

BRIEFS



MAINE SUPERS HONOR HODGE

CUMBERLAND, Maine — Jim Hodge, superintendent at Val Halla Golf Course here, recently received the Maine Golf Course Superintendents Association Distinguished Service Award. Hodge is a 10-year member of the Maine GCSA and has served as the chapter's president and vice president; chairman of the scholarship and research, bylaws and turf conference committees; and Maine liaison to the GCSAA Chapter Relations Committee. Hodge received the award during the Maine Turf Conference in Rockland.

SUPERS FUND HOSPITAL GREEN

DALLAS — The North Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association (NTGCSA) will fund and maintain a new putting green at the Dallas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children. The green will serve as an outdoor area for both therapy and recreation for hospital patients. NTGCSA President Keith Ihms announced that the group's support will be in honor of Quinton Johnson, a long-time member who recently retired.

MIDWEST SUPERS SUPPORT RESEARCH

INDIANAPOLIS — Five golf course superintendents' associations gave the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation more than \$35,000 during the 1998 Midwest Turf Expo here for research and education. In turn, the foundation gave \$96,000 to the Purdue University Department of Agronomy for its turf program and another \$10,000 to the School of Agriculture for development of the Purdue Turfgrass Research and Diagnostic Center. Meanwhile, the foundation honored Jim Kenney with its Distinguished Service Award.

After the 'new' wears off

By BOB SPIWAK

COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho — While routine golf course maintenance like mowing and turf protection provide the steak for the golfer, on-and off-course beautification adds the sizzle. And more and more courses, old and new, are adding colorful flowers and plants with pizzazz to set themselves apart, or gain a reputation.

"Augusta National is known for its azaleas," said Coeur d'Alene Golf Course superintendent John Anderson, "and we want the thousands of juniper tams and geraniums we plant every year to be identified with Couer d' Alene in the same way."

"We use a lot of color, both annuals and perennials, and this is one of the things people enjoy most about Pebble Beach," said Ted Horton, vice president of resource management for the Pebble Beach Co.

"We want this place to catch peoples' eyes," said Gerry White, the superin-



Coeur d'Alene has made beauty an asset of great proportions.

tendent at Point Sebago Resort in Maine, "and the way we do it is by being creative" — which means the use of native rocks and plantings to accent the course.

Beauty isn't always the single, overriding reason for renovations at a golf course.

Over the years, a property can begin

to show its age. Plants die. High-traffic areas turn from turf to mud. Original ideas of course design may, in use, turn out to be liabilities. In these, and many more instances, renovation is necessary.

"Many golf courses need help in renovating key landscape and

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Solving poa annua problems from El Niño

By PATRICK O'BRIEN

The abundant rains and warmer temperatures this winter from El Niño have caused a prolific growth of *poa annua* at many golf courses in the Southeast. Superintendents fear this weed grass the most, especially if it appears in putting greens. In most instances, cultural and chemical control is reliable and cost-effective on tees, fairways and roughs.

Unfortunately, battling *poa annua* on bentgrass putting greens is a complex topic.

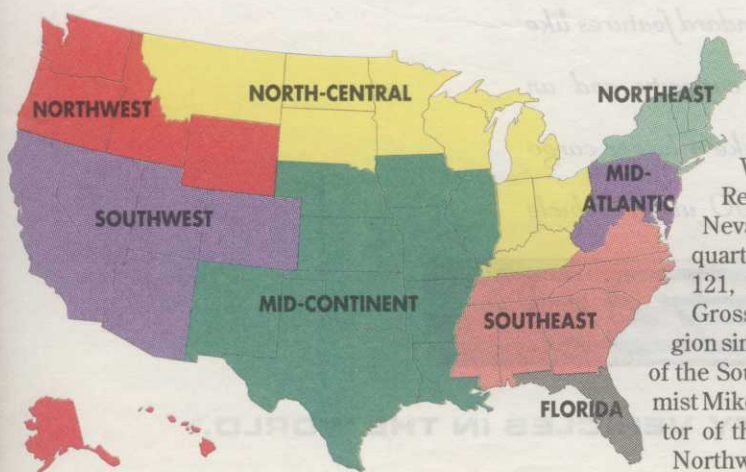
Weed Southeastern scientists, Drs. Fred Yelverton at North Carolina State University and B.J. Johnson at the University of Georgia-Griffin Station, are trying to help superintendents control *poa annua* on putting greens with a cost-effective and reliable program. Both agree that using growth regulators is the preferred strategy on bentgrass greens.

"The Turf Enhancer (paclobutrazol) product has provided the best control and suppression of *poa annua* from our work at NCSU the past five years," said Yelverton.

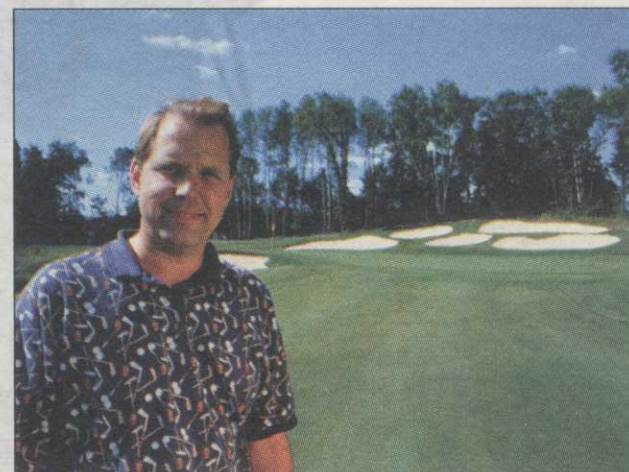
Both researchers agree on the application rates and timing for the Turf Enhancer program on bentgrass greens. They suggest fall and spring treatments at the rates of 14 pound

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USGA's Green Section splits West Region



SANTA ANA, Calif. — The U.S. Golf Association Green Section's West Region has been split. The new Northwest Region encompasses Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming and Hawaii. The Southwest Region consists of California, Arizona, Nevada, Utah and Colorado, and is headquartered at 505 North Tustin Ave., Suite 121, Santa Ana, Calif.; 714-542-5766. Pat Gross, an agronomist for the Western Region since 1992, has been promoted to director of the Southwest Region, working with agronomist Mike Huck. Larry Gilhuly, previously director of the Western Region, is director of the Northwest Region at 5610 Old Stump Dr. N.W., Gig Harbor, Wash. 98332; tel. 253-858-2266.



Scott Hoffman at his award-winning Classic at Madden's Resort.

Hoffman turns a passion into reality

By MARK LESLIE

BRAINERD, Minn. — Scott Hoffmann was able to turn a hobby, passion and dream into not just a reality, but a national award-winning golf course.

When *Golf Digest* picked The Classic at Madden's Resort as the third-best New Upscale Public Golf Course in North America last December, it was a feather of huge proportion in Hoffman's cap. Not because he is the superintendent of Madden's four golf courses — which he is — but because he designed The Classic.

There was his name, beside such golf course architects as Tom Fazio, Pete Dye and Robert Trent Jones Jr., Yet, Hoffman shares the acclaim with others. Though he routed the 18-hole layout and designed the elements of every hole, he credits advisers including architect Geoffrey Cornish; Minnesotan and former U.S. Amateur champion John Harris; Warren Rebholz, who had just retired as executive director of the Minnesota Golf Association; and his assistant, Pat Marstad, who is now the head superintendent at The Classic.

"We had done the initial clearing through the woods.

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SUPER FOCUS

Poa annua

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active ingredient per acre. Since 70 to 80 percent of the *poa annua* germination in the Southeast occurs in the fall, it is essential to perform the fall treatments for optimum results. It appears the fall treatments directly kill new *poa annua* seedlings, a discovery made by Yelverton.

The initial fall treatment should be made at the time when the first flush of annual bluegrass germination occurs, usually during late September or early October in the Southeast. Adding a little soluble nitrogen with the Turf Enhancer each time at the rate of 0.125 to 0.25 pounds nitrogen per 1,000 square feet enhances the activity of the growth regulator. Successive treatments are advised at four-week intervals.

"Lengthening the treatment interval will lead to failures with this program," said Johnson.

Depending on the weather, superintendents may be able to apply treatments through early- to mid-December, if both the bentgrass and *poa annua* are still actively growing.

Treatments are restarted in the late winter once temperatures start to warm and new leaf-tissue growth appears on a regular schedule.

The scientists recommend proceeding at four-week intervals again with the Turf Enhancer for a total of two to three applications for the remainder of the spring season. The last treatment will depend on the weather.

"If it is hot and the forecast is for unusually warm temperatures, I would not make the last spring treatment," Yelverton said.

Another alternative is to apply at a reduced rate in the late spring. Also keep in mind, they said, that when the weather warms, bentgrass diseases start to appear and superintendents do not want to be in a situation where they have Turf Enhancer on their greens and apply a sterol-inhibiting fungicide in warm weather.

"This combination may take out bentgrass," Yelverton said.

In the spring and fall, superintendents usually schedule cultural practices such as aerification and verticutting. Yelverton recommends "doing these practices between treatments so that it is two weeks on either side of a Turf Enhancer application."

This program should be repeated annually for best results,

according to both scientists. They have proven it will help to reduce *poa annua* population in most instances on bentgrass greens.

"There always is the site where nothing seems to work," said Yelverton, adding that superintendents should keep in mind that this program will discolor *poa annua*, so the amount of poa present will dictate the amount of discoloration on greens. Even though it discolors poa, the put-

ting quality is improved because it tends to take the bumpiness out of mixed bent/poa greens.

If someone has 80 to 100 percent poa greens and he wants to keep it, Yelverton would not use Turf Enhancer.

"To manage *poa annua* growth on these greens, I would use low rates of Primo," he said. "Primo won't take out the *poa annua* at labeled rates, but it will tend to level up the putting surface a bit."

Western Golf hires Traficano

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Western Golf Properties, Inc. has selected Joe Traficano as superintendent at Stone Creek Golf Club in Urbana, Ill. Scottsdale-based Western Golf Properties, Inc. is the management company for this upscale daily-fee, 18-hole Dick Nugent-designed course.

Traficano worked at Desert Mountain Golf Club in Scottsdale, but grew up in Rantoul and is familiar with the local agronomic elements. He has a bachelor's degree in agriculture from the University of Arizona, with emphasis in turfgrass management. Prior to his experience at Apache at Desert Mountain, he was superintendent at Starr Pass Golf Club in Tucson.



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