

'There has never been a tool to do the job.'
— Steve Lyons, superintendent
Hanover (N.H.) Country Club

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CIRCLE #135

Saving greens, time — and jobs

Jobsaver I born out of former course superintendent's frustration

By MARK LESLIE

"It's incredible." "It's fabulous." "It's a 12 on a scale of 10." No, you're not reading an advertisement.

But, yes, golf course superintendents in the Northeast who have tried it agree: They have discovered a new piece of equipment to use in overseeding that may save some of their jobs. It is appropriately named Jobsaver I.

"I built this out of frustration," said Bob Flanagan of Dover, N.H., who actually thought of the design 20 years ago when he was a superintendent at Cochecho Country Club in Dover.

Steve Lyons and Kyle Evans number among those who are glad Flanagan, 57, and draftsman son Robert Jr., 30, turned an idea into an answer to prayer for many superintendents where winter kill sometimes equals job kill.

"There has never been a tool to do the job," said Lyons, superintendent of Hanover (N.H.) Country Club. "Superintendents in the Northern tier of states for the most

Continued on page 37



Using Jobsaver I, superintendents can continue playing conditions, left. Steve Lyons said seed germinated and grew from, "conservatively, 95 percent of the holes" made by Jobsaver I, above.

Independent distributors will sell Jobsaver I

Bob Flanagan, co-founder and president of Turf Specialty of Londonderry, N.H., plans to sell Jobsaver I nationwide to other independent distributors.

"Now that we've had some success I know a lot of small independent distributors throughout the United States. I'll sell it to them and let them sell it to the golf courses," he said.

Until now he has basically only sold them in Maine and New Hampshire. He has manufactured 50 sets and had sold 24 by mid-July.

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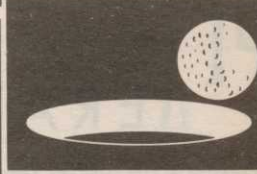
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CIRCLE #172

Saving jobs, greens

Continued from page 38

part will use it. But it is also handy in the transition zone. If they're hit with pythium blight and can't resod, this is the best."

"It's incredible — one of the best pieces of equipment I've purchased," Waterville (Maine) Country Club superintendent Evans said of the \$650 Jobsaver that attaches to Ryan Greensaire II and 24 aerifiers. "One great thing about it is that the greens are playable through the whole process."

Lyons lost 40 to 80 percent of the turf on 14 of his 19 greens to winter kill this year — but had tested a prototype last fall and felt it was his best option to restore the greens.

"It's fabulous," Lyons said. "It saved us."

The Jobsaver fastens onto the Ryan machine simply and with only an adjustment on the "X" of the machine. Its tapered, solid tines — which make 144 holes per square foot and are one inch on-center — go one-half to three-quarters inch deep. A stripper plate holds the turf down.

Flanagan recommends following behind the Jobsaver with a drop spreader broadcasting a mix of turf seed and Milorganite.

"That mix falls right into the holes and you can then brush it in. Or mowing pushes the seed into the holes," Flanagan said.

Lyons said he neither top dressed nor dragged, and it still worked.

Flanagan suggests repeating the process when the grass gets one-quarter inch high. With the solid tines, he said, "the good news is, you're not pulling any plants out; you're pushing them sideways. And you can do this without making a mess."

Overseeding in the aerifying process is "a distant comparison to this," Ryan said. "Its beauty is it doesn't bring up any dirt at all."

According to Lyons, "The trouble with overseeding with aerifying is:

- "You're digging a hole three inches deep, and when you put seed that deep it is not going to survive. Where you really want it is one-half inch deep — just below the foot traffic, so it has a chance to sprout and get some growth before it gets mowed."

- "You get three-inch spaces. With the Jobsaver it's one inch on-center."

- "You bring up the dirt and you have to do something with the dirt or you're going to disrupt play. With this machine you can go out any time and do it. You seed right behind it and people can play right on it."

Evans, who had lost four greens to winter kill, said he incorporated the HydroJect into the equation, aerating with it after the seed-Milorganite mix was spread.

Flanagan said although he made the machine basically for winter injury, it also allows superintendents in the North to overseed in August, "at prime time for seeding, without bothering golf. Normally, club championships and tournaments prohibit over-seeding in August. And you can aerify later in the fall when you will be better prepared to get into the winter anyway, because now you have more oxygen in the soil later in the season."

"Poa annua doesn't do well in August, so [the new seed] is in a much more competitive situation when they plant it then. They have a better chance to get more bentgrass into the greens and get rid of more of the poa without using a lot of the chemicals."

"What are your alternatives?" Lyons asked. "You can aerify. You can try to make slices with a greensmower Verticutter — and that puts it in the ground one-eighth of an inch at the most; one heavy traffic day and rain and that's gone."

"This is the only thing that can do the job."

Flanagan said: "We call it the Jobsaver because it saves time on the job, saves money on the job, and it just might save your job."