

BRIEFS



PESTICIDE GUIDE PUBLISHED

FRESNO, Calif. — The Users Reference Guide to Pesticides, aimed at agricultural and horticultural users, has been released by Thomson Publications. The 200-page book lists products registered in the United States by generic name, followed by different formulations with their tank-mix, adjuvant and compatibility recommendations. It is available from Thomson at P.O. Box 9335, Fresno, Calif. 93791; telephone 209-435-2163.

ASHS ELECTS CLEMSON'S KELLY

CLEMSON, S.C. — The head of Clemson University's Horticulture Department has been chosen research vice president-elect for the American Society for Horticultural Science. Dr. John Kelly was elected by the ASHS membership for his outstanding leadership, involvement in the ASHS and professional accomplishments. He will begin his term in July 1995. Kelly has been a professor at Clemson for nine years and department head since in 1991. He also is director of the South Carolina Botanical Garden.

TESTS CONFIRM TURF COVERS HELP

Turf development research conducted at Texas A&M University is the subject of a new report from Contech Construction Products Inc. Results of the studies confirm that sensitive turfgrasses can be readily protected



against winter elements. One of the objectives of the research conducted by Dr. M.C.

Engelke, associate professor of turfgrass breeding, was to reduce winter dormancy for the emergence of healthier turf after winter seasons. Free copies of the report are available from Contech, Dept. GICH-102, 33 Greenwood Lane, Springboro, Ohio 45066; telephone 800-338-1122 (in Ohio, 800-752-8899).

SOD HOTLINE INSTALLED

Turf Resource Center, a toll-free telephone service, now is available to the American Sod Producers Association's office. The phone (1-800-405-TURF) emphasizes ASPA's developing public relations and education program. Organizations, publications and individuals will be able to obtain listings of sod producers in their area of interest, tips on sodding, and information for possible articles or other facts related to the sod industry specifically, or turfgrass generally.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

Winter kill serves spring wake-up call to mid-Atlantic Coast supers

By DIANE MILLER

In the wake of the most severe winter since 1977-78, golf course superintendents from Maryland to New York are reporting the loss of as much as 30 percent of their turf on greens and up to 70 percent on fairways, and some may not open until "well into May."

The blanket of ice and snow that kept area courses closed for as long as two to three months prevents gas exchange around the glass plants, in effect smothering the plant. Superintendents are discovering that under the layers of ice the turf is rotting and black in some areas, giving off a powerful stench once the ice is removed.

Winter injury, including extensive winter kill of poa annua and perennial ryegrass, extends from Baltimore and Washington, D.C., through the Philadelphia area, central and northern New Jersey, and into the Pocono Mountains, according to the U.S. Golf Association Green Section. Much heavier than normal snow mold damage is

being reported through Ohio and Kentucky.

More than 200 golf course superintendents, assistants, greens chairmen, club officials, and course owners from the New Jersey/Philadelphia area met on March 28 at Tavistock Country Club in Haddonfield, N.J., to discuss the ramifications of the severe damage.

The joint meeting of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey (GCSANJ) and the Philadelphia Association of Golf Course Superintendents (PAGCS) opened the line of communication between superintendents, club officials and the USGA.

Jim Sklorusky, Northeast Region agronomist for the USGA, discussed previous years' damage from upstate New York and Montreal. David Oatis, director of the Green Section's Northeast Region, discussed communication with club membership and talked about what superintendents can expect during the

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Judge: Golf balls belong to golfers

Golf balls driven into a lake belong to the original owner, according to a ruling by a judge in Vancouver, Canada.

The decision came in a case prompted by a youth who was retrieving balls from a water hazard. He was accused of stealing the balls, but the judge ruled the balls belong to the golfers, not the course.

Mayfair Lakes Management Corp. maintains a contract with a scuba diving company to recover balls lost in its lake. These balls are valued at more than \$19,000 a year.

The course is considering requiring a waiver from golfers, who would relinquish ownership of balls lost in the lake.



Fourth-grade students take 'teacher' Moore to school



Botany bottle an everyday help

By JIM MOORE

Traveling around the country with the U.S. Golf Association Green Section, meeting out advice to turfgrass professionals, I was surprised when I left my son's fourth-grade class having learned an important lesson myself — one I apply extensively to my research now.

In the midst of my visit, the students showed me the terrariums (they call them "botany bottles") they made out of old two-liter soda bottles.

Turns out, the terrariums are the perfect size for samples I remove from golf greens with a cup cutter to try and

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Jim Moore is a United States Golf Association Green Section agronomist, director of the Mid-Continent region. He lives in Waco, Texas.



COMMENTARY

Travel, turf trouble the consultant's lot

By JIM MOORE

Traveling around the Mid-Continent region, looking at golf courses, trying to figure out what is happening where, the endless writing of Turfgrass Advisory Service (TAS) reports, and way too many fast-food meals. Running in airports, standing in lines, glaring at the jerks who ignore boarding instructions, getting lost everywhere, and figuring out how to turn the lights on in twenty different rental cars.

On the more serious side, there is worrying about the superintendent and course

that are in trouble, wishing you could come up with a magic cure, dealing with the clubs that want more but simply can't fund the improvements, and the constant balancing act between spending time "on the road" and trying to find more time to spend with the family.

After nine years of dealing with these challenges, I have decided the only means of survival (only 20 years to go) is to

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Mount Pinatubo fallout

Ashes to ashes, dust to dust at Clark AFB course

By HAL PHILLIPS

ANGELES, The Philippines — When Mount Pinatubo blew its top here in October 1991, a layer of ash blanketed the 18 holes at nearby Clark Air Force Base, which soon closed its doors for good. In the frenzied retreat from lava and ash, the course suffered another indignity. It was looted: irrigation heads, cups, yardage markers, even door knobs were stolen.

Things have turned around at the site, as

a private corporation — Mondragon International Philippines Inc. — will refurbish the course to anchor a new destination resort. But the ash — which Filipinos call lahar — has created an agronomic poser for turf consultant Neil Noble and Honolulu-based architects Nelson, Wright, Hawthorn.

"They've got a real good loam underneath, but there's a four-inch layer of ash on top of everything," said Noble, an

Ohio State graduate who heads Honolulu-based Environmental Turf Systems.

"The ash is real sandy because this bit fell so close to the actual volcano [about 15 miles]. From a water filtration standpoint, the eruption basically top-dressed the whole site.

"I tested the ash and came up with high levels of phosphorus, potassium and calcium," Noble continued, "which are

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PGA Tour honors Myers for top-conditioned TPC track — Summerlin

By MARK LESLIE

The story of an Indiana farm boy who made good has continued for Gary Myers. The superintendent at TPC of Summerlin until March, Myers was presented the PGA Tour's annual Tournament Players Clubs Golf Course Maintenance Operations of the Year Award for 1993.

TPC Director of Golf Course Maintenance Operations Cal Roth presented Myers the award, citing excellence in course conditioning

for the members and the Las Vegas Invitational; personnel training; safety; budget and equipment management; and innovation in operational improvements for the TPC of Summerlin and the TPC Network.

"Because Gary has done such an outstanding job at Summerlin, he has been promoted to the TPC of Scottsdale," Roth announced.

Myers compared the challenges presented by his jobs at Summerlin and Scottsdale.

Summerlin, he said, was "a great design [Bobby Weed and Fuzzy Zoeller], built by quality contractors and with no shortcuts taken. It was the most-finished TPC course to open, and our challenge was to maintain it at the level of expectation everybody had at that time. We did."

At the 36-hole TPC of Scottsdale, Myers faces 110,000 rounds a year, including a number by many PGA Senior Tour golfers who call it home.

"It's a challenge in itself to maintain quality turf conditions under that enormous amount of play," he said. "But we also have to be aware that the touring seniors spend a lot of time playing here and it takes extra special care because of that."

TPC of Scottsdale hosts the Phoenix Open in January. But that's nothing new for Myers. During his term as superintendent at Desert Inn Country Club in Las Vegas from 1982-90, he prepped

the course for 17 or 18 PGA, LPGA and Senior PGA tournaments. Regular PGA and LPGA Tour events were hosted two weeks apart. Only two other courses host even two major PGA tournaments.

Myers, who studied engineering at Purdue University, graduated in 1978 from the winter school at the University of Massachusetts' Stockbridge School. He also worked from 1979-82 at Country Club of Green Valley south of Tucson.

Winter kill causes major problems

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coming season.

Keith Happ, USGA agronomist with the Mid-Atlantic Region, illustrated that the winter damage is widespread across the region. They all discussed how superintendents should proceed to repair damaged areas.

Some of the clubs hardest hit by winter injury will not be opening until "well into May," said superintendent Thomas L. Grimaldi of Tavistock Country Club, who spearheaded efforts to organize the meeting.

The Green Section experts outlined several turfgrass recovery procedures, saying superintendents should:

- Restrict traffic as long as possible on renovated and overseeded winter-damaged areas.
- Apply a starter fertilizer to the seed bed, achieve good soil-to-seed contact and use heavier seeding rates for the most rapid recovery.
- Overseed on damaged greens.
- Delay pre-emergent applications.
- Lightly cultivate the surface through spiking, shallow aeration and, possibly, careful slicing.

"Covering the seed with geotextile fabrics could aid germination, and primed seed will germinate better than traditional seed at lower soil temperatures," the Green Section said.

They also said perennial ryegrass should recover rapidly and well after overseeding.

The meeting was videotaped, and an edited edition is available at cost. Copies are available from Judy Policastro at 201-379-1100.

DEAD AIR FINDINGS IMMINENT

Preliminary results from the Georgia Turfgrass Foundation's flagship project — the dead air syndrome research green — should be forthcoming in mid-summer. Overall project coordination has been the responsibility of Jim Dusch and Ken Mangum, who have donated routine maintenance of the green. However, donations of cash and materials are still needed for this \$90,000 project. For further information, contact Douglas Moody at 404-975-4123.

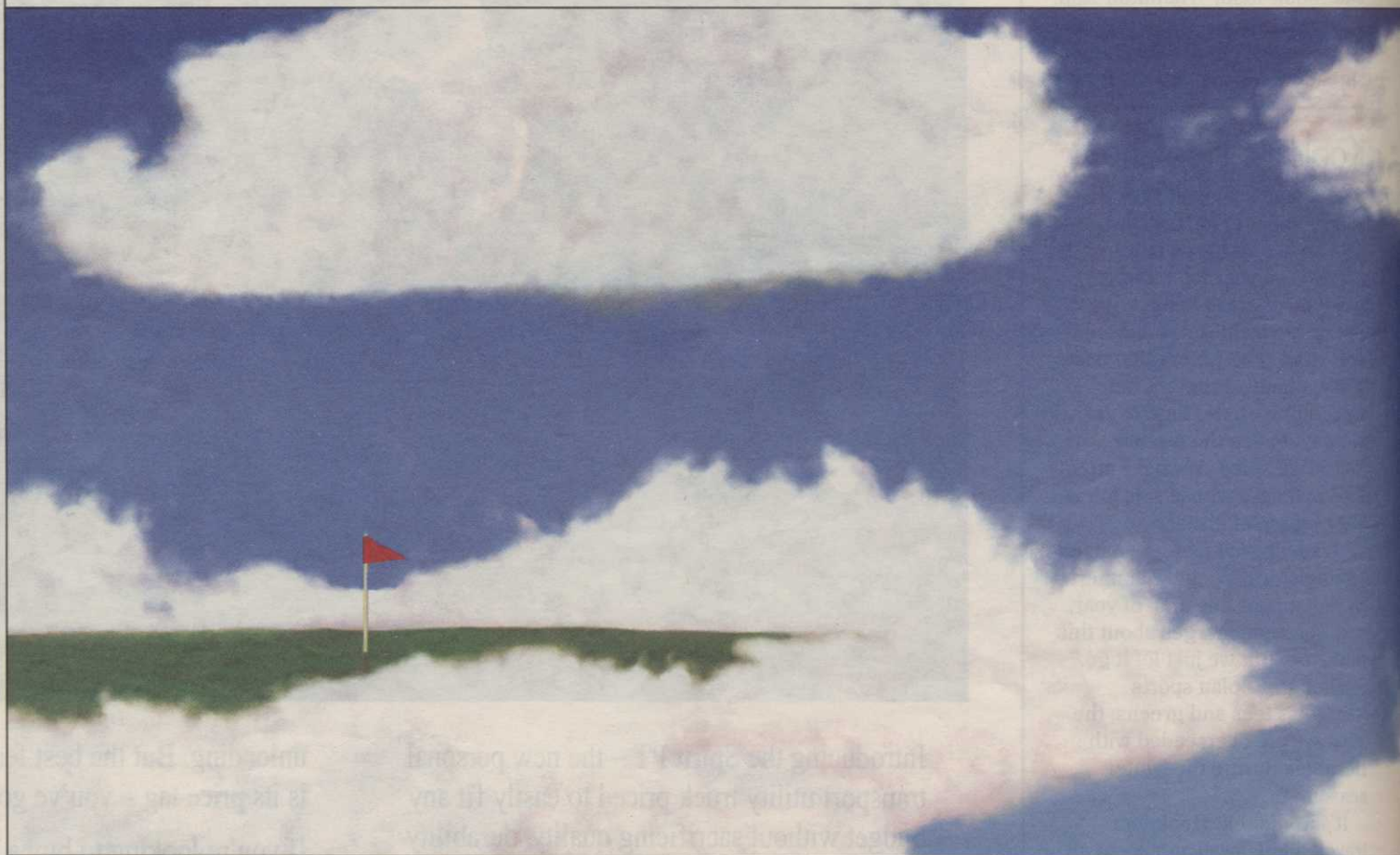
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When you're designing a course, you have to set your sights high. After all, if your turf isn't heavenly, golfers are anything but angels.

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appearance, performance and environmental requirements. Backed with the services and expertise to ensure that you're getting nothing but top quality seed. Every time.

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