

Correspondence courses developed

Two turfgrass management correspondence courses have been developed by Dr. Keith Karnok of the University of Georgia's (UGA) Crop and Soil Sciences Department.

One course is patterned after the intermediate turfgrass management course taught by Karnok. The other, Principles of Turfgrass Management, was developed in

cooperation between UGA's Continuing Education and the Professional Lawn Care Association of America. The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America has reviewed both courses and will award three CEUs toward recertification for each course completed. More information is available from calling 800-325-2090 or 706-542-1756.

IGM OPENS REGIONAL OFFICES

LAKELAND, Fla. — To improve the level of service to its southwest and central Florida golf course clients, International Golf Management, Inc. (IGM) has opened a pair of regional offices in Ft. Myers and Tavares. "Our regional offices will enable us to provide existing clients with a higher level of service and will be an asset in securing new business in the rapidly developing southwest and central Florida markets which we view as tremendous growth areas for our business," said Scott Zakany, vice president and general manager. Located at 1419 Courtney Dr., the Ft. Myers office houses John Carlin, Southwest Florida regional manager. The Tavares office, located at 1617 East Alfred St., houses Jim Wells, Central Florida regional manager.

'Carpet-wall' bunkers built

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can't replace any other way. The problem is maintenance. They have to be replaced every three to five years. You can't get anybody in North America to do it. I'm sure that, early on, sodwall bunkers were common here because of the Scottish influence. But at some point they died out, probably because of maintenance factors."

After experimenting with 6-foot and then 3-foot lengths of carpet, Carlson settled on short pieces, which can be built into "a little curvy wall kind of like a brick wall."

The carpet is flexible and can be turned a bit like sod for rounded bunker faces, he said.

Between each layer of carpet Carlson's crews spread 1/4 to 1/2 inch of soil and then seeded it. "We wanted the grass to grow and fill in. The seed buries its roots into the next carpet and gives it some structure."

Carlson recommended carpet that is not quite deep-pile shag, because it has to have body. Earth-tone colors like brown, beige and green are good, he

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Jeff Carlson

said, because it tends more quickly to look like dirt quicker.

"Superintendents, given this idea, will fine-tune it and make it even better," he said. "It's labor-intensive to build, but it is to build a stackwall bunker, too. And these will never have to be rebuilt."

Meanwhile, a local carpet installer gleefully dropped off his carpet remnants for Carlson initially. "Now I'm getting carpet from everywhere."

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Hurdzan acknowledged that he for years had searched for ways to build cost-effective sodwall bunkers.

"I've tried all sorts of things to built them: zoysia, old grass, young grass, stuff with a lot of thatch, painting the sod with lacquer so it wouldn't decay, things to try to slow down the decay of bacterium," he said. "But I concluded that organic matter decays, and so I've tried to come up with an inorganic source."

"I thought the conveyor belt might be the way to go, but it's hard to find and really might not have quite that look. I thought of old fire hose. Then I saw this carpet, and I thought there is carpet everywhere and it will last forever. I'd love to use it in future courses."

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