

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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Bug Off!

Mosquito control goes high tech without use of pesticides 13

Tools of the Trade

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LOPEZ NOW AN ARCHITECT

Nancy Lopez, who has consulted on golf course designs in Japan and the Philippines, is embarking on a career in design. See an interview with Lopez, the Old Tom Morris Award winner, on page 31.

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PERIODICAL



OFF-SEASON? YOU BETCHA!

Among other tasks, the crew at The Valley Club in Sun Valley, Idaho, must maintain the club's platform tennis court. See Spring Prep section, pages 28-30.

Roundup-tolerant bent looms on the horizon

By PETER BLAIS

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The Scotts Co. is developing genetically modified turfgrasses that are resistant to the herbicide Roundup, a potentially major breakthrough that could make it easier for superintendents to control weeds, according to Scotts researcher Dr. Virgil Meier.

Speaking at the recent Ohio Turfgrass Conference and Show here, Meier said a Roundup-resistant bentgrass crop could be ready for harvesting as early as 2003. The Marysville, Ohio-based firm is also researching Roundup-



resistant strains of Kentucky bluegrass and St. Augustinegrass. The bluegrass could be available in 2004.

"This whole area of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) will change how we maintain turfgrass 15 to 20 years from now, starting with the Roundup-resistant bentgrasses and bluegrasses that will be available in 2003 and 2004," Meier predicted.

Scotts has been testing genetically modified

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Valderrama Declaration affirms stewardship

By TREVOR LEDGER

VALDERRAMA, Spain — "What started as a simple exploration of ecology has turned into a major, complex and dynamic program," said Jo Schatten, chairman of the European Golf Association Ecology Unit in his opening address to the U.S.-Europe Golf Environment Summit at Valderrama Golf Club here in November.

Two days later, leaders in golf from around the world were signing the Valderrama Declaration, a statement of intent affirming the golf industry's commitment to environmental stewardship in partnership with such



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Novartis, AstraZeneca to merge, spin-off ag units

By ANDREW OVERBECK

BASEL, Switzerland — Consolidation continues in the agrochemicals industry as the boards of Novartis AG and AstraZeneca PLC have agreed to merge and spin-off their troubled agribusiness units to form Syngenta. The \$15-billion deal combines Novartis' Crop Protection and Seeds businesses and Zeneca Agrochemicals.

According to industry analysts, this move may be the first in another round of mergers. The Syngenta deal may affect St. Louis-based Monsanto Co., which earlier had been rumored to be in talks

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Supers giddy about tourney

By A. OVERBECK

MOBILE, Ala. — The four superintendents hosting their peers at this year's GCSAA Golf Championship are feeling emotions of apprehension and excitement as they start to prepare for the event.

"I'd be lying to you if I told that I wasn't feeling the pressure to look good," said Michael Rienzi, superintendent at Kiva Dunes Golf Club. "To me this is big. I'm more nervous about this than I was about

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The 18th hole at the Falls Course at Magnolia Grove. The course will host the final round of championship play at the 2000 GCSAA Tournament.

GCSAA
show preview
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GTCR commits \$100M to new Husband firm

By PETER BLAIS

CHICAGO — GTCR Golder Rauner, LLC has committed \$100 million in equity financing to back former Cobblestone Golf Group Chief Executive Officer James A. (Bob) Husband and his executive team to start Heritage Golf Group, LLC, a new course acquisition/management firm based in San Diego.

The commitment includes an initial investment of \$50 million, with potential to provide up to \$100 million or more, based on

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Bob Husband