

# GOLF COURSE NEWS

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INSIDE

## Sophisticated Irrigation

Fertigation, filtration, acid injection and GPS technology take irrigation into the future ..... 9, 21-23

## Something Old, Something New

Renovations and restorations of older and classic courses complement new construction ..... 25

## New Turfgrass America eyes national market

By A. OVERBECK

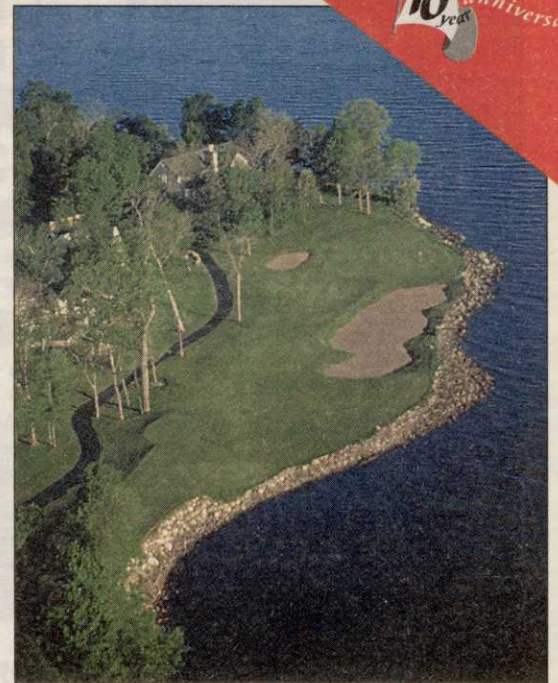
GRANBURY, Texas — In a move to expand beyond their regional reach, three Texas turf companies and a Florida grower have formed an alliance creating a new full-service firm here. The new entity, Turfgrass America, combines Thomas Brothers Grass, Crenshaw and

Doguet Turf and Milberger Turf Farms with Apollo, Fla.-based Elsberry Greenhouses.

While the merger was completed May 14, Milberger and Thomas Brothers have been considering the move for a year and a half.

"As we all looked at the

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### A SHORE BET

Black Brook, which has opened along with its sister track, The Sanctuary Course, is nestled along the shores of Mille Lacs Lake in Minnesota. The courses are designed by John Harbottle in collaboration with 1993 U.S. Amateur champion John Harris and owner Chip Glaser. The Sanctuary Course is geared toward the average player, with shorter yardage than its counterpart Black Brook. Harbottle feels the courses should be "instant classics." See story, page 30.

## Z-Net may revolutionize slow-growing grasses

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Tannenbaum Golf Course on Greers Ferry Lake near Heber Springs may have written its name into golf course history when it opened for public play in June. No scoring records were broken. The big story was a process that doubles the speed of growth for zoysiagrass, an excellent turf many superintendents have not used because of its notorious slow growth.

Z-Net, a new patented growing method developed in Japan and brought to America by Winrock



A crew lays down a roll of Z-Net with zoysiagrass implanted in it.

Grass Farm, Inc. here, was used on the fairways and roughs at Tannenbaum for

the first time in America. The new technology produces complete grow-in

during just one growing season — about twice as fast as standard sprigs or plugs, according to Winrock President Frank Whitbeck.

"Z-NET worked beautifully," said Tannenbaum course superintendent Scott White. "We grew in our zoysiagrass fairways and roughs in a little bit longer than the four to six months they predicted. But last summer was a hot summer and it was hard to get anything to grow. Right now it's 90 to 95 percent

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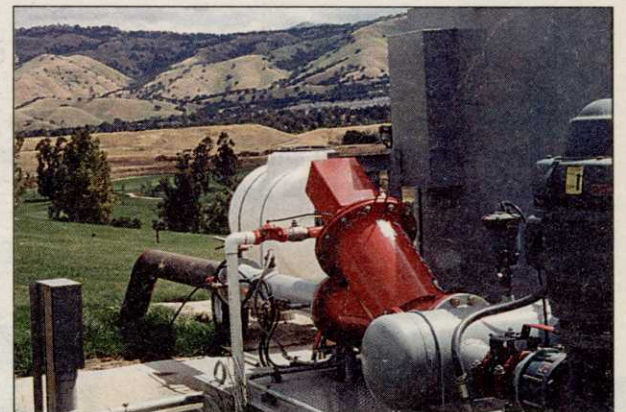
## Fertigation, filtration systems said growing in popularity

By PETER BLAIS

Demands for improved playing conditions have led many courses to install fertigation, acid-injection and filtration systems as part of their pumping stations.

Tanks, tubing and controllers for both fertigation and acid-injection systems (which improve water quality) can be rigged up to a pump station at a cost ranging from \$7,000 to \$15,000, a dramatic reduction from the \$20,000 to \$30,000 price tag common just a few years ago, said

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The red attachment filters water to this pump station.

## Country club fertility on a public's budget

By DAVID WILBER

The subject of turfgrass fertility is an ever-changing and often complicated road of twists and turns. But by being aware of several essential areas, turfgrass managers at public, resort and daily-fee golf operations can untangle the knots that might otherwise keep them from having

the best possible fertilizer program.

There is a myth that only the private club is spending enough money to do the fertility management job correctly. From the standpoint of many golf facilities, public and private, fertility management and fertilizer purchasing is often a guessing

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### A ROSSIAN TASK MADE EASIER

Poland Spring Golf Club superintendent Dick Fahey, left, and mechanic Ben Perreault hold an original Donald Ross rendering, from 1913, that has aided a bunker restoration at the Maine resort. See story page 25.

### COURSE MAINTENANCE

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## Turfgrass America

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marketplace, we knew that we were strong in Texas," said Arthur Milberger, president of Milberger turf and sports field division for Turfgrass America. "But in order to do some of the things that we envision for the 21st century we recognized that we needed to expand outside of our region and that we needed to have brand names across the U.S. in warm season and some cool-season grasses."



Turfgrass America now has more than 30 warm-season varieties, including Bermuda, buffalo and zoysia, in the marketplace, 10 farms, nine retail outlets and more than 500 employees across Texas, Tennessee, Georgia, North Carolina and Florida.

According to Milberger, the company will be focusing its expansion around the golf turf market and the wide array of services it offers.

"Golf is the fastest-growing market for us," said Milberger. "And now we can do virtually any job anywhere, be it washed turf on a green, sand-based turf or solid sod fairways."

However, Milberger is also working to position Turfgrass America to take advantage of the golf course renovation market that he expects will pick up in the coming years.

"The golf market is getting more and more competitive. Instead of giving away free martinis, courses are going to have to provide better fairways and greens than the course down the street," said Milberger. "That's why we are working to develop the new varieties that we are coming out with right now."

Turfgrass America produces several of the new "superdwarf" Bermudas, including TifEagle, Floradwarf, MS-Supreme and Thomas Brothers' own Mini-Verde.

"A lot of people still have bentgrass greens, but there is a huge drift of people coming over to these improved Bermudas," said Milberger. "We are putting 12 different Bermudas on golf courses at the moment."

While the market for new Bermudas is strong, Turfgrass America will

also continue to work with the new bent varieties.

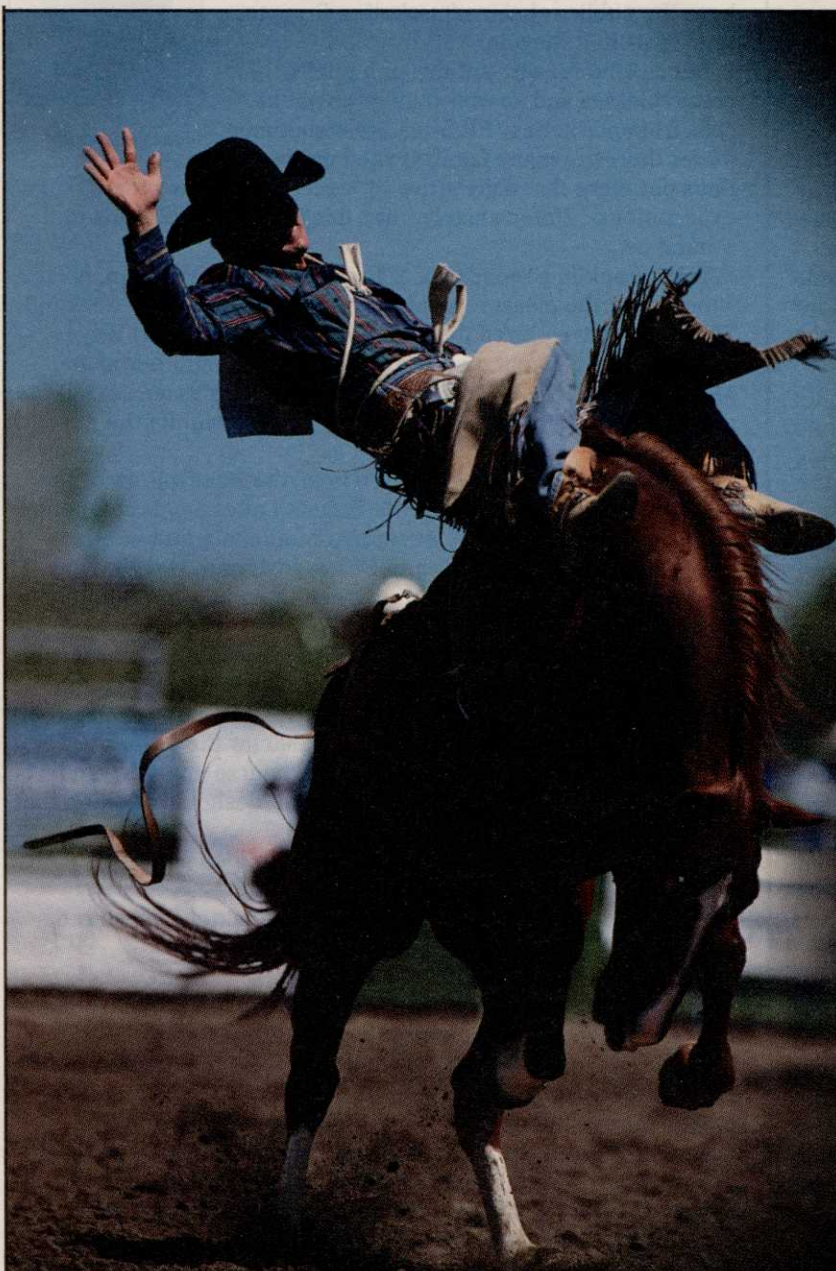
"We grow very little bentgrass at the moment, but we are working to up the ante on that production as well," said Milberger.

With that in mind, the company is looking to expand.

"We will be looking at new farm sites, but the object is to get out and acquire only if it makes good sense," said Milberger.

## Olson designing in New Mexico, Nevada

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, Calif. — Cal Olson Golf Architects is busy with two golf courses under construction — Sonoma Ranch in Las Cruces, N.M., and Mountain Falls in Pahrump, Nev. — while Diamond Hill in Fontana is expected to start construction in October. Sierra Star Resort in Mammoth Lakes was completed last year and will open this summer. Olson is also remodeling El Dorado Golf Course in Long Beach, Calif., by adding and improving on the water features and bunkers and extending the yardage.



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## Sunriver

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entertaining, welcoming course."

Fought added: "I've spent a great deal of time studying and admiring the bunker designs of some of the classic courses like [Ross-designed] Pinehurst #2. At the Meadows I've been able to employ some of this traditional styling into bunker shaping and placement."

Of the three golf layouts available to Sunriver Resort guests, the Meadows is the most accessible to less-experienced players. The Woodlands, designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr., and Crosswater, Oregon's top-rated golf course and one of *Golf Digest's* America's Greatest 100 courses, offer a stiffer challenge to recreational golfers.