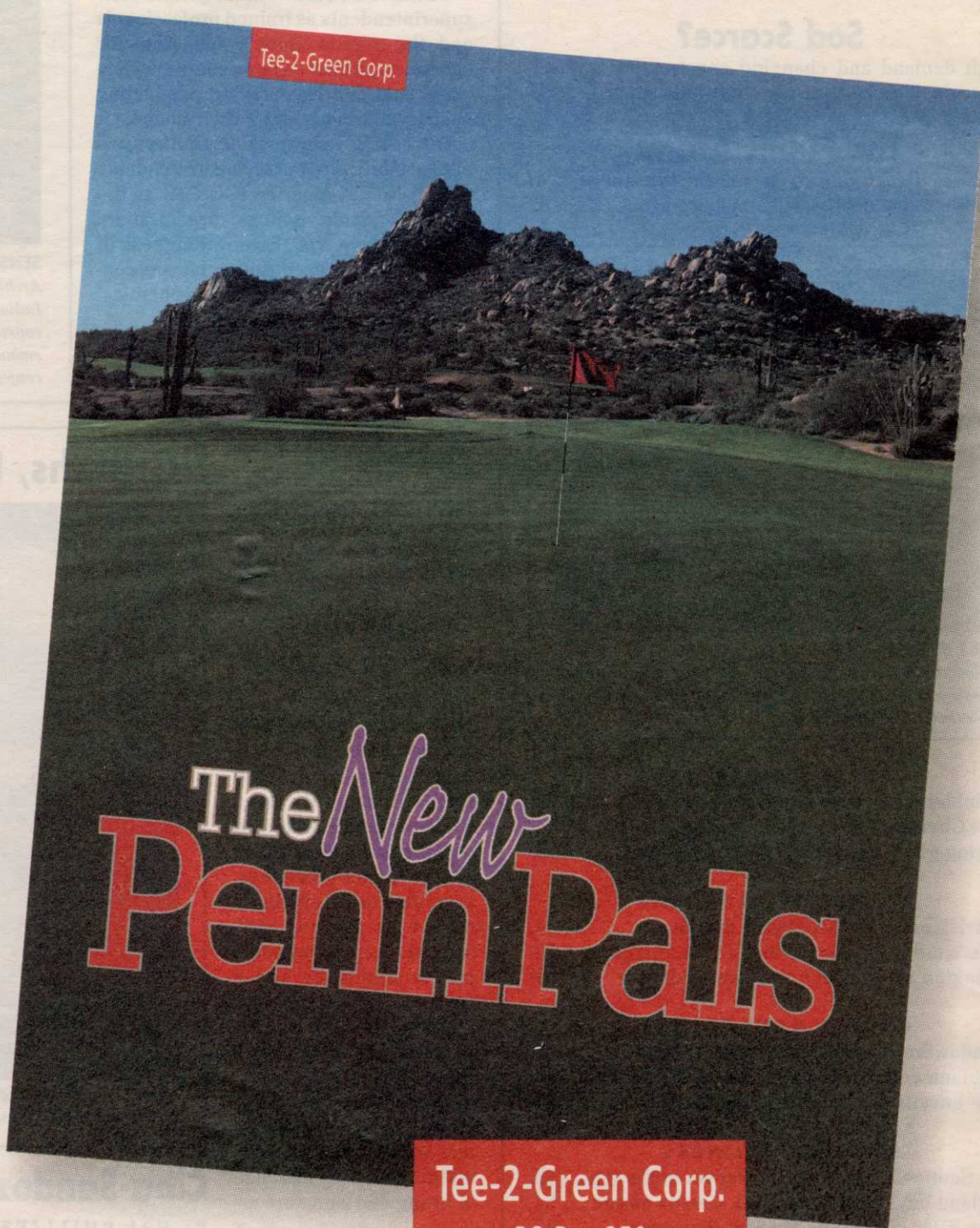


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Wetting Agents Help Reestablish Greens

EXCERPTS FROM: May/June 1995 issue of THROUGH THE GREEN
Publication of the Georgia Golf Course Superintendents Association

Dave Cousart, GCS The University of Georgia Golf Course

In September of 1986, I returned to Athens to assume the duties of Golf Course Superintendent and Golf Professional at the University of Georgia Golf Course. It was a move from bermuda greens back to bentgrass. Built in 1968, the UGA Golf Course is a Robert Trent Jones design. The greens were rebuilt over a two year period between 1989 and 1990. We rebuilt nine greens at a time to USGA specifications. This is a public course averaging 50,000 rounds a year. Despite a low percolation, we still have isolated hot spots on all humps, crowns, and tiers throughout the golf course. In the spring of 1990, I decided to experiment with Montco Product's SURF-SIDE 37 wetting agent. I set up small plots on my bentgrass nursery in June of 1990. The wetting agent was applied on a clear afternoon when temperatures exceeded 85 degrees. Treatments consisted of eight, 16, 32, and 128 ounces per 1000 square feet, and were not watered in. In fact, all irrigation was withheld until the next afternoon. I wanted to put the product through the wringer on the nursery before taking it to the greens. The next afternoon I saw no phytotoxicity. The 128 ounce rate had no burn despite not watering in. I was convinced enough to treat my high spots and crowns with a back pack sprayer at a 16 ounce per 1000 square feet rate. We applied the wetting agent and hand watered these areas immediately after application. I saw immediate improvement overnight. After this success with the isolated dry spots, I decided to treat the entire green complexes. My program begins in mid-March with a 16 ounce per 1000 square feet application rate on all humps and high spots. This initial application is done immediately after spring aerification. Next, an eight ounces per 1000 square feet application is made every three to four weeks from April through mid-September. The final application is made in September when core aerification is completed. During the year, when fungicides or fertilizers are applied, a one ounce per 1000 square feet rate is applied. I saved more than 90 percent of my syringe labor budget. The need for afternoon watering was basically eliminated. During

the summer of 1993 we had to syringe less than 10 times in the afternoon. During the summer of 1994 we only had to syringe two afternoons. The use of a wetting agent has helped eliminate hard to wet areas and by treating the entire greens complex, water movement through the soil has been improved. This has decreased the need for daily irrigation and nearly eliminates the need to syringe during the day. We have saved our operation over \$7,000 per year in labor costs during the summers of 1993 and 1994. The bottom line in any golf operation is to provide the best facility for the least amount of money, and in most cases, the operation must show a profit. In my opinion, the wetting agent has definitely contributed to the vast improvement of The University of Georgia Golf Course in the last few years. Just ask the golfers.

▶ DOUG BROOKS, Cherry Hills C.C., CO: My native soil greens at Cherry Hills will start to show some ugly Fairy Ring if I go more than 5 weeks without a Surf-Side 37 drench! Greens are drenched at the rate of 1.5 gallons Surf-Side in 300 gallons water, covering 7000 square feet, followed by at least 15 minutes of water. The watering is not required, but helps move the 37 into the soil. The greens that have the Fairy Ring will then be followed by the Hydroject. This process seems to move the Surf-Side into the profile even better, and provides excellent masking of the Fairy Ring. The same type of drench with Surf-Side 37 is used on tees, fairway spots, bunker banks, new sod, cart traffic areas, and any other weak spot that needs a boost. In between drenches, regular applications are made every other week on greens and fairways at the rate of 2oz/M Surf-Side with 1.5oz/M iron. Great color and general health are maintained with this program. Surf-Side 37 is a great product for me and my course. I will continue to find new and useful ways to incorporate 37 into my management programs.

▶ MARSHALL FEARING, Castle Pines G.C., CO: Ten PGA Tour events and ten years using Surf-Side 37 wetting agent. It's made the difference between a good looking golf course and a great looking golf course. Thanks Bob for helping us look great.

▶ TOM GRIMAC, Tavistock C.C., NJ: Surf-Side contributed to an 80% to 85% reduction in syringing over the past 15 years. This has meant major water and labor savings.

▶ GEORGE PIERPOINT, Ardsley C.C., NY: My greens and tees receive 5oz/M every three weeks. Surf-Side added to my grub control program provides excellent results. For 16 years this product has worked for me.

▶ ED PRICE, Coeur d'Alene Resort & G.C., ID: Golf Magazine voted in 1994 Coeur d'Alene Resort & Golf Course as America's best maintained resort course. With 38 acres of bentgrass greens, tees, and fairways Surf-Side 37 has proved to be an asset in maintaining the quality of the turf. Last year we had 90 days over 90 degrees consecutively and localized dry spots on our very mature Penneagle fairways were a minimal problem - same with LDS on our greens and tees. Surf-Side 37 is the only wetting agent I trust to mix with fertilizers and fungicides - I highly recommend it.

▶ LARRY SCHLIPPERT, Commonwealth National G.C., PA: I have been using Surf-Side for years. The Surf-Side pellets are a great extra tool. Anywhere you need to get water to, you have this option to add Surf-Side as you irrigate. The pellets are convenient - no mixing or spilling on-site. Great for newly seeded or sodded areas.

▶ JEFF SPANGLER, Troon North G.C., AZ: As with air, water, and sunlight; Surf-Side has been a fundamental standard in our bentgrass management program along with deep and infrequent watering. Regular Surf-Side applications of 16oz/1000/month have allowed us to maintain consistency in our percolation rates and in our putting surface throughout drying summers and harsh winters year after year.

▶ KEN THOMPSON, Stone Harbor G.C., NJ: I have been using Surf-Side 37 for eight years now on fairways, tees, rough, and especially on hydrophobic sand greens. On greens I've settled into a program of approximately 3oz/M every two weeks. Fairways and rough 1gal/100 water and spot drench treat. With fertigation I mix it to 1% volume in the summer and 2% in the spring and fall. As with everything, I make adjustments to match the situation.

▶ GORDON WITTEVEEN, Board of Trade C.C., CANADA: Surf-Side is my favorite wetting agent because it is safe, even in hot weather! You just can't burn with it, and that's important, especially this past summer when temperatures were over 90 degrees, weeks at the time.

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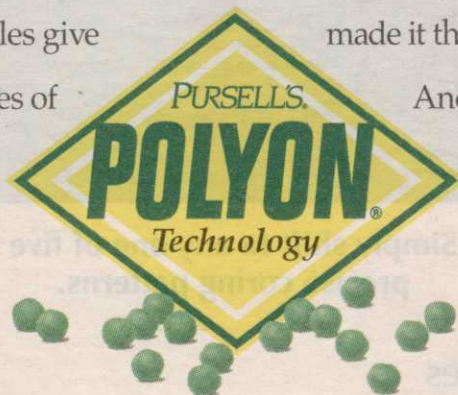
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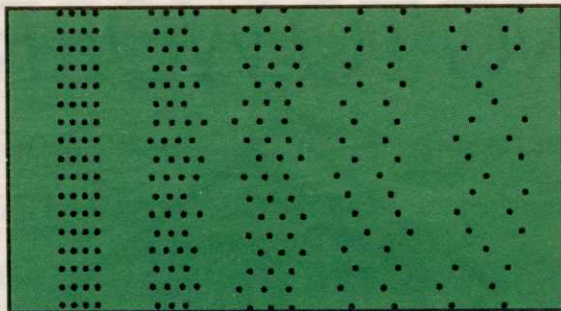


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