

# Vaporizing means never having to say you're smoking

By TERRY BUCHEN

DUBLIN, Ohio — There are blowers, and then there are **blowers**. Just ask superintendent Ted Hunker, who, thanks to Ranger Construction Co., has seen the future when it comes to burning brush.

The scene: Tartan Fields Golf Club, about a mile from Muirfield Village Golf Club.

The cast: Hunker, Ranger Construction and Arnold Palmer's design team of Harrison Minchew and Joe Veal.

The star: a huge blower, powered by a V-8 diesel engine, that flames a fire so hot that wood burns quickly and virtually smoke-free.

"After the clearing process on our wooded holes," said Hunker, "we obtained burn permits from our township fire department and burned all of our trees in very large pits that were dug in far out-of-play areas and near high-tension power lines."

To speed up the burning and eliminate smoke, Ranger brought in the out-of-this-world blower.

"The fire department extended our burn permit indefinitely because of the great quality burning that is being done and we are being a good neighbor in the process without one single complaint," said Hunker, the former superintendent at TPC at River Highlands in Hartford, Conn. "It has made a big difference of what the neighbors will let us do."

Contractors have used between 12



A blower helps a crew keep smoke to a minimum after clearing brush on a golf course.



ON THE GREEN

and 15 pits thus far. The blower is portable and has needed very little maintenance. It is homemade and can be towed easily with a pickup or tractor, Hunker said.

Minchew, vice president of Palmer Course Design Co., uses this type of blower on other jobs "because of the great air quality, which virtually eliminates the smoke," he said. "Even if

it is not required by local codes and ordinances, we want to be a good neighbor and part of the team concept for the owner."

Minchew credited John Rielly of Ranger Construction and Mark Eitelman of Agriscapes with their attention to details like the blower and other quality-oriented jobs.

**New Turf Problem Solvers**

- ♦ Reduced turf clippings
- ♦ Aggressive tillering & fill in
- ♦ Improved mowing quality
- ♦ Very dark green color
- ♦ Better versus brown patch
- ♦ Durable under traffic
- ♦ Establishes new performance standards

**WIZARD**  
Turf Type Perennial Ryegrass

**EXCEL**  
TURF TYPE PERENNIAL RYEGRASS

**PENNANT II**  
TURF TYPE PERENNIAL RYEGRASS

**CELEBRATION**  
DWARF PERENNIAL RYEGRASS BLEND

**"Seeds for the 21st Century"**  
**Burlingham Seeds**

E. F. Burlingham & Sons  
P.O. Box 217  
Forest Grove, Oregon 97116  
800-221-7333 503-357-2141  
Fax 503-359-9223  
Quality Seed since 1914

LOPEZ CREEPING BENTGRASS

**Neumann Municipal Golf Course.**  
**First weekend in May.**  
**Over 500 rounds played.**  
**More divots than pars.**  
**More spike marks than bogeys.**  
**The scores were appalling.**  
**But the course was impeccable.**  
**Even on Monday.**

Lopez Creeping Bentgrass, from Finelawn Research, performs flawlessly — even when the golfers don't. Specifically formulated for tees, fairways and greens, Lopez maintains its superior appearance and play characteristics even under the harshest conditions. It greens up early and has excellent genetic stability without the tendency to develop patchiness. In fact, Lopez has outperformed Pennncross in bentgrass trial time and time again. Superintendents from across the country are always impressed by its rich green color, low crown height and rapid vegetative growth. Lopez Creeping Bentgrass is just one of over 14 varieties developed by Finelawn agronomists. For more information or the location of the dealer nearest you, just give us a call or visit our web site. With Finelawn, your course can't look any better.

*Photo of a golfer on a green.*

P.O. Box 1051, Lake Oswego, OR 97034  
**Finelawn** (503) 636-2600 FAX (503) 636-7020  
www.finelawn.com

Perennial Ryegrasses: Stallion Supreme, Stallion Select, Tall Fescues, Finelawn BGL, Finelawn 88, Finelawn Puddle, Fine Fescues, Flyer Creeping Red, Eureka Band, Columbia Chewings Bentgrass, Lopez Creeping, Supina Bluegrass, Supranova Kentucky Bluegrass, Chateau Zoysiagrass, Zen 300, Zen 400

## 'Winning Fields' field days planned around New York

ALBANY, N.Y. — The New York State Turfgrass Association is planning a series on sports turf maintenance, "Winning Fields," scheduled at Hofstra University on July 14, Dutchess Stadium on July 15 and SUNY Potsdam, July 17.

The goal of the programs is to provide basic and advanced topics with an emphasis on understanding the fundamental principles of sports turf management, stressing safety issues. Topics will include variety selection, fertilization for maximum rooting, mowing, watering techniques, seeding high traffic areas, communicating with coaches and administrators, integrated pest management for sports turf and spreader calibration.

Scheduled speakers are Dr. Frank Rossi, assistant professor and Extension turfgrass specialist at Cornell University; Bob Emmons, professor of plant science at SUNY Cobleskill; Dominic Morales, chairman of the Department of Plant Science at SUNY Delhi; John Liburdi Jr. from the town of Colonie and Kevin Trotta, head groundskeeper at North Rockland Central School District. Fred Soviero of Hofstra University, Mike Francese of Dutchess Stadium and Steve Bracy of SUNY Potsdam will give their perspective on managing a multi-use sports turf field and host tours of each facility.

These seminars will take place from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Participants will have the opportunity to attend a trade show with state-of-the-art equipment and supplies, held in conjunction with the seminar.

"Winning Fields" is sponsored by the New York State Turfgrass Association, Cornell University and the New York State Association for Superintendents of School Buildings and Grounds.