



syngenta

With every stroke, they take a swing at your reputation.

Everyone's done it. Hit the ball a little fat leaving a divot the size of a hubcap. Unfortunately, that's just part of the game. But what you should never have to worry about are unsightly white grubs and other destructive insects. That's why Syngenta makes Meridian[®] insecticide to work both curatively and preventively. Like you, we want to do all we can to prevent anything from spoiling the beauty and enjoyment of the golf experience. **We take conditions personally.**

GreenCastOnline.com/Meridian • 1-866-SYNGENTA

©2008 Syngenta. Syngenta Professional Products, Greensboro, NC 27419. **Important: Always read and follow label instructions before buying or using this product.** GreenCast[®], Meridian[®] and the Syngenta logo are trademarks of a Syngenta Group Company.



is being spent on bunker maintenance than putting greens. Especially in South Florida, daily raking of all bunkers and mechanical edging monthly and in some cases every two weeks, has been the standard.

Yet complaints about overly soft bunker sand are common. When it is pointed out that excessive cultivation results in the occurrence of soft sand, the standard response from course officials is that daily raking is necessary because the golfers will not or do not know how to re-rake the sand after they have played their recovery shot.

In the Rules of Golf under Section 1: Etiquette: Behavior on the Course, the player's responsibility as far as care of the course is covered. With respect to bunkers, "before leaving a bunker, players should carefully fill up and smooth over all holes and footprints made by them and any other nearby made by others."

Until more golfers are aware of and

accept their responsibilities, it will be very difficult to reduce and control bunker maintenance costs. Complete raking of greenside bunkers two or three times a week, and once a week with fairway bunkers would be suggested as a reasonable standard.

The remainder of the time, spot raking as needed can be practiced and accomplished in conjunction with other tasks such as routine mowing of the greens and tees.

Lastly, filling in and eliminating bunkers that are not necessary and critical to the strategic play of a course, should not be flatly ruled out for producing cost savings.

BOTTOM LINE

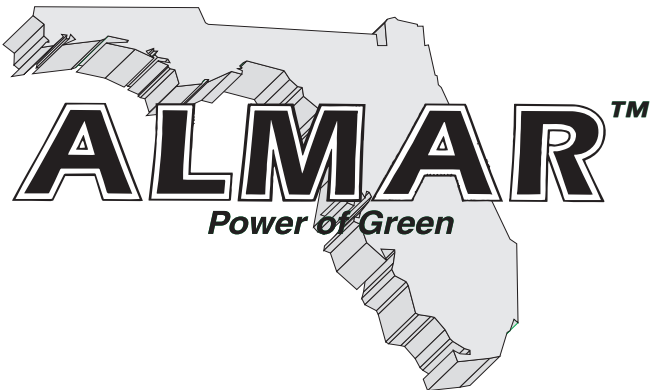
Over the past year and no doubt continuing into the future, cost cutting and savings have been and will be a primary topic of discussion during USGA Green Section Turf Advisory Service visits to courses in Florida and across

the country. All USGA agronomists have been gathering ideas and options for reducing costs; and the suggestions offered in this article are some of the most common; yet clearly far from inclusive.

A big part of what the USGA Green Section does is provide a candid review of how agronomics, economics, and politics impact the golf course maintenance operation. As more golf courses are faced with cost cutting, communication with golfers and course officials will be more important than ever before.

If standards must be lowered, then it is better to get the news out sooner, rather than letting golfers be surprised by them.

If circumstances require your golf course to save money or cut costs, we can help you with the process, as well as communicating the implications to owners or members.

ALMAR™
Power of Green

GREEN CaLITE™ **BEAUTI-GREEN™**
GREEN MAGIC™ **GREEN'S BROTHER™**

(800) 340-3888

AlmarTurf.com

CLASSIC GREENS, INC.



Over 20 years supplying and installing quality Bermudagrass. Our new farm, located in Chiefland, FL is producing quality:

Certified Tifdwarf
Certified Tifway (T-419)
Classic Dwarf
Floratex

Phil Horn, President
11151 NW 70th Ave
Chiefland, FL 32626
(352) 258-2695
philhorn@bellsouth.net

**Golf Course
Athletic Field
Renovations and
Grassing**

Yes... It's that good.



OFFICIAL
CHEMISTRY
COMPANY



HEALTHY TURFGRASS RELIES ON A HEALTHY ROOT SYSTEM.
**CURFEW® SOIL FUMIGANT QUICKLY AND EFFECTIVELY
CONTROLS TURF-DAMAGING NEMATODES.**

Your Dow AgroSciences Representatives

Linda Satter (N. FL.)

Phone: 770.252.1826 (office)
404.435.3153 (cell)

Email: LLSATTER@DOW.COM

Ryan Messner (W. FL.)

Phone: 813.855.9493 (office)
813.469.1543 (cell)

Email: MESSNER@DOW.COM

Patrick Bell (E. FL.)

Phone: 407.483.0494 (office)
407.484.1225 (cell)

Email: BELL2@DOW.COM

®Trademark of Dow AgroSciences LLC. Curfew is a Restricted Use Pesticide. Curfew is registered under FIFRA section 24(c) only for sale and use in the states of AL, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC & TX. Curfew may not be used or sold in Dade County, FL. Always read and follow label directions. T38-089-049 (03/09) DAS 010-60615

PROVEN SOLUTIONS

Nobody Can Tell Your Course's Story Better Than You

By Shelly Foy

Too many superintendents tell me that public speaking is a weakness they know they should overcome. One thing we do know for sure is that there is no one on your golf course who knows it better than you do. Maybe you don't know the difference between a heron

and an egret yet; but you do know every aspect of what it takes to maintain your golf course in terms of labor hours, equipment, and maintenance practices.

The USGA Green Section talks a lot about the importance of having written maintenance standards. These standards are developed with input from your course officials and golfers/members. When the time comes that you have to make budget cuts, being able to talk to golfers about how these cuts will affect these written standards, is critical.

Hosting tours on your golf course

is one way to start becoming more comfortable with public speaking, and developing critical one-on-one communication with your golfers.

Here are a couple of tried and true ways to do this:

- Have an open house at the maintenance facility. Set up different stations where golfers and members can learn about the equipment (what it is, what it does, and why these practices are important) and the environmental implications of your equipment wash down area. Some superintendents work

GCSAA Announces 2008 Chapter Environmental Leadership Winners

"This year's winners are to be commended for their commitment to environmental stewardship on the golf course," says GCSAA President David Downing II, CGCS. "They, along with their facilities, have demonstrated that golf courses can be compatible with the environment, and in many cases enhance it."

Judges selected winners in three national categories (public, private and resort courses), and an international winner, with an overall winner selected from those four. Recognition was given to the top entry from each GCSAA-affiliated chapter, and merit honors were awarded to those that did not earn national or chapter honors but deserved special recognition in the opinion of the judges.

Golf course superintendents and their courses that have been

Florida's 2008 Chapter Award Winners

Public Facilities: Jason Kubel, TPC Tampa Bay, Odessa, Fla., Florida West Coast GCSA

Private Facilities: Jeffrey Burgoyne, CGCS, The Club at Twin Eagles, Lehigh Acres, Everglades GCSA; Shane R. Wright, CGCS, Vero Beach CC, Vero Beach FL, Treasure Coast GCSA

Resort Facilities: Christopher Flynn, CGCS, Grand Pines GC, Orlando, FL, Central Florida GCSA

named national, chapter or merit winners were formally recognized during the opening session of the 2009 GCSAA Education Conference, held in conjunction with the Golf Industry Show in New Orleans in February. In addition, program

sponsors have made donations to The Environmental Institute for Golf, the philanthropic organization of the GCSAA, in the names of all national and chapter winners.

The Environmental Leaders in Golf Award recognizes golf course superintendents and their courses for overall course management excellence in the areas of resource conservation, water quality management, integrated pest management, wildlife/habitat management and education/outreach. In addition, these categories are judged on sustainability, criticality, originality and technology implementation/use. An independent panel of judges representing national environmental groups, turfgrass experts, university research and members of the golf community conducted the award selection.

Tifton Physical Soil Testing Laboratory, Inc.

Accredited by the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA)

Specializing in:

- Testing All Materials for USGA Golf Green Construction.
- Developing Putting Green Rootzone Mixtures that meet USGA Specifications.
- Recommending Topdressing and Bunker (Trap) Sands that meet USGA Specifications.
- Developing Sportsturf Rootzone Mixes with Optimum Physical Properties for Athletic Fields.

1412 Murray Avenue
Tifton, Georgia 31794



www.tiftonsoillab.com

T. Powell Gaines
(229) 382-7292

with the clubhouse and make it a happy hour with a beer and wine table and a few snacks. They are visiting your office, so clean up and spruce up, and let your knowledge shine.

- Some of you have participated in Audubon International's Green Golfer Challenge over the past two years. The 2009 Green Golfer Challenge is now under way with some exciting changes. Please check out the program on the FGCSA web site or log on to www.audubongreengolfer.com. Talk with your course officials and make one day this year a Green Golfer Day.

- Challenge yourself to spend some time on the first tee talking to your golfers about the positive environmental practices you implement on the golf course (BMP's, ACSP, etc.), and encourage them to sign the Green Golfer Pledge. This will give you the opportunity to get to know the golfers playing your course and receive feedback on how important environmental issues are to them. Solicit their support for your environmental practices, not just for this one day, but for every day.

When we are in our element, we are more comfortable – that is a fact of life. Your job as the superintendent puts you squarely in the position of expert about your property. Take advantage of this comfort level and share your knowledge with others. The most successful superintendents in our business are not necessarily the ones who know the most. They are the ones who communicate the most.



Rated #1...

- ★ For Drought Tolerance and Recovery
- ★ For Shade Tolerance
- ★ For Divot Recovery
- and...*
- ★ Requires Less Nitrogen

HOME · COMMERCIAL · SPORTS
CELEBRATION
BERMUDAGRASS®

sodsolutions.com/FloridaGreen

Dry Fertilizer
Bulk Liquid Fertilizer

Office: 954-741-4041
Fax: 954-741-4082



GREEN-WAY

Quality Turf Products
We Specialize in Keeping you GREEN

MANGA PLEX PLUS • ULTRA - GREEN • BIO-PLEX

10008 N.W. 53rd Street • Sunrise, Florida 33351

No News Would Be Good News



**GREEN SIDE UP
BY JOEL JACKSON**

The old saying, “No news is good news,” might apply to our media outlets these days. It’s pretty easy to become jaded about our news outlets these days knowing full well they tend feed on controversy and misery to make their headlines.

I was told as much once by a reporter a couple of years ago who was going to interview me on the MSMA and arsenic topic. He was doing a story on the battle between cat and bird lovers over how to address the feral cat population and their impact on birds and other small animals. I said something naively about presenting the facts from both sides and let the chips fall where they may. He said, “Oh no. You’ve got to have controversy!” Boy was I looking forward to that interview.

And now headline after headline, telecast after telecast it’s nothing but gloom and doom over the economy. No doubt we’re

in a front page Wall Street recession. And there’s no doubt that construction workers especially in the housing market and manufacturing workers in the auto industry are feeling the pain which trickles down to shopkeepers of some specialty shops and other marginal ventures that were just hanging on anyhow.

All this with home mortgages included was built on bad loans with little or no federal oversight and lots of greed bordering on criminal action like using false information on loan applications just so the financiers could get their fees. We won’t even talk about CEO salaries, bonuses and golden parachutes.

If the media really want to do something then stay on the trail of the CEOs and hound them till they break and keep pounding Congress to finally get some backbone and enforce regulations and plug up the loopholes in existing laws. That would be positive news for those of us who played the game by the rules, pay our taxes and make modest livings doing our daily work.

I wonder if the media get out of their newsrooms and studios. They must lead normal lives too. What I see on a regular basis is crowded food courts at the mall, a full Starbucks with folks still buying \$4 cups of coffee, bustling restaurants (even if was a chain like Applebee’s) on a Friday night, lots of cars on the road on the weekends, jammed parking lots at Downtown Disney, and so on.

Are all these people in denial? Or is the media just doing its usual blood and bad news lead stories? I think

the latter is more the case, and quite frankly I’m getting mad as hell and I’m not taking it anymore.

We have never been extravagant spenders. I guess having parents who were kids during the Great Depression and young adults during World War II helped instill a certain respect for saving for a rainy day. Sure we clip coupons and check out sales. We’ve even started buying staple items like canned foods, paper products, etc. from Wal-Mart where we can save 50 to 75 cents on a half-gallon of V-8 juice over the Publix price. That’s just common sense and good stewardship of our money.

But like any of you out there with IRA investments in mutual funds, we also took a big hit. Yes, we’re diversified but when the Dow Jones goes from 14,000 to 6,000 we all feel the pain. The media just keeps poking at the wound making us feel worse. One friend told me he doesn’t open his financial statements from his brokerage. He just puts it in the shredder. So to him no news is “good” news. Well it’s not good, but he knows it won’t do any good to fret over something he can’t control.

And that my friend is the lesson of the day. We can choose how face each day, with the knowledge that these recessions come in fairly predictable cycles and it will pass. I’d like to close by paraphrasing some thoughts from Luke Cella, executive director of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents: “In the meantime we can go about our lives knowing we are not alone, your fellow professionals share knowledge and are willing to help and

ADVERTISER INDEX

Aerification Plus.....	10
Agrotain International.....	11
Almar Turf Products, Inc.....	32
Arysta.....	24
Beeman’s Nursery.....	17
Brandt Consolidated.....	25
Classic Greens.....	32
Coastal Equipment Syst.....	27
Country Club Services.....	14
Crop Production Services.....	29
Dow AgroSciences.....	33
Emerald Tree.....	29
Florida Turf Support.....	9
Golf Agronomics Supply.....	30
Golf Ventures.....	Ins Cvr
Green-Way.....	35
John Deere WW.....	11
Kilpatrick Turf.....	Ins Cvr
Phoenix Environmental.....	15
Pike Creek Turf Farms.....	24
Pine Island Growers.....	Ins Bk Cvr
Plant Food Co.....	13
Precision Laboratories.....	21
Ragan Technical.....	30
Ridge GCSA.....	3
Rymatt Golf.....	8
Show Turf.....	Back Cvr
SMR Farms.....	20
Sod Solutions.....	35
South Florida Grassing.....	26
Southeast Partners.....	23
Spread-Rite.....	30
Suncoast GCSA.....	5
Syngenta.....	31
Team UGA.....	7
The Andersons.....	12
TifEagle Growers.....	Insert
TifSport Growers.....	Insert
Tifton Physical Lab.....	34
Tom Burrows Turfgrass Svc.....	17
Toro Distributors of Fla.....	18
Upstart Products.....	21

your associations are also a resource for information.

“Be a positive leader and make yourself indispensable to your facility. Treat your staff well and ask them for ideas on saving costs in the daily routine. Turn 'doing more with less' into 'doing the best you can with what you have.' Realize what you’ve got, be thankful for it and take care of it. And finally, help others. Share your successes and failures with those around by attending a chapter meeting, call a fellow member, network and share.”

PIG GROWS PALMS

AND YOU'LL WANT TO USE THEM TO ENHANCE THE
TROPICAL BEAUTY OF YOUR GOLF COURSE

Reg. # 48000419



No project too big
or small.

WE DELIVER!



PinelandGrowers.com

PINE ISLAND GROWERS, LLC

11660 Stringfellow Rd., Bokeelia, FL 33922 • 877-282-7701 / 239-282-0394 Phone • 239-282-0639 Fax