



The Micro-Mower from R.L. Parsons & Sons Equipment of West Jefferson, Ohio.

## Micro-Mower tackles macro workload

By MARK LESLIE

WEST JEFFERSON, Ohio — It cuts. It mulches. It verticuts. Perhaps the Micro-Mower should be named the macro-mower since it was built to perform duties beyond the call.

"It sets itself apart," says R.L. Parsons & Son Equipment's marketing director, John Parsons. "My boss [Ralph Parsons] spent years designing and engineering this product."

The Micro-Mower MP340P is a three-gang "finish mower" with "high-speed, dynamically balanced, flail cutting heads" that cuts from one-half to four inches high and 13 feet wide.

The heads float so they don't scalp the ground, and the machine verticuts and mulches as it mows. A full-width roller helps give a precise cutting height, and the cutting heads are individually controlled via key switches so that various

combinations can be accomplished.

A high-speed (4,000 RPM versus 1,500 RPM) rotor shaft drives the verticut knives which, Parsons said, spin counterclockwise. Most knives spin clockwise, but the Micro-Mower's counter motion "pulls up the dead turf and mulches it."

He said one pass normally achieves the verticut and mulch operations. Untreated areas might require a second pass for mulching.

Parsons said the unit's light weight (1,150) pounds and low power requirement (25 horsepower) allow mowing in soft areas.

"It also has a low center of gravity, which makes it very stable," he added.

The price? A micro \$11,900.

Thusfar, the Micro-Mower has only been marketed in the immediate area, and Parsons said he is looking for distributors nationwide.

CIRCLE #101

## Thatch-O-Matic from Parker Sweeper

Parker Sweeper is introducing the Thatch-O-Matic Power Rake. Powered by a 5-hp Briggs and Stratton engine, this ruggedly built machine cuts a 19-inch path through built-up thatch.

Handle-mounted clutch and throttle controls and easy height adjustment features are designed for increased operator comfort. Three reel options are available

for a wide range of lawn care applications including; spring tines for dethatching; knives for verticutting and controlling creeping grasses; and flails for heavy thatch removal and lawn renovation.

For more information contact the company at P.O. Box 1728, Springfield, Ohio 45501-1728; or phone 513-323-4901.

CIRCLE #110

## Trashmates, new from Par Aide

For years, player-generated waste has been an unsightly problem on the course. Par Aide's new Trash Mates are designed to keep trash out of sight and act together as a recycling center and a waste receptacle.

Thanks to a restricted opening in the snap-on, "Cans Only" lid, players separate cans right on the course. A second Trash Mate handles the rest of the trash with interchangeable lids and accepts common bag liners for easy emptying. Trash Mates are designed to deliver more mounting versatility than any other container — unique, universal mounting brackets offer many choices and attach easily to any two-inch pipe or vertical surface. Purchased as a pair or individually, the polyethylene plastic containers have a generous holding capacity of nine gallons each, and are available in three colors.

For more information on Par Aide's Trash Mates, contact Par Aide Products Company at: 3565 Hoffman Road East, St. Paul, Minn. 55110. For the name of the Par Aide dealer nearest you, call 612-779-9851.

CIRCLE #116

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# Man-made warmth for turf deprived of natural sunlight

By HAL PHILLIPS

PALOS VERDES, Calif. — Tucked in and around the rolling hills south of Los Angeles, Palos Verdes Country Club constitutes one of those hidden gems, a product of noted designer George Thomas who's also responsible for a couple of tracks called Riviera and L.A. Country Club.

There was only one problem at PV: The 4th green. Situated at the lowest point on the course and surrounded by towering Monterey pines, the putting surface received virtually no sunlight during the winter months and limited air movement all year around.

Reduced to what the members called "quick dirt," the green had to be rebuilt in 1988 and again in 1992. However, last year the powers that be at Palos Verdes decided to equip the green with TurfTemp, a soil temperature-control system from BioTherm Hydronic Inc., of Petaluma, Calif.

The results?

"Anytime you can control the growing temperature on a green, it's going to help," said Scott Young, head superintendent at PV. "We've seen our soil temperatures go from 39 degrees to the mid-50s; color has improved; and our clipping count is up

compared to our other greens because of the increased leaf growth."

In Palos Verdes' case, TurfTemp worked this way: Tubing was placed in an even array across the green and connected to special manifolds hidden below the skirt.

wasn't on board until after TurfTemp had been installed. Nonetheless, he appreciates the technology he inherited from his forerunner, Reed Carpenter.

"I came on in August [1992], so I wasn't here for the actual laying of the project,"

Young explained. "But I just fired up the boiler in November and we've had great responses. The green looks great.

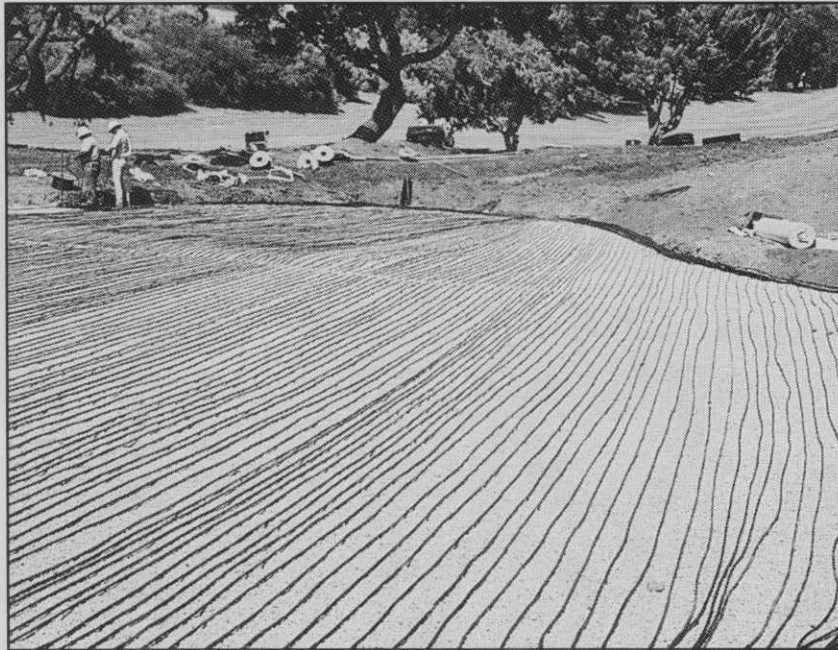
"It was a constant problem for Reed. It got so cold and thin in the winter months, it was just bare. If they have to rebuild the green every three years, this thing [TurfTemp] pays for itself."

According to BioTherm president Jim Rearden, TurfTemp varies in cost, depending on the harshness of climate. However, Rearden said the system runs between \$3 and \$5 per square foot.

With the Palos Verdes project up and performing, BioTherm has now installed two such systems, the other being the 5th green at Pebble Beach. Rearden noted that his company is "talking to Riviera" about installing a system there.

BioTherm offers a free engineering service to help golf courses and/or architects determine the best way to apply the TurfTemp system. BioTherm can be reached by calling 1-800-GET-HEAT.

**CIRCLE #112**



The 4th green at Palos Verdes Country Club, now equipped with the TurfTemp system.

The choker layer of sand was added, followed by 12 inches of root-zone mixture. The supply and return lines were then connected to the heat module discreetly located away from the green. A water mixture circulates through the system and multiple soil sensors — located below the green surface — send information to the electronic soil thermostat located at the heat module.

Young is new to Palos Verdes. In fact, he

## Erosion blankets with special baffling

Multi-layered baffling is the new Earth-Gard erosion control blanket's secret in preventing slope and channel erosion while establishing new grass growth.

In tests at a major university's water research laboratory, five-layer Earth-Gard blankets were more than 12 times as effective at preventing soil loss than were excelsior blankets or straw. Test beds consisted of compacted sandy loam soil on a 2.5:1 incline with an artificial rain machine

simulating a heavy rainfall.

Water droplet size was typical of high-intensity storms. Rain was applied for 20 minutes at a rate of eight inches per hour. The Earth-Gard protected area lost just 1.5 pounds of soil compared with a 19 pound soil loss with traditional blankets.

Additionally, Earth-Gard retained more seeds, allowing more rapid and complete grass coverage. Seed loss was 8.4 percent with Earth-Gard and 12.4 percent with

excelsior blankets. Seed germination also was improved with 83.6 percent germinating with Earth-Gard compared to 58 percent with excelsior blankets.

Earth-Gard is made of slitted, expanded, 100 percent post-consumer wastepaper that is 100-percent biodegradable.

Earth-Gard is available from Eaton Brothers Corp., P.O. Box 60, Hamburg, N.Y. 14075; 800-433-3244.

**CIRCLE #109**