

BRIEFS



WATER ABUNDANCE INCREASED

GOLETA, Calif. — An advanced wastewater treatment project has been completed here that can supply three million gallons a day of reclaimed water to irrigate golf courses, lawns, parks and other green space. The project was completed by Goleta Sanitary and Water districts, working with the California Environmental Protection Agency's Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board and other state and local agencies. The plant allows the use of reclaimed water and reduces the need for fresh water from the Cachuma Reservoir.



MASSACHUSETTS GUIDE AVAILABLE

WORCESTER, Mass. — The 1994 edition of *The Professional Turfgrass Management Guide for Massachusetts* is now available from the University of Massachusetts Cooperative Extension System. The booklet covers turfgrass culture, insect, disease, nematode and weed management. Among its features are a comprehensive key to turfgrass diseases, a list of turfgrass variety characteristics, monitoring techniques, and suggested threshold levels of turfgrass insects. The books cost \$7 each and are available from Bulletin Center, Cottage A, Thatcher Way, UMass, Amherst, Mass. 01003.

JUST ADD SLUDGE

VENTURA, Calif. — A University of California-Ventura study indicates that sewage sludge added to yardwaste composts increases the yield and color of perennial ryegrass. The study showed best turfgrass color rating was in a treatment composed of 50 percent yardwaste and 50 percent sewage sludge.

TURF MANAGEMENT FIELD DAY SET

WORCESTER, Mass. — The 3rd Annual Athletic Turf Management Field Day at Holy Cross College, Aug. 10, will combine demonstrations and talks with the annual meeting of the New England Sports Turf Managers Association. Concentration will be on sports fields. Danvers (Mass.) Superintendent of Tees and Grounds Jack Schmidgall will present a demonstration on irrigation and sprinkler head comparisons. For more information, people may contact Mary Owen at UMass at 508-892-0382.

OTF FIELD DAY CHANGED

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The date for the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation and Ohio State University Turfgrass Research Field Day has been changed to Aug. 17. It will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Ohio State Turfgrass Research Center on Kenny Road.

Delhi College joins giants, adds 9 for students

By MARK LESLIE

DELHI, N.Y. — The list of golf courses built, in part, to serve as working laboratories for college students is about to grow by one. Joining the likes of University of Georgia and Clemson and Pennsylvania State universities is Delhi College of Technology, which expects a major boost to its two-year turfgrass program with the addition of a golf course.

"We think this will cut down the learning curve and make our students much more marketable," said Joel Smith, director of communications at the State

University of New York-Delhi campus. "In the world, you don't have as much time for on-the-job training. Superintendents need graduates who are ready to go to work, work independently and get the job done."

"Originally, turfgrass management was the key program," said John Haight, director of development. "But it has grown since then" to include the entire Department of Plant Science, which includes horticulture, golf course operations, landscape architecture and landscape contracting technology. The golf program is directed by Dominic

Morales, a professor of horticulture, who was unavailable for comment.

Dirt has already been turned, beginning construction of a new nine holes at Delhi College Golf Course. Clark Cos., a local firm, is building the course. Collaborating in its design are Michael Haas of Haas Landscape Architects in Binghamton; Michael Ermisch of The Ermisch Design Group in Utica — both college classmates and ex-roommates; and Larry Reistetter's L.P. Reistetter Golf Design Group of Binghamton. Haas and Ermisch are Delhi College alumni and

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Overseeding: The life-or-death decision for many

By MARK LESLIE

Overseeding. It's one of the great dilemmas of golf course maintenance. Do you or don't you? When? Where? For what purpose? With what turfgrass or mixture? What are the tradeoffs?

"One of the paradoxes in the business," said Collier's

Reserve superintendent Tim Hiers, "is a great job of overseeding makes you look like a hero — then. But, potentially, you could have a worse transition" back to the main playing surface in the spring.

There are two categories — overseeding of dormant warm-season grasses, and of existent cool-season grasses.

In the South: Dixieland diversity

Superintendents in Florida, Georgia, Texas, Arizona and Southern California — and to a lesser extent in Mississippi and Louisiana — wrestle with this decision annually. Many have no choice.

Some basics:

- It's simple: When winter arrives, in many places Bermudagrass goes dormant or dies, and cold-tolerant grasses can be seeded over the Bermuda until the weather warms and Bermuda rejuvenates.

"They [superintendents] want it [overseeded grass] to come up quick, to be dark green, and to go away when it's sup-

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A member of the grounds crew at Bighorn Golf Course in Palm Desert, Calif., scalps dormant Bermudagrass in preparation for overseeding.

In the North: Better bents

Think of overseeding as buying insurance.

"You never know if it's working or if you need it. But in my opinion, you've got to do it," said Jim Connolly, long-time agronomist for the U.S. Golf Association Green Section's Northeast Region who now works at Jacklin Golf in Idaho.

Cool-season overseeding has been popular in the Eastern part of the country for years. But, "west of Chicago it becomes very unpopular," Connolly said. "I can't say why except they simply haven't been exposed to it."

Overseeding in the North
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RESEARCH UNDER FIRE

Browner puts spurs to EPA colleagues to improve peer review procedures

By MARK LESLIE

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is expected by Sept. 30 to have a new peer review policy in place, ending years of hostility with various branches of government and others in the scientific community.

Responding to years of prodding from the General Accounting Office (GAO), which has been calling for better scientific peer review procedures and controls, EPA Administrator Carol Browner has declared the chore will get done this summer. In the meantime, she demanded that her troops follow the peer review process signed by her predecessor, William Reilly, in the 11th hour of his administration. But the Reilly process is considered far too vague and must be clarified.

Leaders in each division of EPA presented drafts of their peer review plans on July 15, according to Dr. Don Barnes, ex-



ecutive secretary of the EPA's Scientific Advisory Board. A group of scientists within and outside the agency will scrutinize those plans and return them for final revisions which, he said, will be in place by Sept. 30.

Reporting that EPA's science is of "uneven quality," GAO Assistant Comptroller General Keith O. Fultz said in February his office was recommending that Browner "set a schedule for developing, completing and implementing agencywide peer-review procedures."

"Also, the administrator should develop and implement controls that protect against the premature release of documents by external peer reviewers."

Requested by Rep. John Dingell of Michigan, chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce's Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, the GAO

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Passios named to conservation panel

BARNSTABLE, Mass. — Charles Passios, past member of the board of directors and government liaison officer for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), has been appointed to a three-year term on the Barnstable Conservation Committee (BCC).



Charles Passios

The panel "basically protects the town's natural resources, deals with wetlands regulations and promulgates town ordinances," Passios said.

The largest town on Cape Cod, Barnstable sits on the Atlantic Coast. Superintendent at Hyannisport (Mass.) Club, Passios is a past president of the Golf Course Managers

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Superintendents, other agronomists level with roller expertise

The following is a list of practical recommendations for roller use, gathered from a survey of U.S. Golf Association agronomists, roller manufacturers and golf course superintendents. The list was presented by Scott Niven, CGCS, at Stanwich Country Club, Greenwich, Conn., at the 1994 Golf Course Superintendents Association of America show.

- The majority of damage caused from rolling is not over-use but operator error. Good training is imperative and operators

must be very conscientious.

- There are limits to how much rolling can be tolerated on heavy, high-clay-content soils. Sand-based greens can tolerate regular rolling, but still may show wear effects.

- If your greens weaken in the presence of extra stress, be very careful adding rolling to your greens maintenance program. This added stress could be very detrimental.

- All rollers are not created equal. There are significant differ-

ences from one roller to the next. Take the time to study and test a few rollers to assure you purchase the right one for your style of greens and surrounding areas.

- Double-cutting can be eliminated with rolling. But if you cut and roll at the same time, that equals about the same wear and compaction as double-cutting. However, rolling gives you a higher quality finish and more speed than double mowing will or virtually any other practice.

- If you cut (.140-inch height)

and roll daily for a special event, it is common to hold speeds of 11 and 12 on the Stimpmeter for each day. However, after four or five days, greens will show some significant wear and discoloration. Give them a rest.

- There are added labor costs if you cut and roll each time out. To save on extra costs, some superintendents have eliminated cutting on days they roll. This also reduces wear that rolling can create when you mow and roll the same day.

- The most common scenario shows that one day after rolling, 50 percent of the speed gained has been lost. One the second day, 75 percent of the speed is lost. Greens return to normal by day three.

- Superintendents with sand-based greens who roll five or six days per week have invariably raised their heights of cut to some degree. Some wear and yellowing can still be a problem, however.

- The preferred rolling schedules for those with bentgrass greens is either Wednesday/Saturday or Tuesday/Friday.

- Expect to lose cup placements due to a fairly large increase in speed. This can be a real problem on severely undulating greens or small greens where pin placements are already limited.

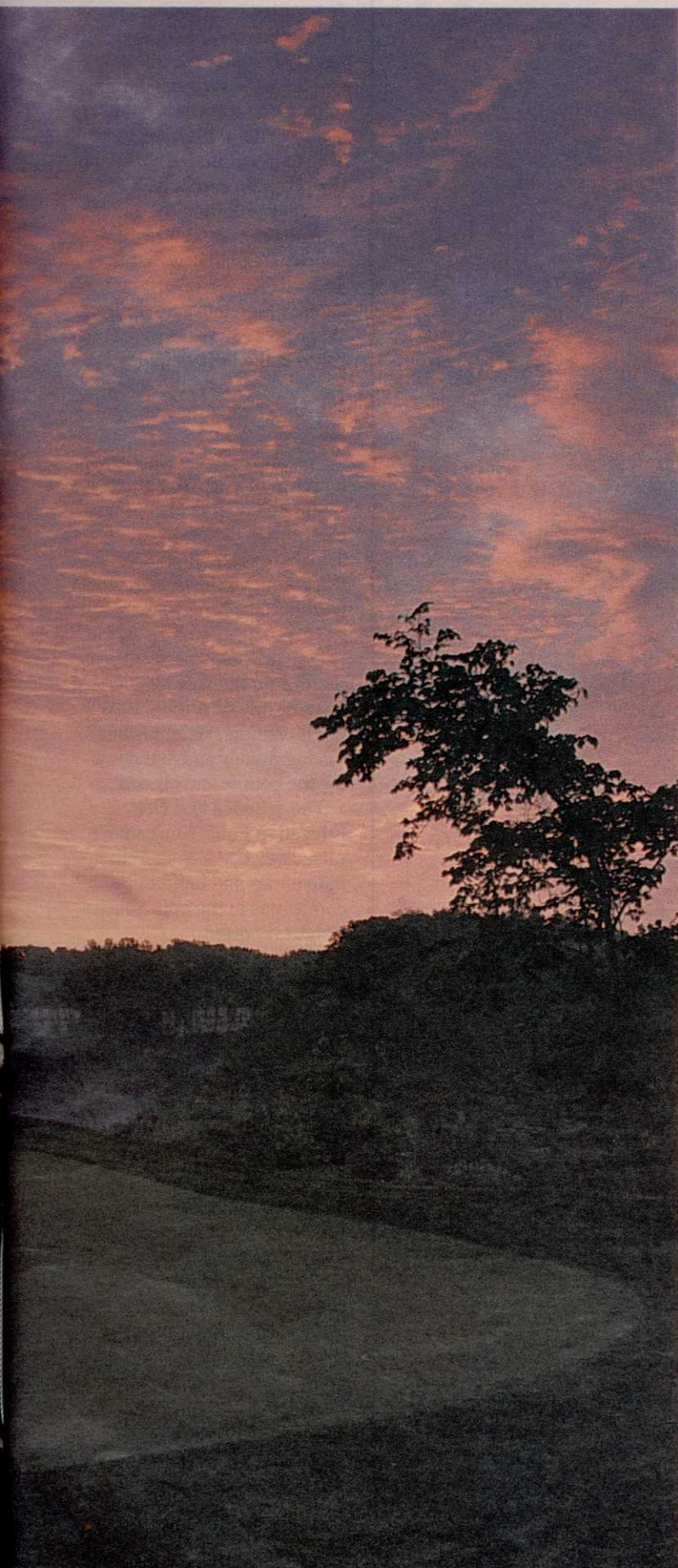
- No matter what type of roller program you're on, if the turf becomes weak from drought stress, heat or too much rainfall, you must be willing to discontinue rolling until the turf returns to a healthy condition.

- Top-dressing frequency can be reduced with roller use. Smoothing the surface is taken care of by the roller. This reduces bedknife wear from top dressing as well. Rolling after top dressing also presses the material into the turf and reduces bedknife wear for the next few cuts.

- Grooming, Verti-cutting and brushing can be reduced. These processes only need to be done to help eliminate grain as needed, which also helps reduce spike marks from golf shoes.

- Rolling greens after core aeration or Verti-draining improves can improve putting and speed up recovery time. Rolling newly sodded greens or tees also speeds establishment and improves the finish quality.

- After the greens have dried out in the spring, rolling can do a good job of smoothing the surface prior to the first mowings.



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Cape Cod town appoints Passios

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Association of Cape Cod and past vice president of the New England GCSA.

He was a director of the GCSAA for three years, two of which he served as government liaison representing the organization in Washington, D.C.

His appointment by the Town Council came about, he said, because of his scientific background and work, which recently included obtaining BCC approval for the restoration master plan for his club, which contains a lot of coastal salt marshes.

He also parlayed a perpetual maintenance agreement for his club with BCC.