

BRIEFS



PESTICIDE RESEARCH ABSTRACTS

RICHMOND, Va. — The fourth National Research Conference on Pesticides, scheduled here for Nov. 1-3, is titled "New Directions in Pesticide Research, Development, Management and Policy." Abstracts to be published for distribution at the conference still are being accepted by Dr. Diana L. Weigmann, Virginia Water Resources Research Center, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, 617 North Main St., Blacksburg, Va. 24060-3397.

BEST SAND PICKS STIMMEL

CHARDON, Ohio — Jeffrey Alan Stimmel, a turfgrass management student at Ohio State University, was awarded Best Sand Corp.'s third annual turfgrass management scholarship. The Logan High graduate plans a career as a golf course superintendent. He's now a member of



Jeffrey Stimmel

the golf course maintenance crew at Scioto Country Club, near the Ohio State campus in Columbus. Scholarship applications are available from school advisers or Stuart Lipp at Best Sand, 800-237-4986.

HORTON HIRED AT PEBBLE BEACH

Ted Horton, former superintendent and director of golf at Westchester Country Club in New York, took over March 1 as manager of superintendents for the Pebble Beach Co. in Monterey Peninsula, Calif. Horton, who has been working with a golf management firm and living in Manassas, Va., will oversee maintenance at Pebble Beach Golf Links, Spyglass Hill Golf Course, The Links at Spanish Bay and Old Del Monte Golf Course. He succeeded Edward Miller.

MILLER JOINS DESERT HIGHLANDS

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Edward J. Miller, the subject of our Super Focus in February, has moved from The Pebble Beach to Desert Highlands Golf Course as director of golf course operations and amenities maintenance. Miller is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, and studied turfgrass management at Pennsylvania State University.

WANTZ GROWING IN COURSE

John Wantz has been named golf course superintendent at Due Process Stable, Inc., in Colts Neck, N.J. A Pennsylvania State University graduate and certified golf course superintendent, Wantz will oversee construction and grow-in of the Johnny Miller track, scheduled to open in 1994.

Nicklaus turf firm expands

NORTH PALM BEACH, Fla. — Golfturf, a worldwide agronomic and maintenance golf course consulting firm, has expanded its golf course services. A division of Golden Bear International, Golfturf will assist in planning and development, agronomy/construction and planning, maintenance services, and golf course improvement.

"The Golfturf staff has been providing the premier agronomic and maintenance in the golf course industry for 30 years," said Edward A. Etchells. "By expanding our operation, we will be able to better service new and existing clients."

Golfturf's credentials include work on 10 of the U.S. Top 100 golf courses as well as sites to more than 150 professional golf tournaments around the world. Among Golfturf's clients is Muirfield Village Golf Club in Dublin, Ohio.

Golfturf, which has serviced Nicklaus-designed golf courses for more than 20 years, provides agronomic and turfgrass consulting and environmentally responsible maintenance consulting to new and established golf courses around

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Playability is the most important aspect of bunker sand. Color is second. Sand can be too white.

Grow-in challenges can be beaten

By TERRY BUCHEN

I have grown-in 11 new golf courses and had the pleasure of working with some of the best golf course architects and builders in this country. The following checklist not only shows the many responsibilities the superintendent will endure, but also some of the unexpected duties that inevitably pop up. This checklist has no particular chronological order, as each

project has its own priorities and circumstances:

- Secure temporary and/or permanent electricity for irrigation pump-house. Utility companies can take up to six months, sometimes longer. Secure electric generators as a contingency measure.
- Build turf nursery of all grasses used on golf course. If built early

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Tour of Duty

DAVID R. JOHNSON

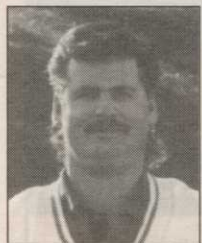
Mission Hills Country Club
Rancho Mirage, Calif.

LPGA's Nabisco Donah Shore
March 25-28, ESPN (Th and Fri);
ABC (Sat-Sun)

David Johnson, 33, is glad he forsook business studies at Western Michigan University to join the renowned turfgrass program at Michigan State University a decade ago. Johnson interned at Inverness Club in Toledo in 1984, graduated from Michigan State in 1985, then went to work as assistant to Inverness superintendent Tom Walker. Johnson stayed at Inverness, including through the 1986 PGA Championship, until moving to Mission Hills in February 1988.

Things to look for: Listen for the TV commentators to remark on how true the Old Course greens are rolling. "They always comment that there's hardly any grain in them," Johnson said. A regular, winter-long top dressing program, coupled with a once-a-week verticut schedule beginning eight months before the tournament gets the greens as smooth as possible. During tournament week, Johnson's crew double-cuts the greens every day at 3/32nds of an inch. "We're able to get the greens at 10-1/2 [on the Stimpmeter] no problem," he said, "and the LPGA wants them at between 10 and 10-1/2." Watch for this stickler: At the end of March it's starting to warm up, so the Bermudagrass tries to climb up through the overseeded ryegrass.

Made-for-TV preparations: "We're doing some awesome striping of the fairways for the TV cameras," Johnson said. For about two or three weeks straight, his crews will mow in the exact same directions on the same lines — a procedure called "burning in the stripes." The tees are walk-mowed to also get a nice-looking striping effect. "We also use green sand to fill in the divots so they won't show up so much," he said. "We mix green paint with regular sand in a cement mixer, then follow the last groups around and fill in all the divots behind them."



DAN DUPREE

Weston Hills Country Club
Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

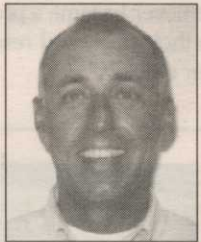
PGA's Honda Classic
March 11-14, NBC

Dan Dupree jumped into the fire last Oct. 1. When Dupree moved from Arvida's Broken Sound Country Club in Boca Raton, Fla., to the company's Weston Hills Country Club, he had just five months to ready it for the Honda Classic. But 18 years of experience prepared him well. A Pella, Iowa, native, Dupree, 46, holds an associate's degree from Lake City (Fla.) Community College. He worked at The Diplomat Golf Course in Hollywood, Fla., from 1973

until taking the superintendent's post to grow in the Joe Lee-designed Broken Sound in 1982. This is the first major tournament Dupree has prepared for, and he gave kudos to Jeff Haley, former Eagle Trace superintendent who is the PGA agronomist for the tournament.

Things to look for: Bermudagrass is the predominant turf at Weston Hills and it is hard to stripe. "We're mowing the fairways pretty close," Dupree said — below 7/16ths inch, compared to the normal 1/2 inch. The greens read between 9-1/2 and 10 on the Stimpmeter. Dupree will decide the cut of the greens depending on the weather. If it's cold (in the 40s) they will be cut to 5/32 inch. If they're warm, the height cut will be 1/8 inch. "That's because Bermudagrass quits growing a little bit [in the cold] and it will be like glass [if cut short]," Dupree said. The bunkers will be dirty sand and Dupree's crews added as little sand as possible.

Made-for-TV preparations: The Tifdwarf Bermudagrass greens have been overseeded with bentgrass to add a little color. They are about 50- to 60-percent bentgrass. Naturally elevated areas on the course will handle crowds, as will bleachers around the 9th and 18th — a double green. How will we recognize Dupree? "It's getting pretty wild. I'll probably be the one in shock," he joked.

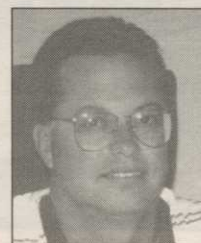


DWIGHT KUMMER

Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill Club
Orlando, Fla.

PGA's Nestle Invitational
March 18-21, NBC

The proof has been in the doing for Dwight Kummer, head superintendent at Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill Club. Kummer, 35, had never grown in a golf course until his employer, ITT Development Co., sent him from Matanzas Woods Country Club in Palm Coast to nearby Hammock Dunes. He had never prepared for a major tournament until he joined then-Bay Hill Club and Lodge in 1989. Now the Lake City Community College graduate and Palatka, Fla., native is 2-for-2 and looking forward to every challenge he can face. "You don't realize what you're going through until you're finished," Kummer said. "It's exciting. And no doubt, it's a big letdown when it's over with. You're in the spotlight for that week. Afterwards, it's depressing to come into the mess to clean up and have the course ready for member play on Tuesday."



Things to look for: The height of cut on the greens is reduced to 1/8 inch and the fairways are mown at 3/8 inch. Meanwhile, the roughs are allowed to grow as high as six inches. Crews — expanded from 20 to as many as 35 — roll the greens daily and walk-mow the tee areas during tourney week. Telephones are installed at each hole. Workers put up leader boards and raise 18 or 19 corporate tents.

Made-for-TV preparations: "We put a great amount of effort into detailing everything we can, from the straightness of the lines left by the mowers to the flower beds, the manicuring of the trees — anything that will catch your eye and will show up on the camera. The edging of the bunkers to the way the bunkers are raked — by hand," Kummer said. "We try to have flower beds in the background for a good focal point for the cameras." About four weeks before the tournament, Kummer's crew really steps up the fertility level to create "the deepest emerald green we can possibly get."

Tips to help overcome challenges of course grow-in

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enough, the sod can be used to repair erosion, fertilizer and chemical testing, employee training, etc.

- Design/build maintenance building to store and secure grow-in materials and maintenance equipment. Should be accomplished early on or at least secure temporary storage while building is under construction. Obtain temporary offices, if necessary.

- Arrange for irrigation water source, i.e. wells, domestic, effluent, runoff water rights, etc.

- Have wetlands commission and/or Army Corp of Engineers give the "green light" before construction begins, **in writing**.

- Contact state Soil Conservation District Office for topsoil, subsoil, history, maps, topographical mapping, etc.

- Hire engineering firm to provide data for architect/contractor. Surveyors are usually a division of the engineering firm.

- Have all native topsoil areas tested for atrazine levels — especially if it has been farmed recently prior to construction.

- Secure burning permits, if applicable.

- Work with golf course architect on final construction specifications with common goals/objectives/budgets in mind.

- Coordinate the moving of trees, while clearing greens/tees/fairways/roughs to other areas of course while watering/staking/saucering accordingly.

- Have green and tee root-zone soil mix tested per new USGA specifications. Monitor testing during blending without causing any undue construction delays. Determine if methyl bromide will be needed. Have subsurface gravel tested also per USGA specs. New USGA Green specifications standardized testing will determine if the intermediate sand layer (chocker) is needed so be prepared to send sample for testing.

- Have all native topsoil areas for fairways, roughs and natural areas tested for nutrient levels, pH, minor elements, etc. Have green and tee root zone soil mix tested for nutrients also.

- Have maintenance supplies on hand, plenty early, to handle water sod; maintain turf nursery; water/stake trees; and anything else that comes up.

- Stake off "natural" areas of property that are "off limits" to construction and maintenance vehicular traffic.

- Help design rainshelters, restrooms, pumphouse, etc. with building architect. Provide all utility hookups.

- Prepare grow-in maintenance budget. Provide subsequent routine maintenance budget.

- Prepare "Big 5 Capital Budgets":

a. Golf Course

Maintenance Equipment

b. Shop Equipment/Landscape Tools

c. Office/Lunchroom/Locker room Equipment

d. Irrigation/Drainage Equipment

e. Golf Course Accessories

- Contact other golf course superintendents that have gone through the "grow-in". Growing in a golf course is directly opposite of routine maintenance regarding fertilizer and pesticide

applications.

- Help determine grassing delineations with architect/contractor.

- Coordinate security force (sometimes off-duty police) guarding against vandalism/theft for all areas on property.

- Secure permanent telephone numbers for entire club operation. Make sure listing are in white/yellow pages when desired.

- Mark all greens/bunkers

drainage flushouts with railroad spikes so they can be found with a metal detector. Also mark gate valves, isolation valves, wire splices, air relief valves, quick coupler valves and plastic drainage grates so they can be found easily if the turf grows over them.

- Consider laying 14 gauge irrigation wire in the trench when installing drain lines as an easy way to find, during maintenance, with a metal detector.

- Spot any bridge/culvert

locations with architect/contractor.

- Take as-build progress photographs for owners permanent record. Videotaping all progress is a viable option.

- Take advantage of the interview process because you will be hiring an entirely new staff. Be even more selective on employees attitude/ability to be a member of your team.

- Stock new lakes with White

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Grow-in tips

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Amur fish, where applicable. Cover overflow pipes with mesh screen for obvious reasons.

- If it is in the owner's best interest, offer to be owner's representative to act as a liaison in his/her behalf with the architect/contractor.

- Receive bids for "Big 5 Capital Budget" items and schedule delivery as they are needed.

- Order grow-in fertilizer/pesticides and schedule delivery

when needed with temporary/permanent storage capacities in mind.

- Have bunker sand tested and make recommendations to owner/architect. Put out sand samples for key golf people to hit shots from, if applicable. Bunker sand must follow USGA recommendations.

- Protect/mark off all tree locations susceptible to construction damage to roots or soil elevation changes.

- Coordinate silt fencing/hay bale locations with architect/contractor around catch basins and

all other areas susceptible to erosion onto sensitive areas.

- Irrigation system should be flushed out and **fully** tested well before grassing commences.

- Consider hiring your irrigation technician and have him work with/for the irrigation contractor during all irrigation installation. Be careful: This can be a sensitive area for employee relations.

- Contractor will sometimes ask for your guidance and approval of all seeding rates and equipment calibration. Work together for this very important

common goal.

- Measure golf course yardage and sprinkler head yardage with laser distomat. Local golf association can do it, hire a private contractor to do it, or rent a laser distomat (\$50-\$150/day) and do it yourself.

- Mark all irrigation equipment with white pizza pans or white large kitchen trash bags for color irrigation as-built aerial photograph. Scale of photograph is usually 1 inch=200 feet, 1 inch=100 feet, or ultimately 1 inch=50 feet if the budget allows. Overlay as-builts can be made of topograph-

ical, drainage, and underground utilities as well.

- Order all golf course accessories, i.e. ball washers, cups, flagsticks, etc. one month prior to opening.

- Irrigate only during daylight hours. Wake the turf up in the morning, put it to bed late each night. Consider using field controllers only and have one employee irrigate semi-automatically 4-6 holes/each to water properly and to observe any stuck heads that can be fixed quickly and easily. Using the master controller to grow-in a golf course, other than for initial testing, is **not** recommended as an employee/s of yours should be observing the watering to make sure that enough/too much is properly applied. Turf students are an excellent choice to help with the grow-in irrigation special techniques.

- Make the **critical decision** about when golf course will open for initial play. Probably the hardest decision you will make during grow-in.

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Flood

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"We still can't find the bridges," Cook said. "They're probably buried somewhere under silt."

Crews replaced the lost bridges with two old ones, so that a second nine holes could be opened up. The back side of the course was closed about two weeks and opened Jan. 22 before the Feb. 7-8 rainstorm repeated the terror and carried away the two replacement bridges.

"We have a wash every year, but not to this extent," Cook said.

Her plans were to wait out the rainy season, then hire an earth-mover to level sand out and grade it. Her crews will then seed it.

Until then, all four affected holes will have modified tees.

The entire operation was exacerbated because crews had to trailer equipment around to the other side of the golf course to mow the greens and tees there. It was a 45-minute drive to the neighboring town to reach a bridge.

Yet, through most of the ordeal, Cook kept 18 holes open — nine holes on the East Course and another nine between the South and West courses.

The two floods were Cook's biggest challenge in her career, she said. Yet, every day, she said, "I get a lot of satisfaction in looking over the golf course and seeing what great things the crew has done. We've all worked together to make it very playable and very beautiful. I get a lot of satisfaction out of that."

Nicklaus Turf

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the world. The firm specializes in developing and implementing grassings, irrigation, course improvement and pest management programs. Each concentrates on the most current environmental philosophy of low chemical, fertilizer and water use.