

# GOLF COURSE NEWS

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With the deal done, BASF is now working on integrating American Cyanamid's product line ..... 3

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1924 layout becomes first nine-hole course west of the Mississippi to win Audubon certification ..... 11



#### IRRIGATION AND PUMP STATION FOCUS

As existing courses (including Pebble Beach, above) strive to keep up with new competition, irrigation upgrades and retrofits are at the heart of most renovation work. See pages 17-18 for a complete look at what's new in the irrigation renovation marketplace.

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#### PERIODICAL

## Simplot consortium wins bid for ABT's assets

By A. OVERBECK

HENDERSON, Nev. — The bid for AgriBioTech's (ABT) Professional Turfgrass Division submitted by a consortium led by J.R. Simplot Turf and Horticulture was approved here June 10 in federal bankruptcy court.

However, the deal, which reportedly closed for less than the original asking price of \$65 million, required a lengthy day of negotiations after Central Garden and Pet (owners of Madison, Ga.-based Pennington Seeds) submitted a rival bid for this parcel of ABT's assets.

"After the overbid we left the hearings and spent the rest of the day in meetings with Development Special-

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The 12th hole at the Ritz-Carlton managed White Witch Course at Rose Hall in Jamaica

## Ritz-Carlton barrels into course management with high-end clubs

By JAY FINEGAN

ATLANTA — There's a new player in the competitive field of golf course management, and this one comes loaded with cachet: the Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company, headquartered here.

For now, the company has only three courses in its portfolio, but that will grow to at least 17 over the next few years, as the number of Ritz-Carlton hotels grows from today's 37 to 63. Fourteen of the 26 new properties will feature courses ranging from 18 holes to 45. "We're basically doubling the size of the company over the next three years," said Stan Waterhouse, a Ritz-Carlton vice president and head of the club and golf division.

Waterhouse, formerly with ClubCorp, said he hopes to bring to the courses the same levels of quality and service that distinguish the company's famous hotels. "We believe we'll be the benchmark in the industry," he said. "By extending the Ritz-Carlton imprint of excellence to man-

aging existing and new golf facilities, we have an opportunity to make an impact on the market and deliver a product with a difference."

Waterhouse plans to employ a three-pronged growth strategy. First, his division will manage courses affiliated with Ritz-Carlton hotel and resort properties. It also will enter into management agreements with independent, top-caliber country clubs. And, third, it will look to develop an interest in courses not yet built. "We'll work with residential developers who have an interest in having a golf club to enhance their residential community," he said.

#### WHITE WITCH IN JAMAICA

In the first case, an example is the White Witch Course at the Ritz-Carlton, at Rose Hall, Jamaica, which opened in June. It sits near the company's new 428-room resort, 10 minutes from Montego Bay.

The White Witch, designed by architects Robert von Hagge and Rick Baril,

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## Pete Dye finds gold at Lost Canyons

By MEGHAN FOLEY

SIMI VALLEY, Calif. — Take one look at the vast array of hills, slopes, meadows and rolling canyon floors, and it is no wonder why Lost Canyons Golf Club could become one of Pete Dye's greatest design achievements. Despite the fact that the famed architect does not like to compare his courses, he does admit that Lost Canyons is going to be special. The sheer terrain will see to that.

The 36-hole layout is currently in the final phases of construction and grow-in in the Santa Susana Mountains here, just north of Los Angeles. Landmark National, one of the leading golf real estate investment



The rugged terrain at Dye's Lost Canyons design near L.A.

companies, provided 1,600 acres of land, located on a portion of the historic Big Sky Ranch, and commissioned Dye to create two 18-hole public golf courses.

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## Supers in Southeast coping with drought

By JAY FINEGAN

HILTON HEAD, S.C. — How bad is it?

Here in the southeast corner of South Carolina, only 10.3 inches of rain had fallen as of mid-July. A normal year would have brought 36 inches

by Independence Day. And that's after a dismal 1999, when the area came in 10 inches below normal.

"We're real dry," said Steve Wright, superintendent at the Long Cove Club, a private, 18-hole, Pete Dye

facility here on Hilton Head Island. "The greens are fine but the green banks are burnt. The edges are bad. We have effluent and water from the lagoon, where we trap rainwater. But now the

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