

# Spring Prep: There are few rules, if any

By MICHAEL LEVANS

If there were one universal spring preparation rule that could be neatly stitched and framed to hang in the maintenance shed office it would probably read, "Do your fall work."

Other than that, no rules apply when it comes to getting a course up and running for the new season. Mother Nature takes over and your left to deal with the rites of spring — field mice making winter homes in sod-wall bunkers and irrigation boxes, deer damage, elk dung, frost heaves and those pesky early-season players.

"Everybody gets spring fever," said Terry Buchen, an agronomic consultant. "Then they watch The Masters and everybody goes nuts and wants to get on the course before it's ready."

"Our single biggest spring-prep problem is keeping the golfers off the course until the frost thaws out," said Gerry Faubel, superintendent at Saginaw Country Club in Saginaw, Mich. "They can play when it's frozen, but when the frost is coming out of the ground it's imperative that they stay off."

Faubel said he's posted signs around the course, but that's never enough to keep the golf-hungry at bay.

"It's so easy for strangers to just park on the street and jump on, so we have to keep an eye out and politely ask them to leave."

Smaller springtime pests come in the form of voles for Kevin Ross, superintendent at the Country Club of the Rockies in Vail, Colo. The voles gnaw away at the grass under snow cover, which results in tiny piles of wet grass clippings after the thaw.

"They gnaw it down, cut it so short that we have to reseed or refertilize in those spots," said Ross. "It's our biggest problem." But Ross comes back at the little creatures with a safe, homespun remedy which has yet to fail him.

"We spray hot pepper sauce on the grass to make the grass pungent, a little less appetizing," said Ross.

Ross starts his spring prep during the first week in April and aims to open the first week in May, after the elk dung has been shoveled and hauled away, of course.

Let's not forget the field mice. Buchen said he has seen many a topnotch irrigation system go down due to mice turning irrigation controller boxes into winter retreats.

"They eat the insulation off the wires," said Buchen. "Supers can put rat and mice poison in irrigation controllers, but that's about all you can do."

Moisture is Gary Laliberte's greatest springtime foe.

For Laliberte, superintendent at Prout's Neck Country Club, Scarborough, Maine, it's water, water everywhere on the 3rd and 16th fairways, which are both at sea level.

"Those two fairways are under 2 feet of water every spring," he said. "We have to pump for a couple weeks to get it completely

out and there's nothing we can do about it."

And if the rodents, dung and flooding isn't enough to keep you busy, there's always the basic spring clean up — branches, leaves, etc.

"You can nip a lot of clean up in the bud in the fall," said Faubel.

# Spring prep: New challenges in N.D.

By BOB SPIWAK

GRAND FORKS & FARGO, N.D. — When the Red River flooded to a record 54 feet last spring, the golf courses along its banks in Grand Forks and Fargo were inundated. This year, spring prep promises to be a little less complicated for

the courses that were ravaged by the silt and mud deposited by the raging waters.

Three of the courses contacted, Lincoln Park and the Country Club at Grand Forks, and Edgewood CC in Fargo plan to open on schedule this

Continued on next page



## Award Rules



### High Tolerance At Short Cuts

No matter how you gauge performance, **Award** measures up. It handles disease pressure better than other Kentucky bluegrass

varieties in its class, even when cut as short as 1/2 inch.\* And trial after trial proves that **Award** maintains its intense dark green color under varying management regimes.

**Award** has earned its status as an elite variety by raising performance standards to a whole new level.

But, isn't that what you would expect from Jacklin's Five Steps Above™ Program?



**JACKLIN**  
SEED

A DIVISION OF J.R. SIMPLOT COMPANY

5300 West Riverbend Avenue • Post Falls, Idaho 83854-9499  
Phone: 1-800-688-SEED • Fax: 208-773-4846 • www.jacklin.com  
©1998 Jacklin Seed • All rights reserved

\*NTEP data available upon request.

## Smithco's Sweep Star ready for spring duty

Smithco's new Sweep Star 48 is compact, highly maneuverable and designed for all-purpose use. It has a 4-foot sweep and employs the Smithco-exclusive single reel pick-up system.

Available in both high lift and ground dump models, the Sweep Star 48 has an adjustable reel height which allows clean-up of both wind-rows and debris piles.

The high lift model's hopper has a capacity of 1.75 cubic yards, with hydraulic operation, while the ground dump model's hopper handles 1.5 cubic yards. The sweeper's single reel system picks up all types of debris, large and small, and rides on castor wheels. For more information, contact 610-688-4009.

CIRCLE #211

## Vermeer introduces 75HP stump cutter

Vermeer Manufacturing Co., the originator of the first stump cutter, has introduced the new mid-size 75 HP (56 kw) SC 752 stump cutter for high-tech, low-maintenance stump removal. Vermeer's exclusive beltless cutter wheel drive system provides operators the efficiency

of a mechanical drive unit without engine side load. The beltless system eliminates the need to slide the engine to engage the cutter wheel drive; maintenance also is easier than on belt-drive systems. For more information, contact 1-888-VERMEER.

CIRCLE #212

## Echo offers reduced-hassle pruning

Pruning high limbs is no longer a chore with the new Echo SRS-2400 Aggressor. Powered by a 23.6cc, dual-ring piston engine, the Aggressor combines reciprocating cutting action with extended reach up to 16 1/2 feet to tackle the toughest pruning jobs safely from the ground. Professionals can forget the pole saw and ladder. The Aggressor easily reaches high places to trim away branches and limbs up to 4 1/2 inches in diameter. For more information, contact 847-540-8400.

CIRCLE #213

# See No Weevil.



## For Out-of-Sight Weevil Control—SCIMITAR®.

To see no weevils, SCIMITAR is an exceptional addition to your turf pest management program because it:

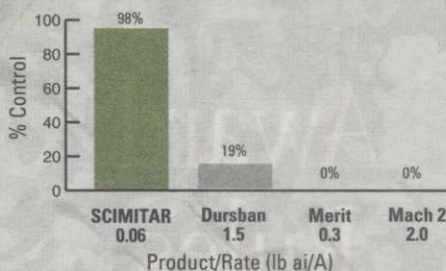
- Controls both *Hyperodes* and *Ataenius* weevil adults
- Targets adults to prevent eggs and larvae
- Delivers fast knockdown
- Provides outstanding performance at low use rates
- Is available in two convenient formulations—wettable powder & capsule suspension
- Is easy on the environment

To see no weevils in turf, nothing is better than SCIMITAR.

For more information, contact your authorized Zeneca Distributor, or call Zeneca Professional Products Toll Free at 1-888-617-7690.

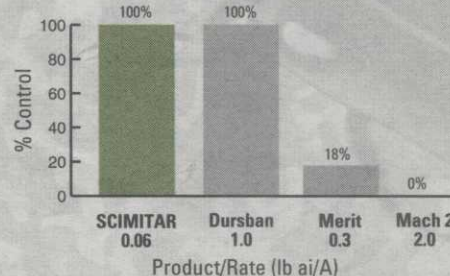
[www.zenecaprofprod.com](http://www.zenecaprofprod.com)

Control of Annual Bluegrass Weevil



Source: S. R. Alm, et al, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI, 1997.

Control of Adult Black Turfgrass *Ataenius* Weevil



Source: H.D. Niemczyk, Ohio State University, 1996.

**Scimitar**  
INSECTICIDE

Always read and follow label directions carefully. SCIMITAR® is a registered trademark of a Zeneca Group Company. Dursban is a trademark of DowElanco. Mach 2 is a trademark of RohMid LLC Company. Merit is a trademark of Bayer Corporation. © 1998. Zeneca Inc.

## N.D. getting ready

Continued from previous page  
spring, barring any more severe flooding.

According to Lincoln Park superintendent Steve Mullally, all 18 holes opened on August 1. For a time before that, a makeshift nine hole course was available for play.

The big question for this year, said Mullally, is the fate of the course as it currently exists. The Army Corps of Engineers is considering building a dike along the banks of the river. If that proposal goes through, half of the course will be lost. Luckily, the parts department has other property on higher ground for the new course.

Overall, the fairways suffered the most. At Lincoln Park, six to nine inches of silt on 75 acres were dragged off, disked and reseeded, according to Mullally. The greens were hosed off, then scraped. The irrigation came through with few problems, but three tees had to be rebuilt.

"The newly seeded areas took off in August...it's hard to believe the course was flooded, the way it's come back," said Mullally.

Seventy miles south, at Edgewood CC in Fargo, the turf

Continued on page 78

GOLF COURSE NEWS

**ZENECA** Professional Products

CIRCLE #149/GCSAA BOOTH #3359

## "Masters"

Continued from page 74

carry shots. So, you think Mr. Nicklaus invented this design? Think again, as you read what William S. Flynn wrote in the *USGA Green Section Bulletin* in October 1927:

"America has developed a more or less stereotyped shot to the green that is the high, all-carry shot. This has been brought about, no doubt, by the fact that fairways and particularly approaches have gone unwatered during the summer when the ground has become hard. It is much simpler to play a high carry shot to a soft green which gets water than to attempt a pitch-and-run to a green with a cement-like approach."

• And, is it a new thing to have equipment changes affect course design? Here's Thomas again, zeroing in on the U.S. Golf Association's regulations levied on golf balls: "These changes ... make the problem of the constructor more confused than ever, because he must endeavor to prepare his entire course for a variable standard, and must provide, for the exasperating problem, a green which later will take care of any oval, balloon, or cannon-ball upon which the governing body may insist."

Don't you just love it?

Other insights abound, and many will take you aback. For instance, what would A.W. Tillinghast have thought about today's penchant for 7,000-yard courses? "The fetish of distance is worshipped entirely too often and there should be a quick end to it," he wrote in *Golf Illustrated* in March 1935. "Very recently, in California during one of the open tournaments, we heard a noted player asked his opinion of the course. 'It's too damned long' came the instant and candid reply — and this answer was made by one of the longest hitters in our land. And with

this note of confidence from one for whom long holes have no terrors, we are for the present content to rest our case."

Also, we hear the claim that today's golfers — especially Americans — are wimps. If so by 1990s standards, how would they have fared in 1935 when Tillinghast wrote: "No doubt, many of the hazard-shirking fraternity would declare that playing a wayward ball from such places was entirely too difficult. What utter nonsense! There were and are shots that will do it; another generation knew how to play them, and it is not altogether pleasant to think that golfers of today are going soft. Possibly a bit more sting in the rod of golf chastisement in these, or modern times, would render it more of an achievement to break par so habitually."

Obviously, Tilly thought the golfers of his day were thin-skinned about playing the ball as it lies, compared to their colleagues of the past.

His thoughts are echoed by Tom Doak, who may have penned my favorite quote in the book. In his *Play It as It Lies*, Doak said: "Modern American golf design is modeled on the same principles as our ailing criminal justice system: We build more water hazards [prisons], but they only house the disadvantaged, while the elite receive suspended sentences."

No self-respecting retrospective would leave out the great Dr. Alister MacKenzie. Here, MacKenzie wrote in the January 1934 edition of *Golfing Magazine* that any artificial lake should have a clear bottom so that balls can be recovered. "There is no thrill in driving over an ugly hazard," he said. To make his point he recalled many years ago "seeing a peppery Major at Strensall in Yorkshire, England, top three balls into an extremely muddy pond. The ugliness of the hazard and his bad play irritated him so much that he threw his club after his ball, then he threw his whole bag in and when his small caddie

began to laugh he chucked him in, too!"

And no self-respecting collection would be without an introspective description of St. Andrews and its place in the world of golf. This one comes from Robert Hunter, who at times assisted MacKenzie and H. Chandler Egan in design, as it appeared in *The American Golfer* in January 1927:

"Where else in the world do we find a course to which all great players journey and where all ages and abilities meet and all praise with equal fervor? What other course can we all name which defies the champions and yet delights tottering old age? What other course can be played with a putter — the Swilken Burn being, in that case, the only serious obstacle — and at the same time be spoken of, by those qualified to speak, as the best course in the world..."

"Every time I visit St. Andrews my love and admiration for it increase. I should rather play that course for the rest of my life than any other I know. I should never grow weary of it; nor should I ever conquer it; and every round would whet my appetite to tackle it again on the morrow."

## GUEST COMMENTARY

### Canada

Continued from page 14

Manual will incorporate the CGSA mission statement into practice. That is, the CGSA is a society committed to excellence in golf course management and environmental responsibility through the continuing professional development of its members.

A "user-friendly" theme will focus on interpreting environmental law into laymen's terms, while clearly outlining requirements of what must and should be done to be in compliance.

Due to the sheer amount of information gathered, teaching aids such as "Did You Know ..." and "Plain English, Eh!" are used to make an easy-to-read format. In addition to a glossary, numerous "Q&A" scenarios will be brought forward, as well as professional insight from industry leaders, such as golf course architects, engineers and turf advisors. In other words, the Environmental Management Resource Manual will be something the membership will use.

The manual is to be divided up into nine parts:

Section 1 — Introduction (purpose, how to use the manual)

Section 2 — An Explanation of Regulatory Requirements (i.e. municipal, provincial and federal)

Section 3 — Important Steps To Avoid Being Investigated

Section 4 — Maintenance Facility Operations (includes pesticide licensing requirements, to fuel storage)

Section 5 — Course Renovation and Redesign (includes permit requirements, to erosion control)

Section 6 — Environmental Monitoring (i.e. pesticide and fertilizer nutrients)

Section 7 — IPM

Section 8 — Environmental Enhancement Projects (i.e. Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program and the Golf Course

## N.D. getting ready

Continued from page 45

was under water for 40 days. Superintendent Mark Lindberg said the course is still recovering. One-hundred acres were overseeded with rye grass for fast growth. These have to be overseeded with the normal bluegrass/fescue mix.

"Although," said Linberg, "if it's going to keep flooding, we may keep it in rye."

About 10 percent of the roughs have yet to be reseeded. The course opened in early July, and because of the silt which remained after cleaning, "pick and clean" was the name of the game.

Course mechanic Doug Klemetson related that walk-behind, rather than triplex mowers, were used on the greens, of which only four survived the flood. He described the course as being in bowl, with a protective dike of 28 feet. Water above that level comes in from all directions, and with the river at 54 feet, there was no protection.

At the Grand Forks Country Club, where damages were in the quarter million dollar area, the pumphouse and computer system were wasted, said mechanic Dan Knoblich.

Superintendents Association of America's Steward Awards)

Section 9 — Communication (with members, media and the general public)

Sections 4-7 will conform to the following structure:

1) Introduction.

2) Regulatory Requirements to summarize how the topic is governed in Canada and by whom (i.e. municipalities, provincial bodies, or federal institutions).

3) Standard Operating Practices is the heart of each topic. Figures, tables, contact numbers for individual provinces

and discussions of all relevant issues are discussed here.

4) Colleague Examples outline what the industry has adopted from legislative requirements. Pro-active superintendents' case histories are included, as well as industry leaders' opinions on the subject matter.

The project team consists of Kirk Morrison (co-writer), President of Bel•MK Engineering Ltd., Calgary, Alberta, who has extensive experience in assembling environmental codes of practice for a number of industries, and me. A steering committee has been comprised for editing purposes and is headed by Environmental Committee Chairman Jay Leach (CGSA's Alberta director), superintendent at Cottonwood Golf and Country Club in Dewinton, Alberta, and includes golf course superintendents across the country.

Both the steering committee and writers were intentionally chosen from all sides of the country in order to create a holistic document that would have a national focus.

It is nearing its completion, and sponsorship opportunities are still available for the copy, binding and distribution process. Interested industry affiliates should contact Vince Gillis, CGSA executive director, at 905-602-8873.



Mark Scenna

## Save nearly 50% on golf cart parts.



When you really need parts, they better be reliable. Of course, you could go "factory original", but when "knock-offs" will do, it just makes sense to save. Sometimes as much as 50%.

At Mid-Atlantic, we fix more golf carts than anyone in the country. As one of the world's

largest golf cart dealers in our own right, representing Yamaha and E-Z-GO, we have 1.5 million dollars in parts inventory on site.

Sure there are other people you can call for parts but nobody who has the experience and selection we can offer you for all types of golf carts. It's time for you to give a new source a try.

**MID-ATLANTIC  
EQUIPMENT  
CORPORATION**

Part of the Boyce Group

**1-800-526-7278**

Fax: (610) 489-9478

<http://www.golfcart.com>

Order by phone: 24 hour  
turnaround guaranteed.  
VISA & MasterCard Accepted