the Board were GCSAA President Stephen Cadenelli, and Bobby Brantley, former Florida Lt. Governor



*Ed Ramey of the South Florida Chapter presents Tom Mascaro (left) with one of the FGCSA's 1991 President's Award for Lifetime Service to the Turfgrass Industry.*

**Text and photos by Joel Jackson**



No other manufacturer, O.E.M. or aftermarket, puts what we do into a roller. Our rollers **LAST LONGER AND COST YOU LESS!**

## TWO seals are Better than one

Every roller manufactured by Douglas Products comes equipped with a dual seal system; an inner seal for grease retention and an outer seal to keep out dirt. AND they ride on a stainless steel wear sleeve to assure the integrity of the sealing element throughout its life.

**THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR QUALITY!**

**DOUGLAS PRODUCTS**

Tel: 407/582-6180

1810 HYPOLUXO ROAD SUITE D-9 LANTANA, FLORIDA 33462

FOR ORDERS OR INFORMATION DIAL TOLL FREE

**1-800-521-8891**

IN FLORIDA DIAL

**1-800-541-2255**

WAIT FOR TONE, THEN DIAL  
**368-4527**

and current Executive Director of the Florida Golf Council.

The highlight of the meeting was an extensive presentation by the Government Relations Committee chaired by Tim Hiers, CGCS. Tim's plea for a proactive approach to dealing with regulatory and environmentally sensitive issues was supported by the board. It was also agreed that The Florida Golf Council is our best vehicle for unifying all golf interests to present our industry's concerns to the legislature and to educate the public about the true nature of our business.

Bright and early Sunday, those seeking to improve their skills in communicating with their bosses, club members, staff, and the media were treated to a presentation by Dr. Bree Hayes, clinical psychologist and motivational speaker. Not one to stand up and lecture, Dr. Hayes had the attendees form smaller discussion groups to work on exercises. The idea is to gain confidence in speaking in small groups and then eventually transfer that confidence to the podium or public forum or other more pressure packed situations.

Later that night at the Crowfoot Open Banquet, honors and awards were bestowed on several deserving individuals. FGCSA President Tom Benefield announced Cecil Johnston, CGCS as the winner of the 1991 FGCSA Distinguished Service Award. Cecil is currently in Thailand helping develop several golf courses. Also announced were the winners of the 1991 FGCSA President's Award. This award, now in its second year, is given in recognition for those who have helped pioneer the association and promote the profession. John Hayden and Tom Mascaro were present to receive their award. Other honorees unable to attend were: Bud Pearson, Harvey Phillips, and Carl Smith. They will receive their awards at local chapter meetings.

In addition to legends and pioneers in the turf industry, a new generation of turfgrass professionals was present to re-



Dr. Bree Hayes

## More photos, Page 28

ceive scholarships for turfgrass education. The Central Florida Chapter awarded \$500 scholarships to Ed Batcheller, Mike Bellino, Todd Bonnett, Andrew Chesler, John Morrison and Steve Whaley.

On Monday, Aug. 5, the tournament field was treated to golfing perfection as Tom Alex, CGCS, director of golf maintenance, and Mark Heater, superintendent of the north and south courses had the turf in outstanding condition. There was a brief suspension of play when a morning thunderstorm drifted across the southern edge of the course flashing enough lightning to cause concern.

Blessed with almost a home-course advantage, the Central Florida team of Joe Ondo (Winter Pines), Dale Reash (La Cita), Steve Sorrell (MetroWest and former Grand Cypress Superintendent), and Mark Heater (Grand Cypress) won the Crowfoot Trophy. Fred Klauk (TPC) won the Low Gross honors with a 71.

### BROOKSIDE LABORATORIES

- Soil testing/Analytical services
- Irrigation water testing
- Environmental testing

Providing a direct line of communication between the course manager and the lab

#### TOM BURROWS

#### Turfgrass Analytical Service

- GCSSA certified
- Penn State grad
- FGCSA Past President
- 28 yrs as supt.
- 1989 FGCSA Distinguished Service Award

407-692-1221

1741 San Souci St Stuart, FL 34994

(305) 581-0444

### SPREAD-RITE, INC.

CUSTOM SPREADING  
FERTILIZER • DOLOMITE • ARAGONITE

LAMAR SAPP

6001 S.W. 19th STREET  
PLANTATION, FL 33317  
MOBILE: (407) 479-9417

# DUDA SOD

**CertiTurf**  
THE QUALITY GRASS

Tifway 419

Floratam

Bitter Blue

FX-10



Zellwood 904-383-6111    Cocoa 407-636-3966    Ft. Pierce 407-461-0962

Oviedo 407-365-2189    Ft. Lonesome 813-633-1447    LaBelle 813-675-0545    Clewiston 813-946-0198

**DUDA**  
A. Duda & Sons, Inc.

1-800-FOR-DUDA



# Lots to crow about at Crowfoot weekend



The Central Florida Chapter awarded a total of \$3,000 in scholarship funds to these turfgrass students. Honored guest, GCSAA President Steve Cadenelli, CGCS (green coat) is seen with students (l-r) Andrew Chesler, John Morrison, Todd Bonnett, Mike Bellino, Ed Batcheller and Steve Whaley.



The Central Florida Chapter that successfully defended the Crowfoot Open Title are (l to r): Joe Ondo (Winter Pines), Dale Reash (La Cita), Steve Sorrell (MetroWest), and Mark Heater (Grand Cypress).



FGCSA Officers for 1991-92 are ( l to r ) Mark Jarrell, CGCS, vice president; Ray Hansen, immediate past president; Tom Benefield, CGCS, president; and Paul Crawford, secretary/ treasurer.



Fred Klauk, superintendent at the Tournament Players Club, Ponte Vedra Beach won the individual low gross with a score of 71.

Photos by Joel Jackson



John Hayden, CGCS, (left) received his President's Award for Lifetime Service from Eddie Snipes, CGCS of the North Florida Chapter.



Winners of the Ugly Knees Contest were (l to r) Steve Wright, Joe Ondo, Tom Alex, Larry Kamphaus, Rick Walker, Jim Ellison, and Gary Morgan. Jim Ellison was disqualified for wearing long pants. Actually these hard-working gentlemen are the 1991 Crowfoot Committee.



# ZAUN

We are dedicated to helping turf grass managers do their jobs more efficiently by striving to provide the best parts and service available

DISTRIBUTOR FOR

**TORO CUSHMAN/RYAN OLATHE**

TORO IRRIGATION  
GREEN MACHINE  
BILLY GOAT  
POWER TRIM  
FOLEY  
MAIBO  
OHIO  
CROSLY TRAILERS

CUSHMAN INDUSTRIAL  
TRENCHMASTER  
OTTERBINE  
NATIONAL MOWERS  
BERNHARD EXPRESS DUAL  
CHEM-PRO SPRAYERS  
ALLEN HOVER MOWERS  
HAMMER RECYCLED PLASTICS

STANDARD  
PAR AIDE  
BROYHILL  
CYCLONE  
GANDY  
WINDMILL  
VICON

SALES MANAGER, Don DeLaney  
**(407) 333-3600**

**JACKSONVILLE**

1741 Hamilton St. 32210

**(904) 387-0516**

TERRITORY MANAGERS

Carl Heise

John Higgins

Bob Ward

**LAKE MARY**

300 Technology Park 32746

**(407) 333-3600**

TERRITORY MANAGERS

Phil Bradburn

James Griffin

A Lake is a REFLECTION of its MANAGEMENT

The Lake Doctors 1-800-666-LAKE



**We set the Standard for quality and performance...every time!**

Standard Sand & Silica Company providing the Industry's Finest Sand for **GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION & GOLF COURSE RENOVATION**

**FRIED EGG NO MORE!**

Try our New Trapsand #37M and you will get a Sand that:

- Has No Pebbles
- Won't Harm Your Reel Mowers
- Lets Your Ball Set Up
- Can be used as a Top Dressing Sand

- IDEAL TOPDRESSING SAND
- MEETS USGA SPECIFICATIONS
- WHITE TRAPSAND
- GREENSMIXES
- IDEAL GREENSMIX SAND
- CHOKERSAND



Post Office Box 35  
Hwy. 17 & 92 North  
Davenport, FL 33837  
Phone (813) 422-1171  
FAX (813) 422-8610

JACKSONVILLE BRANCH  
600 East 8th Street  
Jacksonville, FL 32206  
(904) 355-0516

MIAMI BRANCH  
4101 N.W. 70th Avenue  
Miami, FL 33166  
Dade (305) 593-1430  
Broward (305) 524-5322

# Overseeding 1991

## Trends, blends and methods

BY JOEL D. JACKSON, CGCS

*Recently, a group of golf course superintendents of the Ridge Chapter got together to discuss the coming overseeding season and to share their thoughts on products and programs. Keep in mind that each course has its own set of goals, soil and environmental conditions, and budgets.*

*While this session was convened for the purpose of generating this article, similar exchanges of information take place whenever superintendents gather at monthly meetings, seminars, or just a friendly round of golf.*

*While listening to the tape of this session, it was interesting to note how often tips and ideas tried successfully by one individual gave another superintendent a potential solution to a problem he had been trying to solve at his own course.*

*Sometimes it was a discussion about timing of cultural practices, or maybe an application rate of seed or fertilizer, or mowing heights, but there was always something that one could consider and accept or reject as it met the needs of his course and his members or owners. That's one of the real benefits of belonging to the FGCSA and the reason we are successful.*

### TRENDS and BLENDS

**T**he Ridge Chapter members in this group prefer the traditional and successful ryegrass or blends of ryegrass and *poa trivialis*. The blends are usually at a ratio of 80-85% rye and 20-15% *poa trivialis*.

The primary reason cited for preference of the ryegrass or predominantly

ryegrass blend was its tolerance for wear from traffic and warm weather. All superintendents anticipated large numbers of golfers this winter and believe ryegrass gives them the best growing surface for heavy play. Only one private course in the area with low rounds of play uses bentgrass each year. A few others are using the finer-bladed *poa trivialis* as a monostand or in a blend with bentgrass.

Also cited as important from the members' and owners' point of view was the color and aesthetics during winter play. Ryegrass again is the grass of choice to meet those demands.

Another question is whether to overseed only the areas of most wear during the winter (greens and tees) or to seed the entire golf course. One or two superintendents mentioned that their clubs had considered the possibility of eliminating overseeding altogether. While the group conceded that might be a consideration along the southern coasts of the state, the central and northern parts of the state are almost always destined to undergo overseeding to guarantee acceptable playing conditions during the winter. One hard freeze combined with large numbers of golfers can spell disaster for the rest of the winter and early spring.

Most prefer not to overseed wall-to-wall in order to service and rebuild some of the large fairway and rough mowers. If the course is totally overseeded all mowers, blowers, and sweepers must remain in action to keep up with the prolific growth of the ryegrass. However, the group recognized that resorts and developments may want to impress the large numbers of winter golfers with lush green grass everywhere.

There is a price to pay for wear and

tear on equipment with continuous use. Courses in the North rebuild all their equipment every winter, a fact owners and managers should consider when southern superintendents request money for capital equipment more frequently than their northern counterparts.

The group also recalled the past few winters have been mild enough that bermudagrass never really went off color. In such cases, overseeding wall-to-wall might sometimes be expensive insurance. As we all know in this business, almost every decision with regards to overseeding is a gamble, with weather being the biggest and most unpredictable factor.

### METHODS

If you think there are many opinions on which seed or blends of seeds to use, or how much of the course to overseed, wait until you read how many ways there are to sow and cultivate overseeded grasses and the considerations associated with each choice. Everyone wants his course to be in excellent shape whenever he tees it up, but there are steps in the overseeding process that require patience and understanding on the part of the superintendent and players alike.

**Timing.** The most popular date for overseeding in the Ridge Chapter area is the week after Thanksgiving. The November dates have offered a good compromise to the warm weather that occurred the past few autumns. But other clubs have begun seeding the last week of October to have new grass growing and normal playing conditions by Thanksgiving. In either case it will take four to six weeks — maybe even eight weeks before the new grass matures — and unseason-