

USGA expect specs to save money and time

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determining the size gravel "best suited for the soil mix you've got," Snow said. "That could save you a lot more in construction, particularly in parts of the country where this gravel is hard to find, and also the time of putting in the intermediate layer — usually by hand.

"Now we have very specific, well-developed recommendations based on engineering specs, that tell you exactly what you need to avoid infiltration into the gravel bed."

A second major change is the range for acceptable particle sizes in the choker layer has been expanded from between 1 and 2 millimeters to 1 and 4 millimeters.

This is a big money-saver, Snow said.

"Builders have had to pay

maybe \$50 a yard to have the gravel sieved. And sometimes it had to be trucked great distances. One to four millimeters should work just as well, and in some cases maybe better.

"Our studies show it's an improvement in terms of agronomics — and cost-wise it will be much easier to find that material."

A third major change creates common protocols in laboratory procedures.

"The consensus is that this is the way to go," Snow said. "The

labs will agree to abide by these protocols, so we will have procedures that are better. Labs will have to retool a little bit. But they should have similar results."

Dr. Norm Hummel, associate professor at Cornell University, spent the 1991-92 school year on sabbatical leave with the Green Section to determine the reasons for laboratory inconsistencies and update and standardize lab procedures; and to review scientific literature and recommend modifications to specifications on green

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— Jim Snow, USGA Green Section



construction and sand-based root-zone mixtures.

An Advisory Committee of American and British experts gave input throughout the process.

"We've tried to get the best

minds working on this, to get a consensus on the best scientific knowledge today," Snow said. "Not everyone agreed on every tiny detail. But, overall, it was remarkable how much agreement there was."

Construction adds dimensions to Pavilion Lakes

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Eight new holes, four new lakes and a stream have been added during the redesign and reconstruction of the newest championship golf course in the Valley, The Pavilion Lakes Golf Club and Learning Academy. Formerly Pima Golf Club, the 6,523-yard course is under new management and underwent extensive renovation for its November 1992 opening.

Vestar Development Corp. hired the golf management company of Vickers-Kopplin and Associates to manage the courses.

"Our goal is to provide the highest quality, most reasonably priced golf facilities found anywhere in the Valley," said Jeff Mongon, project director of Vestar Development Corp. "We contracted with Vickers-Kopplin because of their involvement with quality and service-oriented clubs like Desert Mountain and Desert Highlands. The customer will experience the benefits of their expertise at the golf course."

Niebur, Hurdzan work in Ohio, Ill.

ATLANTA — Niebur Golf, Inc. and Hurdzan Design Group have combined work on two projects.

The daily fee Ann Briar Golf Course, Waterloo, Ill., has been grassed. Steve Maas has been hired as grow-in superintendent. Opening is this summer.

Niebur and Hurdzan will build a daily-fee course in Ashville, Ohio. Construction began in June. Nine holes will be completed in October, with the second nine to be finished next summer.

Cook Creek will be owned by PGA Tour golfer John Cook and his family. Cook's father, Jim, is president of Championship Management Corp., which will manage the facility.

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