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PRESERVING CALIFORNIA'S NATURAL SPACE

The new Tom Fazio-designed Preserve Golf Club, high in the hills above Carmel, has created a fund to protect 18,000 acres of open space. The project is an example of the way in which golf development and land conservation can coexist without public funding. See story page 14.

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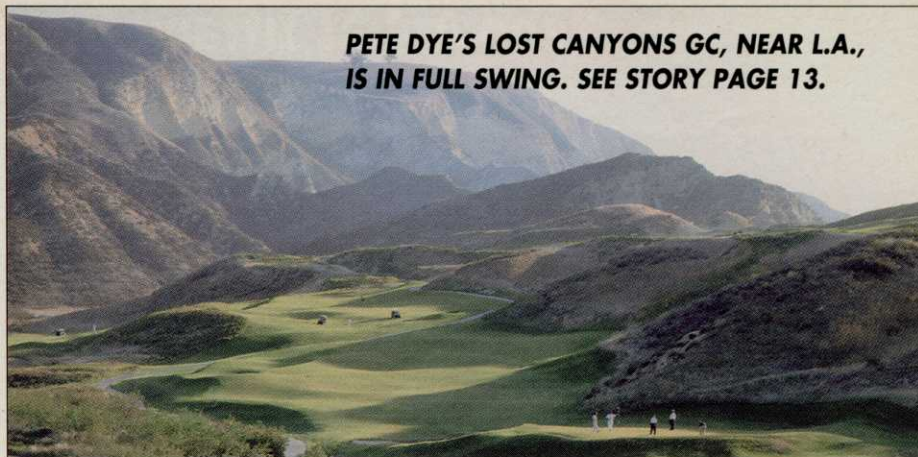
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PERIODICAL



PETE DYE'S LOST CANYONS GC, NEAR L.A., IS IN FULL SWING. SEE STORY PAGE 13.

Superintendents tapping foreign labor force

By JOEL JOYNER

LAKE OZARK, Mo. — With the golf season fast approaching and labor markets still tight, superintendents everywhere are scrambling to find maintenance workers. Some are even pulling in help from abroad.

John Anderson, director of golf and grounds here at the Club at Porto Cima, will be relying again this year on Practical Employee Solutions (PES), a Dallas company that provides labor out of Jamaica. Last year, 12 of his maintenance staffers came from the Caribbean island nation. This year he's bumping the number to 16.



"They were very eager to learn and very easily trained," he said. "I'm really looking forward to this year because I'm supposed to have most of them back."

Housing, transportation and schedules were all considered before the migrant help arrived. "Local transportation was all done by bus," Anderson said. "We leased some apartment units, and they paid their own rent. We knew how many were arriving from the start, and it was very well organized."

Initial start-up of the program may be challenging. "I know it's a pretty lengthy process sponsoring them on a work permit deal," he said. "But some were processed a lot quicker this season, especially the ones returning."

JAMAICANS' STRONG WORK ETHIC

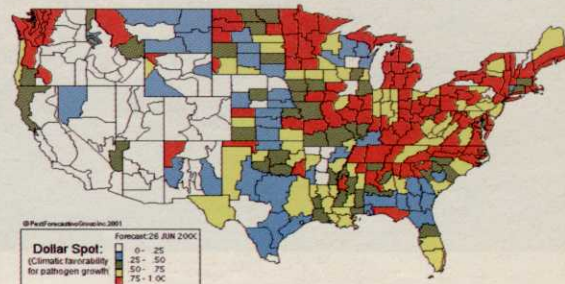
The Club at Porto Cima is one of three courses in the
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Syngenta Web site to predict pest outbreaks

By ANDREW OVERBECK

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Syngenta has partnered with Warrenton, Va.-based Pest Forecasting Group Inc. to launch an exclusive Internet site providing risk forecasts for diseases and insects. The site, www.turfpestoutlooks.com, was unveiled at the GCSAA Show in February and at press time was scheduled to be rolled out to end-users in late March.

PFG, which began working with Syngenta (then



Novartis) in 1997, has developed proprietary software that crunches weather data from the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration and compares it to disease and pest models that it has devised to create detailed forecasts. The nationwide forecasts are scaled down to provide information on 344 climate districts.

While the site will eventually include information

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The seventh hole at Old Works GC in Montana will be replicated at Bear's Best Las Vegas.

ClubCorp to unveil 'Bear's Best' concept this fall

By JAY FINEGAN

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — The first of what could be many Bear's Best courses is slated to debut here Nov. 1, marking ClubCorp's entry into the world of "branded" golf.

The Bear's Best concept is a joint venture between ClubCorp, of Dallas, Texas, and Golden Bear International, of North Palm Beach, Fla., a company controlled by

Jack Nicklaus and his family.

The idea is elegant in its simplicity. Nicklaus selects some of his favorite holes from the nearly 200 courses he has designed, and 18 of them are combined into a single layout.

Bear's Best Las Vegas, under construction 20 minutes from the famous casino "strip," will present holes primarily from Nicklaus designs in the

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Bentgrass dead spot detected in 14 states

By JOEL JOYNER

LINCROFT, N.J. — It's difficult to identify. It attacks young turf. Recovery takes weeks. Little is known about how maintenance practices affect its development. Superintendents dread this turfgrass disease known as bentgrass dead spot, first identified in 1998.

Currently, bentgrass dead spot (BDS) has been discovered in 14 states from Illinois and Texas to New Jersey and the Carolinas. "Once it's there on the turf, it kills it and nothing comes back," said Jeremy Schaefer, assistant superintendent here at the Charleston Springs Country

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