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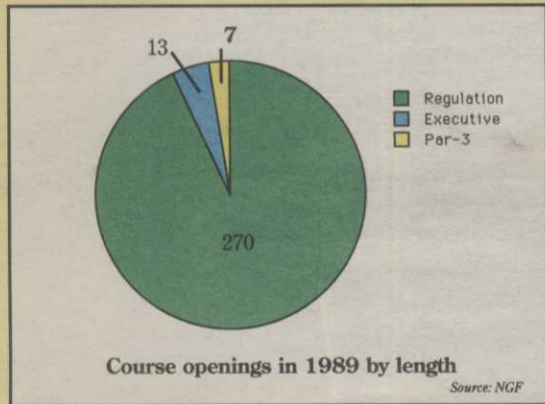
GOLF COURSE NEWS

THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

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Hawaiians just say no

Committee turns down potential \$291-million profit

BY PETER BLAIS
The Honolulu City Council Human Services Committee has voted against the city's proposed sale of West Loch

Golf Course to a Japanese company, likely killing a deal that would have netted the city \$291 million Mayor Frank Fasi hoped to use for recreational facilities and three new public courses.

Jurigi Co. bid \$111 million this spring for the new municipal course, which cost the city \$20 million to build, and offered \$200 million in impact fees if

the city eventually approved two other golf course construction applications.

The committee voted 4-1 against Jurigi's offer. Committee Chairman Neal Abercrombie said his committee had two primary objections.

First, Abercrombie explained, the land was originally condemned for a municipal course and should be used
Continued on page 14

Corps major holdup

BY MARK LESLIE

The Army Corps of Engineers has caused more delays in golf projects than any other organization, according to a survey of golf course architects.

Thirty-nine of 40 member firms answering an American Society of Golf Course Architects survey said they experienced difficulties in obtaining permits for courses because of environmental concerns by local, state or national agencies.

Fifty-six percent of the firms cited the primary obstacle as wetlands, which the Corps of Engineers over-
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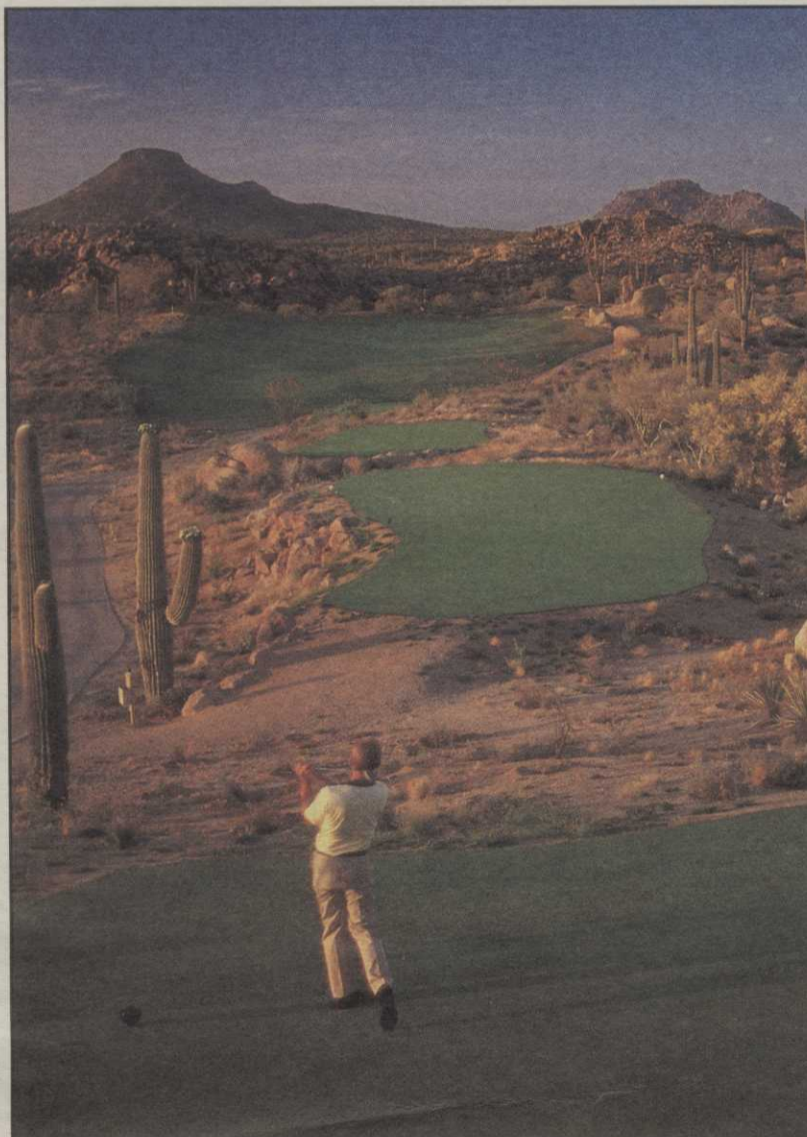


Photo by Tony Roberts

A golfer tees off at Troon North, the latest creation of Jay Morrish and Tom Weiskopf in Scottsdale, Ariz. Developed by Pinnacle Peak Land Co. of Scottsdale and built by Wadsworth Construction Co., Troon North is an 18-hole championship, daily fee course. It is carved out of the desert, featuring saguaro cactus (at left), lots of rocks, and holes that are totally isolated from one another. Its bermudagrass greens read 9 on the stimp meter. Pinnacle plans a four-season hotel and home development on the site.

Dry spell plagues Florida

BY PETER BLAIS

Late spring showers improved the situation somewhat. But Florida remained in the throes of a second straight early-season drought that left wells at record-low levels in some parts of the state and resulted in water restrictions that threatened many courses.

Because of weather patterns that generally move storms diagonally from northwest to southeast Florida, south-
Continued on page 29

Tainted fungicide damages courses

BY MARK LESLIE

A fungicide contaminated with a foreign chemical killed turf on about 10 golf courses in five states, according to its manufacturer, O.M. Scott & Sons.

Atrazine, the active ingredient in Scott's Bonus S herbicide, mistakenly got mixed into a batch of FF-II, a fertil-

izer-based fungicide used primarily to control snow mold, said Jim Fetter, Scott's vice president of marketing.

The mixing was done last fall but it wasn't until weather warmed up this spring that it was discovered at several courses in Michigan, two in Minnesota, and one each in Pennsylvania,

Ohio and Kentucky.

It is not likely the problem will show up at any other courses, Fetter said. "We feel we know exactly what happened, what (production) run the contamination occurred in, and where it went."

Continued on page 9

FF-II

Continued from page 1

The contaminated FF-II — Lot #092889 (plus three letters) — has been recalled, he said.

Beginning with Eddie Hodgins of Idle Hour Country Club in Lexington, Ky., superintendents started calling Scott reporting dead spots in their greens. The spots were elongated and ran downhill — some two or three inches in size and others “as big as a spatula” at one course.

Hodgins, who lost 1,500 square feet of bentgrass on 18 of 20 greens at Idle Hour, said the cause of his dead spots was puzzling until two colleagues and University of Kentucky Professor A.J. Powell recognized it as an old nemesis. Three years ago a similar contamination had occurred in a Lesco, Inc. product containing atrazine, Hodgins said.

But until that discovery, the problem went from bad to worse.

Hodgins said that in February he started seeing spots. “Then it got all over the greens.”

UK’s Powell at first thought the plague was chronic ring spot, Hodgins said, and he responded by treating the greens on the front nine with FF-II.

It only got worse.

Finally, he spread sulfur on the greens and believes that neutralized the atrazine.

Scott labs verified the cause after three weeks of tests. Results showed FF-II spread on Idle Hour greens had four times the amount of atrazine needed to kill bentgrass.

Hodgins said 4,000 two-inch plugs were needed to mend the Idle Hour greens.

“They’re all fine now,” he said. “We finished plugging on Memorial Day weekend.”

While Hodgins’ greens survived with plugging, others had to resod entire greens.

Boyer Mountain Golf Club in Boyne Falls, Mich., was one of those.

Superintendent Blake Woodard used the contaminated FF-II on two of the 10,000-square-foot greens on his championship course and all nine smaller greens on his executive course.

The result? “It was blanket coverage,” he said, “like a herd of elk had run all over them.”

One of the the two larger greens had to be

stripped 18 inches below the surface “because we didn’t know how far down the contamination went.”

Five hundred to 600 yards of fill was needed. The cost to sod the two large greens, he said, was \$18,000 for the sod and another \$18,000 to lay it.

Woodard said he will probably use his maintenance crew to lay the sod on the executive course’s greens, but the cost could still reach \$50,000.

Scott is picking up the tab, and Woodard said he is happy with the company’s response to the outbreak.

“They sent representative after representative and took more and more samples” to test the soil and resolve the problem, he said.

Scott Vice President of Sales Jerry O’Donnell said different courses required different solutions.

“We did several things, depending on the number of spots,” O’Donnell said. “Where the spots were few and far apart, we removed the soil plugs and replaced them with good turf.”

“Where the damage was more extensive, we sprayed the greens with a liquid or dry form of charcoal treatment, top-dressed them with sand and overseeded with bentgrass.”

Meanwhile, Scott has taken steps to improve its quality control and prevent future contaminations.

First, according to Vice President and General Manager Richard B. Stahl, all products containing atrazine will be dyed a bright color so they can be easily recognized.

Second, quality assurance personnel will increase checks on production runs of golf course greens products.

Third, bioassay tests will be conducted using sensitive turfgrasses to provide an additional check on product quality.

(See letter on this page.)

Correction

In the June issue’s story Coeur d’Alene golf course story we misspelled the name of John Barlow, administrative vice president of the Hagadone Corp., which is developing the course.

LETTERS

An open letter from O.M. Scott

To Our Customers:

At the O.M. Scott & Sons Co., product quality is of utmost importance. We believe you have enough to do without worrying about the performance of the products you buy. Unfortunately, last fall our quality control system did not identify a potential problem with FF-II. As a result, a limited amount of contaminated product was released to the market.

When such a situation occurs, word spreads rapidly and facts can become distorted. To help ease our customers’ fears, here are the facts of the present situation.

- Greens treated with FF-II came through the winter in excellent condition. But when the weather started to warm up this spring, a small number of golf courses noticed spots resembling dollarspot. Our technical representatives took soil and product samples, and identified atrazine on these courses. Scott took immediate action to insure that the golf courses were back in playing condition as soon as possible.

- Our technical representatives were notified as soon as we learned of this issue. They have contacted each customer, individually, who received FF-II from the suspect production.

Since this situation was identified, we have taken the following actions to insure that this type of contamination never occurs again in

Scotts ProTurf or ProGrow products.

1. All products containing atrazine will be dyed a bright color so that they can be easily recognized.

2. Quality assurance personnel will make increased checks on production runs of golf course greens products.

3. Bioassay tests will be conducted using sensitive turfgrasses to provide an additional check on product quality.

We regret this incident and apologize for the inconvenience and confusion it may have caused.

Again, product quality is the highest priority at O.M. Scott, and we stand behind all of our products. As outlined above, you can be certain this incident is not being taken lightly. Please be assured that the Scott products you have now, and will order in the future, will be safe for use.

If you have any questions about this situation, please feel free to contact Scott directly at 1-800-543-0006. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Richard B. Stahl
vp and general manager

Letters to the editor are welcomed. Just write to *Golf Course News*, P.O. Box 997, Yarmouth, Maine 04096.

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