

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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IN DEMAND

Whether captaining the U.S. Ryder Cup team, or working with design partner Bill Coore, left, Ben Crenshaw has been in high demand. And he will not back down in his "classics" philosophy of course architecture. See Q&A with Crenshaw & Coore, page 27.

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NEWSPAPER

New wetlands regs could stifle development

By MARK LESLIE

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is implementing a new cadre of wetlands regulations in early 2000 that is expected to impact a far greater number of residential and commercial developments, including golf courses.

Public comment on the proposed Nation Wide Permits (NWP) expires Oct. 6, making the way for the new rules which affect jurisdictional waters of the United States — wetlands, streams, lakes, etc.

Although the new NWPs have not been officially confirmed, experts in the field anticipate few changes before the

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Assistants often underappreciated

By PETER BLAIS

While head superintendents are seeking increased recognition and money for themselves, they are also encouraging course owners and members to upgrade the salaries and benefits of their assistants.

Nationally, the mean salary paid superintendents is \$53,205, almost double the \$27,981 average salary of assistants, according to 1998 figures provided by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

Why pay assistants more?

Continued on page 19



The 8th hole on the Creek 9 at Aliso Viejo (Calif.) Golf Club displays Jack Nicklaus and son Jack II's personal touch. They designed the Ridge, Creek and Valley nines at the new public facility in Orange County.

Nicklauses collaborate for AMH

ALISO VIEJO, Calif. — Jack Nicklaus and Jack Nicklaus II have opened their latest creation, Aliso Viejo Golf Club here, a 27-hole public facility midway between Los Angeles and San Diego.

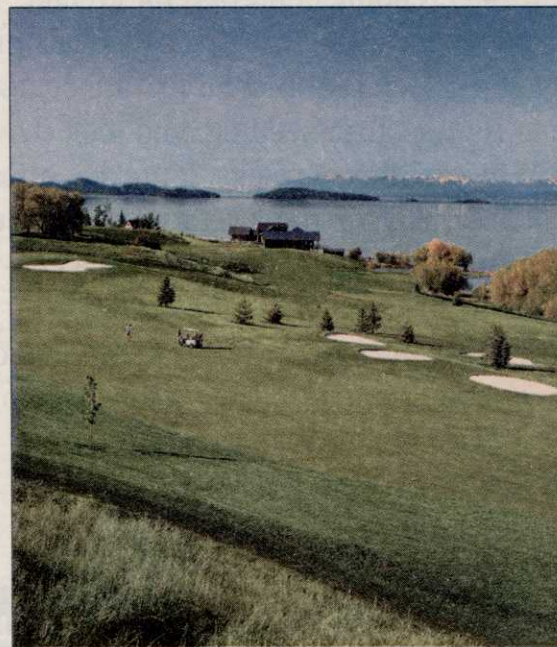
The ninth Jack-Jack II co-design and the first in California, the project is under the auspices of ClubCorp. USA, Inc. and AMH Golf Corp., a Newport Beach-based land-development company specializing in golf, recreation and hospitality properties.

Carved from a dramatic site offering panoramic views of the Saddleback

Mountains, Aliso Viejo is laid out in three distinctive nines — Ridge, Creek and Valley — and features more than 100 feet of elevation change.

"As I get older, the desire to do a lot of golf courses on my own is diminishing," said Nicklaus. "But the desire to continue what I've built with my family is getting greater. So the opportunity to work with Jack (II) ... is something I look forward to a great deal. We have a good relationship;

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STEIDEL'S PRETTIEST AT POLSON

Polson Country Club's 6th hole may be the best par-5 John Steidel has ever designed. It is certainly the prettiest, he said. For more on the new 9, which brings Polson to 27 holes to the Montana facility, see story on page 33.

Machine takes overseeding to next level

By A. OVERBECK

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Turf Solutions has developed the Dry Sprayer, a machine using new overseeding technology that dramatically increases the speed, accuracy and germination time over standard overseeding techniques. Adapting air-blast technology commonly found in agricultural equipment, the Dry Sprayer blows seed directly into the turf canopy.

"We have modified this ag-based small crop machine into one suitable for

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10 years anniversary



The Turf Solutions Dry Sprayer uses air-blast technology to blow seed into the turf canopy, allowing for better seed-soil contact.



Dry Sprayer

Continued from page 1

turfgrass applications," said John Wicker, vice president of Turf Solutions, the service arm of local distributor Southeastern Turfgrass Supply. "We built our first machine three years ago and we do the final assembly, modifications and shipping out of Jacksonville."

The Dry Sprayer features a

1,000-pound ground-driven hopper-unit that distributes seed via a clutch-driven paddle to tubes that run down to the 16-foot boom. The seed, which is blown at a speed of 65 mph, then hits diffusers that run along the length of the boom, orienting the seed downward and blowing it into the turf canopy.

"The ground-driven distribution system ensures even application of seed and forces it

through the thatch layer, providing better seed-soil contact," said Wicker. "This leads to better germination, uniform coverage and a reduced outlay of seed by 10 to 15 percent."

The units also have a spray tank that allows liquid products to be applied at the same time as seed or dry fertilizer.

The Dry Sprayer is ideally suited for fairway applications and can cover 120 acres in one day. "We typically make two passes with split applications and with three or more machines we can easily do a course in one day," said Wicker. "One machine can handle 25 to 30 acres a day."

"It is a huge time, labor and seed saver," said John Davis, superintendent at The Ford Plantation in Richmond Hill, Ga. "I did it for the first time last year at the Secessions Club (in Beaufort, S.C.). With other methods, we would overseed in four different directions to make sure that we didn't miss any spots because the wind was so bad."

"But with the Dry Sprayer, we didn't have to worry about the wind blowing the seed, so we were done in a day, if that."

The Dry Sprayer also eliminates the need for crews to "beat" the seed into the turf. "We just mowed right behind it and we were done," said Davis.

Gary Snyder, superintendent at Harbor Town Golf Links in Hilton Head, S.C., said he too appreciates the convenience.

"Before, it would take two to three days," said Snyder. "Now we can get our fairways done in between play and we don't have to close down the course."

Turf Solutions has built several Dry Sprayers and uses five of them in its service fleet which has 60 accounts throughout Florida, Georgia and South Carolina. "We will do about 4,000 acres of overseeding this season in the Southeast," said Wicker.

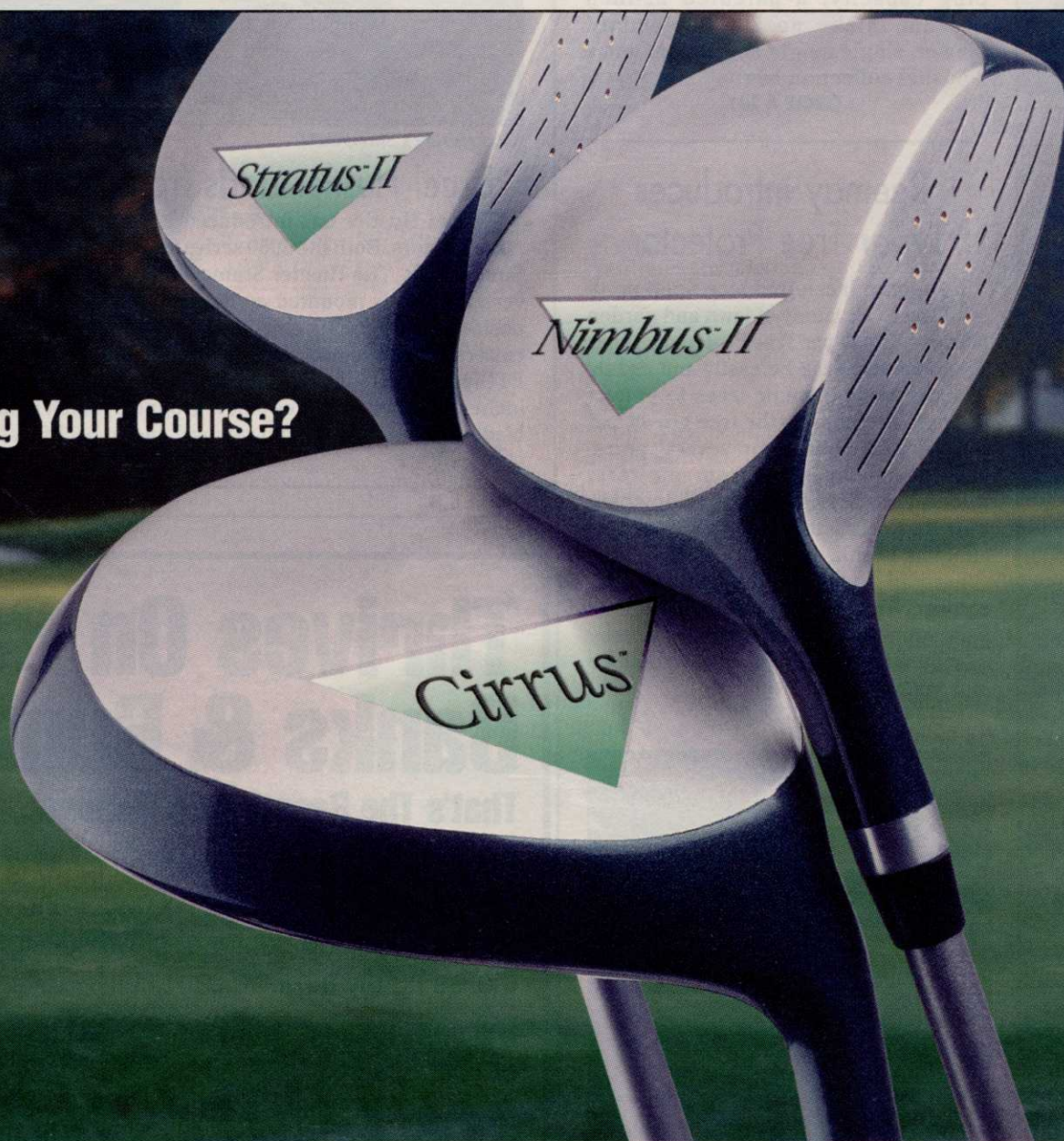
Thanks to word of mouth, interest in the Dry Sprayer has extended beyond the Southeast. "We have gotten calls from people in California and Arizona," said Wicker. "But we just started selling the machines this year so we couldn't justify getting into that market just yet."

With demand on the rise, Wicker expects to ramp up assembly next year and production could be around 40 to 50 units. The Dry Sprayer retails for between \$15,000 and \$18,000.

While Wicker admits that this new technology could catch the eye of larger equipment manufacturers, he plans to keep it.

"We are not actively seeking out larger companies with this," said Wicker. "Our name is trademarked and we have patents out on the design characteristics. Our guess is that they'll come to us." ▶

What's Driving Your Course?



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