

Tee To Green builder blessed using his own soil blender

About five months ago, Steve Hutchison of Tee To Green Golf Course Construction took the plunge and purchased a Model 2200 soil blender from Dakota Peat. His life is simpler, he says, and his product is better.

"It's been great," Hutchison reports. "We really like the control we get with the blender. And we know we're not going to have any trouble with these greens down the road."

Hutchison, whose company is currently working on three courses, said the elimination of contracted soil-blending services has already brought increased simplicity and savings.

Yet his recent purchase has also resulted in peace of mind.

"The part I don't like about contracting out is I don't feel comfortable turning over something so important to a subcontractor," he says. "The assurance of quality is very important. The blender is just one more tool that assures me of the quality I must have to be competitive."

The addition of in-house soil-

blending capability has created additional business opportunities for Tee To Green in the sport turf industry.

"The blender has really opened some doors," he says. "If I can blend it and quality control it to exact specification, I have a leg up."

So, Hutchison is a satisfied customer?

"Very much so."

Companies specializing in blending soils

Egypt Farms, Inc.
P.O. Box 223
White Marsh, MD 21162
800-899-7645
Contact: Ray Bowman
Circle #206

ENS Soil & Peat
Rte. 1 Box 267
Rocky Mount, N.C. 27803
919-443-5016
Contact: Bill Eason
Circle #207

Greensmix Soil Blenders
Div. Faulks Bros. Construction
Waupaca, WI 54981
715-258-8566
Contact: Christine Faulks
Circle #208

Hutcheson Sand & Gravel
8 West St. South
Huntsville, Ontario POA1KO
705-789-4457
Contact: Don Mackenzie
Circle #209

Ohio Central Steel
7001 Americana Parkway
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068
614-866-0112
Contact: Steve Cohen
Circle #210

Rootzone Mix
1726 West Ave. E.
Mule Shoe, TX 79347
806-272-5300
Contact: Glen Watkins
Circle #211

Southeastern Golf
P.O. Box 7667
Tifton, GA 31793
912-382-7107
Contact: Scott Veazey
Circle #212

Tectonic, Inc.
12501 Weld County Road 13
Longmont, CO 80504
303-444-7444
Contact: Tom Briddle
Circle #213

Transamerican Soil Blender
7005 Salem Park Dr., Suite 200
Lubbock, TX 79424
806-793-5200
Contact: Troy McNeil
Circle #214

Soil blending in high-tech world

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and allows the addition of micro-nutrients and bio-amendments.

"First of all," said Hurdzan, "I think the soil blender has been the first major breakthrough in green construction in 50 years. The accuracy can't be matched.

"But if the contractor doesn't own a soil blender, and you have to contract it, and the blender doesn't get there on time, you're stuck. I think the mix changes while it's being stockpiled. It breaks down because the infiltration rate is half what it was."

Further, there are many builders — count John Cotter of Wadsworth Construction among them — who believe the process isn't essential. Cotter explained that Wadsworth still does the majority of its blending via the old front-loader method.

"The idea of soil blending was sold on accuracy, but our continuing tests show they're not that different," Cotter said. "We've been able to achieve a proper mix, backed up by testing, without using a soil blender. We obviously believe that both processes are effective."

Clark disagrees: "I think it's one of the most important aspects of building quality putting greens. We've spent a lot of time researching the proper mix, and we want to get it right."

Nugent suggests you seek out an informed reference.

"Call a superintendent whose greens were blended and ask him, 'Hey, you're living with this stuff. How is it?'"

"He'll tell you. It's a question of quality."

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