

Commentary

Lending aid to Asians expands Americans' knowledge as well

Dr. RICK L. BRANDENBURG

The golf industry has grown by leaps and bounds in Asia during the past few years. Despite the recent economic downturn, many believe this slowdown is temporary and some areas seem to have been only modestly affected. As the industry matures there will be many research and educational programs necessary to better serve the needs of the superintendents working in these areas. At the same time there are significant and unique challenges in meeting these needs.

These challenges for educators in Asia include the diversity of conditions, cultivars, environment, pest problems, availability of equipment and technology, labor and other factors throughout this region.

A regional seminar thus assembles an audience with a magnitude of diversity rarely seen in the United States and a unique challenge to the instructor. Add to this the lack of available local research data and publications for many countries, and the instructor often finds that the best approach is to extrapolate information generated in the United States and fit it to the Asian continent.

In my 17 years as a professional entomologist helping solve insect problems, including those that attack turfgrass, I've been fortunate to travel to a number of countries. I've had the opportunity to teach seminars on integrated pest management in the Golf Asia conferences in Singapore in March 1997 and 1998.

The challenge of working with superintendents with various levels of training from a large number of Asian countries was both demanding and rewarding. The linkages and collaborations that develop are invaluable. But, more importantly, I left Singapore with a realistic appreciation of the challenges that face superintendents in this part of the world. There are two major issues that seem to be at the heart and soul of the superintendents needs in Asia:

- One is the unquenchable desire of the superintendents to get more information and have more educational opportunities. In this characteristic, they are like their counterparts in the States.
- The second is the need for sound research programs conducted under local conditions to help superintendents with the unique sets of problems they often face. This concern is much different from the U.S. situation in which superintendents benefit from a rather extensive research effort.

A key question to ask is, how do those involved in turfgrass research and education provide answers for the problems unique to the Asian golf industry? The logistics of doing business in Asia are different from seminars in the United States. The cost, time and energy in-

vested in developing programs in Asia are significant. However, despite the cost, there is definitely the need and interest, and even with the recent economic problems, this situation may only have modest long-term impact on the continued development of golf in Asia.

In effect, the need and demand for additional training will most likely continue to increase. The limited turfgrass research effort in Asia is comparative with the growth of the turf industry in the Southeastern United States. As the golf industry grew so rapidly over the past few decades, in many instances research was lacking. Only in recent years have some institutions been able to "catch up" to the industry with enhanced research efforts.

But this situation is of great importance, not just for the superintendents living and working in Asia, but for the future of the golf industry as a whole. As golf continues to grow, the problems of managing high-quality turf will grow along with it.

One example of a significant need for research input in my area of expertise is development of effective management strategies for mole crickets on golf courses. In some areas of Asia we are still uncertain as to the species that infest the turf and have limited information on their life cycle. Both of these pieces of information are critical for effective management.

In addition, the species and life cycles probably vary considerably from Singapore to southern China and Hong Kong. The challenges of addressing problems of turf management, or assisting in research programs in Asia are significant, but not necessarily insurmountable.

Our ability to adapt data from the United States and other countries to the Asian environment is often difficult and sometimes dangerous. The cost and time investment of U.S. scientists working collaboratively with Asian counterparts may be prohibitive. However, the needs and opportunities will remain until the issue is addressed.

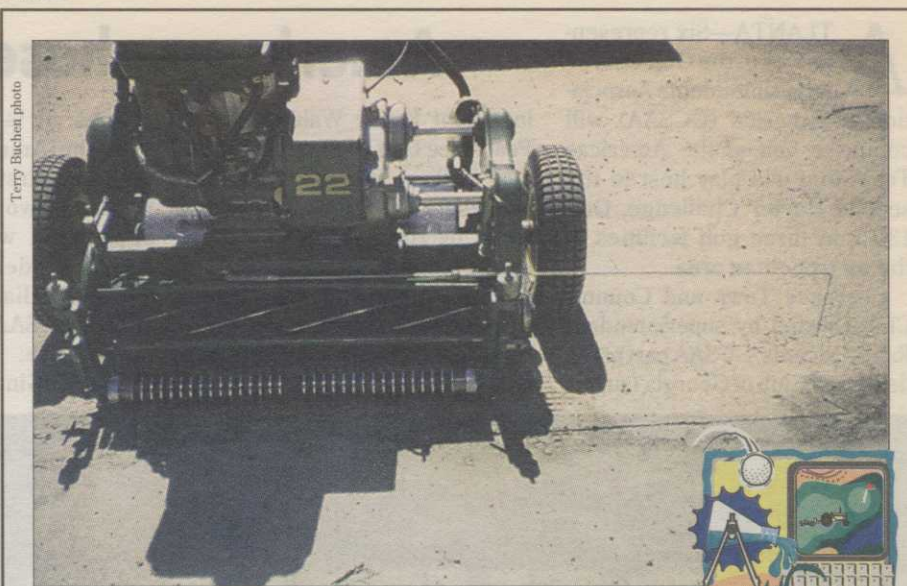
In an effort to assist in developing management strategies for mole crickets in Asia, which is one of the region's major pest problems, I'm initiating a program to receive samples of mole crickets from a number of superintendents in Asia for species identification and working out a plan to help them determine the life cycle of this pest in their region. This small effort will hopefully benefit the superintendents in this region and also help increase the scope of my own research program.

In addition, the contacts I've made result in numerous e-mail messages and letters requesting additional information. The interaction of U.S. turfgrass researchers provides Asian superintendents with additional contacts in the States.

Where do we go in the future to assist in the educational needs of superintendents in Asia? Do we build a longer-term effort to help meet some of the research

Continued on page 18

Dr. Rick L. Brandenburg is a turf entomologist at North Carolina State University.



There is no guessing about where the edge of the collar is with this unique equipment modification.



Perfect collars the easy way

By TERRY BUCHEN

BRANSON, Mo. — Cary L. Tegtmeier, a certified golf course superintendent at Holiday Hills Resort & Golf Club here, is a perfectionist — a fact that's reflected in the adjustments he and his staff have to some of their maintenance equipment. Wanting to make the collar widths more consistent, Tegtmeier's crew installed a simple guide to make the mower operators' job easier and more efficient.

"We went to our local WalMart," Tegtmeier said, "and located the longest replacement automobile telescopic radio antenna available to mount on the front of each of our walk-behind greensmowers used to mow collars. Because we obviously mow our collars clockwise and counter-clockwise, we had to make the antenna so it could flip out on either side of the mower."

They accomplished this by adding a bolt to the replacement antenna. Because the antennas were not long enough, they manufactured a slide mechanism onto which the bolt attaches and slides back and forth. The slide mechanism has a notch on either side into which the bolt locks. When it locks, it attaches to the metal safety shield in front of the mower over the top of the reel.

The antennas telescope up to 30 inches wide, which is Holiday Hills' collar width. By bending the end of the antenna 90 degrees down towards the turf, they made it easier for mower operators to see the mowed edge.

"All in all, it cost about \$10 for each antenna and about an hour's labor making the slide mechanism," Tegtmeier said.

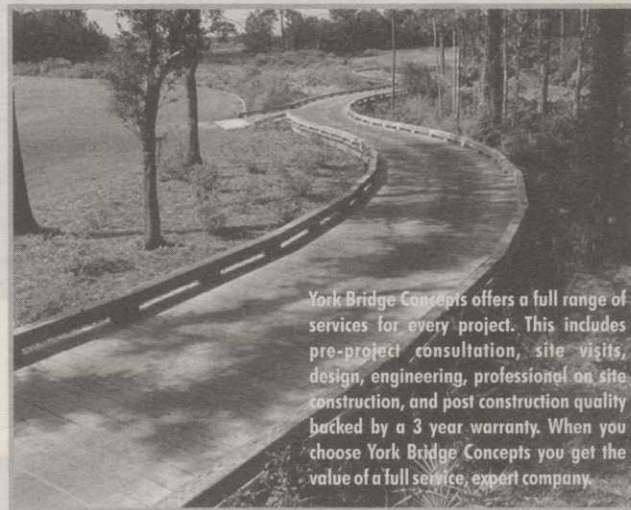
"We are very happy with our in-house idea and modification to our collar mowers as it is the little things that count, which makes a big impact in our entire operation," he added.



TIMBER BRIDGE SOLUTIONS

YOUR FULL SERVICE TIMBER BRIDGE COMPANY.

Vehicular Bridges, Pedestrian Bridges, Covered Bridges, Shelters, Gazebos, Boardwalks, and Retaining Walls



York Bridge Concepts offers a full range of services for every project. This includes pre-project consultation, site visits, design, engineering, professional on site construction, and post construction quality backed by a 3 year warranty. When you choose York Bridge Concepts you get the value of a full service, expert company.

Southern USA (800) 226-4178 Northern USA (800) 383-0555 Western USA (800) 474-4990

Visit our web site for more information: www.ybc.com

Americans chosen for Hayter Cup

ATLANTA—Six representatives of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) will comprise half of the Americas Team that will play host to the second Hayter Challenge, Oct. 13-15, at three golf facilities in the metropolitan area.

Cherokee Town and Country Club (hosted by superintendent Randy Nichols, GCSAA past president; Golf Club of Georgia (superintendent Randy Waldron); and Peachtree Golf Club (superintendent William Shirley) will be the venues for the tournament sponsored by Hayter — a European equipment manufacturer.

The competition is designed to promote international relations and communications between superintendent organizations. It is held biennially, with the Americas Team winning the first match, 10-8, in England two years ago. The opposition was provided by superintendents from Europe and Australia.

The GCSAA representatives for 1998 are:

Paul McGinnis, GCSAA immediate past president, Alta Mesa CC, Mesa, Ariz.

Dave Fearis, GCSAA vice president, Blue Hills CC, Kansas City, Mo.

Tommy Witt, GCSAA director, Stillwaters, Dadeville, Ala.

Ken Magnum, GCSAA director, Atlanta Athletic Club, Duluth, Ga.

Al Pondel, Deerfield (Ill.) Golf Course.

Jim Dusch, Grey Hawk Golf Club, Cumming, Ga.

Dusch in 1996 and Pondel earlier this year won the annual GCSAA Golf Championship. The remainder of the Americas Team, representing the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association and the Asociacion Argentina De Golf, include:

Doug Meyer, superintendent, Cedarbrook Golf & CC, St. Sophia, Quebec.

Dean Piller, superintendent, Cordova Bay Golf Course, Victoria, B.C.

Mike Baden, superintendent, Cranbrook Golf & Country Club, Cranbrook, B.C.

Sylvain Alarie, superintendent, Club de Golf St. Jerome Inc., Bellefeuille, Quebec

Ricardo de Udaeta, TCM Revista Technica, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Alejandro Young, CGC Las Praderas De Lugau, San Isidro, Argentina.

"The golf course management industry is truly international," said GCSAA President George Renault.

"We share tremendous amounts of information and experiences with our counterparts from around the globe. The participants will be competitive on the course, but the purpose is to foster relations and benefit the associations that each represent."

The opposing team, from the United Kingdom and Europe, includes:

Andy Sheehan, England; Nick Webber, Ireland; Derek Wilson, Scotland; Russell Lewis, Wales; Martin Stenberg, Sweden; Peter Frewin, Australia; Jorma Eriksson, Finland; Andreas Kauler, Germany; Eugenio Rezola, Spain; Pierre Ambrosin, Switzerland; Atle Revheim Hansen, Norway; and Remy Dorbeau, France.

**PREVENT GRUBS.
STOP THEM IN
THEIR TRACKS.
OR MAKE SURE IT'S
NOT EVEN AN ISSUE.**



enemy insects all season long. Grubs. Cutworms.

Armyworms. Sod webworms. Plus, odorless

MACH 2™ is easy to apply. You don't even have

to water it in immediately.

So don't let grubs control your grounds, or your

schedule. Depend on MACH 2™ Turf Insecticide.

It's all you need to prevent or cure.

For more information or for the distributor

nearest you, call 1-888-764-6432.

Now you can control grubs preventatively or curatively. With a single application. Only with new MACH 2™ Turf Insecticide.

MACH 2 is a powerful killer with a new chemistry that accelerates the molting process of target insects.

Just hours after ingesting MACH 2™, the insect stops feeding. Then it dies beneath the surface in 2 to 3 weeks. It's that simple.

With MACH 2™ Turf Insecticide, you'll kill target

MACH 2™
TURF INSECTICIDE

**ALL YOU NEED
TO PREVENT OR CURE.**

Brandenburg comment

Continued from page 17
needs of this area?

While the time and effort to be invested in such a program is debatable, the needs of the superintendents are not. Directing programs at single educational seminars for countries or smaller regions allows development of more site-specific seminars, but greatly adds to the cost of operating such a program.

Whatever the plan, it should take advantage of the input of U.S. turfgrass educators and researchers who may be traveling to Asia and lending a sensitive and sympathetic ear to the need of the superintendents who daily meet the challenges of golf course management in Asia.