

COMMENTARY

Puerto Rican development proved challenging

By FRANK J. DINENNA

FAJARDO, Puerto Rico — Central Florida Turf, Inc. of Avon Park, Fla., has completed construction of a new 18-hole golf course at the El Conquistador Hotel and Golf Resort's here.

The hotel and golf course sit on the northeast corner of the island, about 40 miles east of San Juan. The hotel is perched atop the cliffs of Las Croabas, where the Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean Sea meet.

As project supervisor, I found this to be a very challenging and rewarding assignment. Even though Puerto Rico is a commonwealth of the United States, in reality, it is a Spanish-speaking country, whose people are very friendly, helpful and hard-working. With their cooperation, I was able to locate all the raw materials needed to build the USGA greens.

One individual whose help save me a lot of time was superintendent Domingo Lagares. Greg Sherwood, the golf course and tennis director, made arrangements with CFT to hire Domingo until the grow-in started. He proved to be a valuable asset. He had an easy-going personality and a total knowledge of what and where I could find the materials — and men I needed to keep the project moving.

Domingo put together our island crew, people that understand the operations of a golf course.

As the crew from Florida was clearing and shaping the course, Domingo and his crew were installing an irrigation system and hand plating 419 sprigs on the seven-acre sod farm CFT had built just off site.

Sod importation was not permitted in Puerto Rico, due to a ban on soil, mostly because of nematodes. So all sprigs were imported from our farm in Avon Park, Fla. (419 for fairways and tees, Tifdwarf for greens).

This was the main reason we built the sod farm. The sod was used to ring tees, and line sand traps. In order to ship sprigs into Puerto Rico, we had to wash the soil free from the fresh cut sprigs, bag them by hand and store them in a refrigerator container, which was shipped by barge to San Juan, and delivered to the site.

Once the shaping was completed in an area, the irrigation crew would move in. The system's main line ran across the fairways, cutting them in half. By designing the irrigation system in this manner, you could isolate any half of a fairway you needed to work on without shutting down the whole fairways.

After shaping, drainage, irrigation, box blading and

power raking of a fairway was completed, Domingo's crew would take over and hand-rake fairways to give us a clean planting surface.

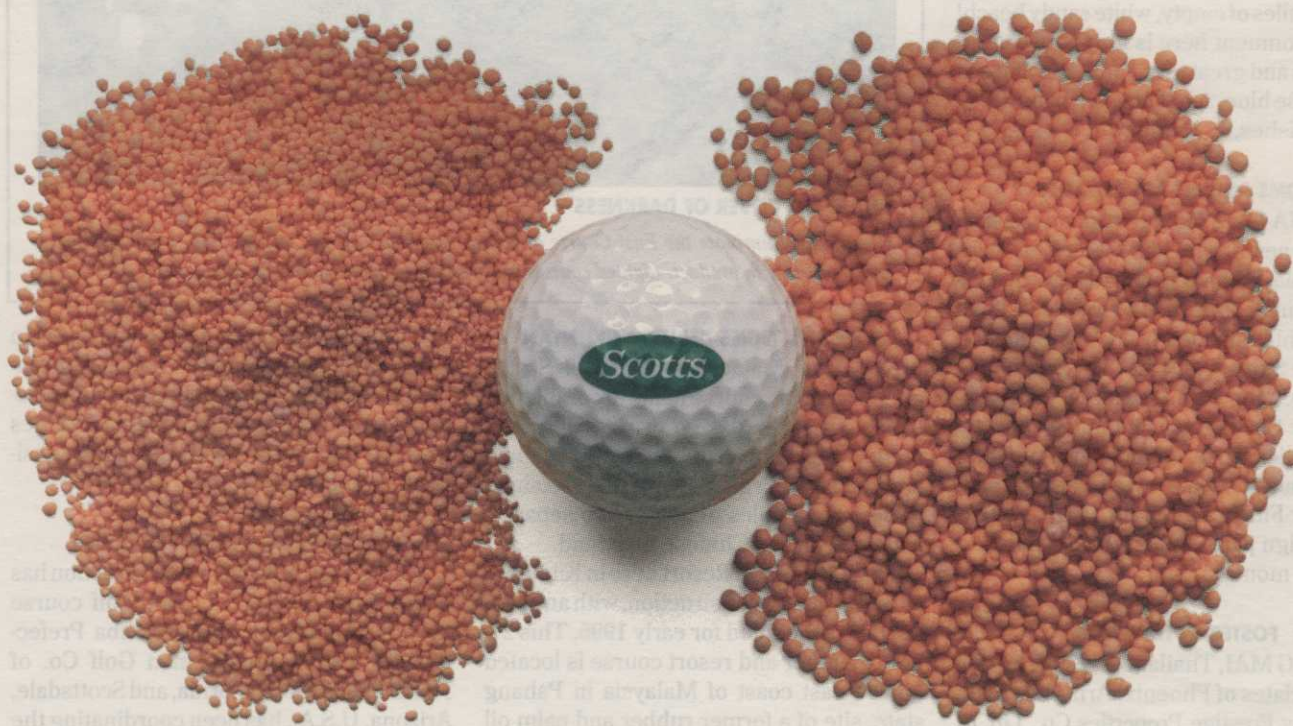
When the fairways were ready for planting, we would load pick-ups full of bagged sprigs, drive down the fairways and drop the bags off for the men to hand shake the sprigs onto the surface in front of the disc planter. By the end of the

day we had a finished product and a tired-but-happy crew.

In the end we put together a team of Americans and Puerto Ricans that built an outstanding golf course. And thanks to the design coordination of Arthur Hills and Mike Dasher, and the team work of Greg Sherwood, the men from Central Florida turf, Domingo Lagares and his crew, we built the El Conquistador.



El Conquistador in Puerto Rico, built by Central Florida Turf, Inc. of Avon Park, Fla.



Now Poly-S® Performance Comes In Two Unbeatable Sizes.

The traditional formulation of SCOTT'S® exclusive Poly-S Technology has proved its effectiveness on over 5,000 golf courses in the U.S., Canada and worldwide. And now, for more demanding, fine turf applications, Poly-S Technology is also available in smaller particles for use on all turfgrasses, including low-cut fairways and tees.

The smaller particle Poly-S fertilizers provide the same extended nutrient release and improved nitrogen efficiency that has made Poly-S the fastest selling fertilizer in history. And they are available in a variety of formulations to meet different application needs.

High K Turf Fertilizer provides a high level of available potassium to enhance the hardiness of the turf — in addition to initial green-up and extended residual.

Nitrogen/Potassium Turf Fertilizer offers a balance of nitrogen and potassium to strengthen the turf while providing quick initial green-up (without surge growth), sustained growth, and extended residual for more predictable long-term feeding.

Turf Fertilizer provides more initial green-up while supplying maintenance levels of readily available phosphorus and potassium.

Turf Nitrogen offers extended nutrient release for up to 10 weeks, while supplying sufficient sulfur to help correct deficiencies and maintain adequate soil levels.

Turf Fertilizer Plus Iron includes sufficient iron in plant-available form to correct and prevent deficiencies.

Super Turf Fertilizer offers the

longest residual currently available from any Poly-S fertilizer — up to 12 weeks.

Of course, Poly-S fertilizers also come with a Scott Tech Rep, an agronomically trained professional who is ready to help you develop a total turfgrass program.

For more information on Poly-S fertilizers, contact your Scott Tech Rep. Call 1-800-543-0006 or fax 513-644-7679.



Poly-S® Fertilizers