

On The Green

Chainsaw unlikely companion

Super solves problem of sand contamination

By MICHAEL R. SMITH

KING OF PRUSSIA, Penn. — While rebuilding bunkers at Gulph Mills Golf Club, we had to devise a method to prevent contamination of the sand by stones in the subsoil. A chainsaw became the key to our success.

Although I had seen a number of bunker liner installations that had gone bad for one reason or other, I still thought the geotextile liner would be the best method to prevent contamination of the sand. The major problem encountered with liners is hooking them with the mechanical rake and pulling them to the surface. Once that happens, putting them back in place is virtually impossible.

In order to avoid this problem we devised a method of "tucking" the liners

Michael R. Smith, CGCS, is golf course superintendent at Gulph Mills Golf Club in King of Prussia, Pa.

into the bunker bank so no corners or seams were exposed.

Our first step in the process is to vertically face the edge of the bunker to a depth of 12 to 24 inches, depending on the slope of the land and how the bunker is set. The bottom of the bunker is thoroughly cleaned and compacted.

Next, we lay the geotextile over the bunker and cut to size, leaving an 18- to 24-inch excess around the entire perimeter of the bunker. Any seams are double folded and the sod is stapled to the bunker floor. We put a small amount of sand in the bunker to keep the cover from shifting.

To begin the "tucking" process, we fold the cover into the center of the bunker, away from the edges. Next, we cut a groove into the vertical face of the bunker edge, approximately 6 to 10 inches from the top of the bunker. The groove should be about 6 inches deep.

We found the best method for cutting this

groove is with a chainsaw—a chainsaw we never plan to cut wood with again! An old bar and chain works well since we're only cutting into sandy soil. If the saw has an adjustable oiler, set it for maximum flow.

We then tuck the cover into the groove using a sod knife, and then secure it with sod staples. Cut "V"s in the cover to accommodate turning corners. Trim excess geotextile as close to the groove as possible.

At the base of the vertical cut, we pack a 6-inch "fillet" of bunker sand to hold the cover during filling and spreading the sand. We then complete filling the bunker to the sod line.

To date, we have only used this method on problem bunkers, where stone removal was a constant chore. We have experienced only one geotextile pull-up in the five years many of these bunkers have been in place. The key to keeping the cover buried is to be sure to have a minimum of 6 inches of sand covering every bit of it.

Dr. Vargas revises turfgrass textbook

By PETER BLAIS

The second edition of Management of Turfgrass Diseases, written by turf expert Dr. Joseph Vargas, is now available.

The Michigan State University professor and international lecturer has revised and updated the popular text, which first appeared a dozen years ago.



Dr. Joseph Vargas

Cultural, genetic, biological and chemical approaches to turf management as well as practical solutions to everyday problems are covered.

Vargas said the updated sections dealing with patch, bacterial and black layer diseases are among the most valuable.

"The biggest changes have come in our understanding of fungicide resistance," Vargas said. "Dollar spot has been the major problem for many years. Other diseases are troublesome, but they are less likely to become resistant to fungicides.

"We used to talk about preventing dollar spot. We realize now we have to think instead about control [rather than prevention] and how to delay it from becoming resistant to a certain fungicide."

The first edition sold approximately 10,000 copies, Vargas said. Lewis Publishers believe the second will reach 30,000, he added.

The second edition features up-to-date information on all major turfgrasses; 72 full-color photographs and more than 100 figures to match grasses with diseases; the latest information on warm- and cool-season grasses, new diseases and integrated disease management techniques; and examples from Europe, Canada, South Africa, New Zealand, Australia and Japan.

The book costs \$59.95 and may be ordered by calling 800-272-7737.

New programs added

Cook College announces turf and short course schedule

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. — The Cook College Office of Continuing Professional Education at Rutgers University here, has announced the publication of its 1993-1994 Landscape Management and Design, Turfgrass Management, and Commercial Horticulture Short Course Catalog. This series of over 30 non-credit, open-enrollment short courses is designed for professionals in the landscape, turf, and agricultural industries.

Several new programs have been added to the series, including courses in pest management and business management.

Integrated Pest Management is the topic of an intensive, six-day program designed to teach participants how to reduce pesticide use while maintaining the quality of the landscape.

Small Business Survival Skill for the Landscape Contractor is a new, two-day program designed to provide the necessary business and financial management skills contractors need to be successful.

Many other programs have been revised and expanded to include new topics and field trips to meet the requests of participants.

The catalog also includes a new section on Cook College's Comprehensive Educational and Career Training Programs, including the five-month Careers in the Green Industry program, and an eight-week Environmental Studies and Career Opportunities program, which provide technical skills and job training to New Jersey's youth-at-risk.

To request a free copy please call 908-932-9271 or write to the Office of Continuing Professional Education, Cook College, P.O. Box 321, New Brunswick, N.J. 08903-0231.



Treetops Sylvan Resort, Gaylord, Michigan

Just add Water.

Quick. Easy. Add the beauty of water to any landscape project with an EPI pond liner. Tough, durable and flexible, it cost-effectively provides a leak-free body of water. Send us your site plan and we'll custom fabricate to fit any size, shape or application.



The Liner Company

Environmental Protection, Inc.

P.O. Box 333

Mancelona, Michigan 49659

Call: 800-34-LINER; Outside the U.S.: 616-587-9108

Fax: 616-587-8020

MARKERS, INC.

The Original Golf Course Marking System

Presents Our new removable plastic rope posts



for a safer more attractive alternative to arrange rope on golf courses. Two styles of easy application with varied colors and heights provide more options.

Our green post is unique to the industry and looks fantastic when combined with yellow rope.



See our Entire Marking System

Booth #3948

or call 1-800-969-5920