

Syngenta

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on weeds and unusual climate events, turfpestoutlooks.com will initially cover a select number of diseases and insects. It will issue weekly forecasts for seven diseases – dollar spot, brown patch, gray leaf spot, summer patch, pythium blight, red thread and rust.

It also will cover eight white grub species – Asiatic garden beetle, Japanese beetle, black turfgrass ataenius, May/June beetle, green June beetle, European chafer, masked chafers and Oriental beetle.

“This is an extension of our TechNotes newsletter,” said Syngenta’s golf market manager Joseph DiPaola, Ph.D. “However, this is an Internet application that will allow superintendents to make more reasoned decisions in terms of knowing what insects and diseases are likely to be problems.”

According to DiPaola, this more reasoned approach will lead to less preventive applications of chemicals and is designed to enhance integrated pest management practices. “Instead of saying, ‘Gee it’s March 7, I better go out and spray for these problems,’ superintendents can now look at what the weather is actually doing. He can see how that interacts with these given pests to assess where the problems might occur.”

The information on the site will provide documentation for the application of chemicals, which may be useful when explaining budgets to greens committees and justifying chemical use to environmental organizations.

HOW IT WORKS

For the launch, PFG worked with Eric Nelson at Cornell University and Dave Shetlar at Ohio State University to produce models that predict potential disease and insect problems.

“We take the estimated forecasted weather and run it in proprietary software that estimates the likelihood of that particular weather producing pathogen activity,” said Chris Sann, president of PFG. “Those results are based on research that identifies what the growth parameters are for a particular species of insect or turfgrass disease.”

This information is then presented on Geographic Information System maps that are created for each disease and insect. “If you select brown patch,” Sann said, “a national map will pop up and it will show the levels of intensity or favorability for the development of that disease. This forecast data gives superintendents the ability to look a week ahead to see what insects and diseases may be potential problems.”

The site will be available to golf course and lawncare professionals. However, Syngenta customers will have greater access to information. “It will be like a frequent flyer program,” said DiPaola. “You qualify for certain services the more you buy.”

For example, everyone will have access to a seven-day forecast, but established customers will be able to get more detailed information and potentially 30- and 60-day forecasts.

The specific level of services and costs for each have not yet been decided, DiPaola said. For now the site is free.

DiPaola expects the value-added site will be useful to both the end users and Syngenta. “We would hope that this provides a tool that allows turf professionals to do their jobs better,” he said. “However, it is also fair to expect a return to Syngenta for taking this service to the market.” ■

Cochran, Jacobson to finish Borland’s Coyote Creek

LIBERTYVILLE, Ill. — Two prominent golf course architects have agreed to donate their services to finish a golf course designed by their late friend and colleague Bruce Borland, who died tragically in 1999 in a plane crash with golfer Payne Stewart and four others.

Chris Cochran, a senior design associate with Jack Nicklaus Golf Services in North Palm Beach, Fla., and Rick Jacobson, president of Jacobson Golf Course Design, of Libertyville, Ill., have volunteered to finish the design work and oversee construction of Coyote Creek Golf Club, located five miles outside Borland’s hometown of Peoria, Ill.

Cochran and Borland shared an office at Nicklaus Golf Services for seven years until the time of Borland’s death. Jacobson had worked with Borland and Cochran at the Nicklaus firm in 1990 prior to starting his own company. The men and their families had been friends for 10 years.

“Nicklaus Design wanted to make sure that Bruce’s design was completed and that the course got built,” said Cochran, who will be the lead architect on the project. “I have some work in Kansas City and other places in the Midwest, so with the course being in Peoria, it made sense for me to do it.”

FEE GOING TO CHARITY

Cochran and Jacobson offered to finish Coyote Creek under Borland’s terms – the entire design fee will be given to the Palm Beach Community Church in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., where Borland was an active member. By agreeing to finish Borland’s work without compensation, Cochran and Jacobson ensured the church will receive the full amount of Borland’s donation.

“At the memorial service for Bruce, several of us decided to pool our resources to fulfill his contract with the golf course developer so that the funds would still be donated to the church,” said Jacobson, who plans to travel to the site frequently.

The involvement of Cochran and Jacobson also ensures that Coyote Creek will be the world’s only Bruce Borland signature course and will fulfill the realization of Borland’s dream of building a golf course near his hometown.

“Bruce attended high school in Bartonville, just outside Peoria, and it was a lifelong dream of his to come back to his hometown and build a golf course,” said Stephen Chitwood, president of Coyote Creek Development Corporation. “It’s really great that they can do this in honor of Bruce.”

‘MASSAGING’ THE TERRAIN

Borland had largely completed the design of the rolling, 6,700-yard, par-71 daily-fee course and had visited the site four times. He

was scheduled to travel to Peoria on Oct. 26, the day after the fatal crash.

Because of extensive wooded areas and the rolling terrain, some “massaging” will be necessary during the construction phase, which began in September, according to Jacobson. Shaping of greens and bunkers to blend with the existing topography of the site also will be necessary, he said.

The club will have a full practice facility and elevation changes of up to 80 feet from tee to green in some areas. Thirty-six residential lots will be developed in connection with the golf course. The course is scheduled to open sometime during the 2001 golf season.

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