

# MAINTENANCE



## BRIEFS

### DELHI TO OFFER EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE

DELHI, N.Y. — Responding to concerns about the lack of qualified turf equipment mechanics, SUNY Delhi has teamed with the New York State Turfgrass Association to create a college certificate in turf equipment management. The college will introduce the program in January 2003. The program will be geared toward both new students and those who have field experience. Courses will be offered in the off-season. For more information, contact 607-746-4545 or [www.delhi.edu](http://www.delhi.edu).

### LEBANON CUTS ROYALTY CHECK

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. — Lebanon Seaboard Corp. has presented a check for \$102,934 to Dr. William Meyer of Rutgers University to further turfgrass research. Lebanon Seaboard has numerous ongoing cooperative projects with Dr. Meyer and Dr. C. Reed Funk at Rutgers that have led to the release of several top-rated turfgrass varieties. The amount represents royalties for some of these varieties of tall fescue, Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, hard fescue, creeping red fescue and chewing fescue.

### CHIPCO TRAINING ONLINE

MONTVALE, N.J. — The Chipco Professional Products group of Bayer Environmental Science is conducting a free online training program entitled "Poa annua Control" on its Web site [www.bayerchipco.com](http://www.bayerchipco.com). The training session addresses how professionals have been challenged with Poa annua and will review strategies for control and management. Participants will learn about cultural practices and herbicides to consider depending on the control method and situation.

### ENDORSE CONTROLS ANTHRACNOSE

DAYTON, N.J. — Results from Rutgers University field tests this year have demonstrated that Cleary Chemical's Endorse fungicide provides control and management of anthracnose. Endorse is a translaminar, systemic antibiotic fungicide. In the Rutgers trial, Endorse was used in a preventive program on a Poa annua/bentgrass green at a rate of four ounces per 1,000 square feet at a 14-day application interval.

## Going native: Proper management ensures playability

By KEVIN J. ROSS, CGCS

One area of golf course design and course aesthetics that clash with playability is the proliferation of native grass areas. The addition of native grass, which has been labeled the "Scottish look," has sparked a debate, as architects incorporate more and more of these grass areas into designs.

Most of these layouts are sites with limited trees and open land, which need mounding features for hole separation and definition. But the use of native grass can also be found as bunker surrounds and wildlife habitat areas. Some courses have also incorporated native areas to reduce mowing and labor costs in out-of-the-way areas.

True native grass can be defined as grasses indigenous to the area that are growing in nearby fields. These species survive with natural rainfall, no fertilizer and no mowing. Native grass cultivar selection often results in grasses that are not truly native to the area. There is no

problem with this, however many times mistakes are made in selection. The typical mistake is choosing a cultivar that performs more like a true turfgrass than a true native grass.

Another typical mistake is the seeding rates. Many times superintendents/architects use rates much too high and create a stand that is far too dense. For example, the normal seeding rates for native fescues should be 50 to 75 percent less than a turf stand. This will provide

a much more playable situation with a thinner stand. The grass will develop a more clump-type growth

habit with the ability to seed better and get that wispy, seedhead look.

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Sand Hills Golf Club in Nebraska is an example of a course carved out of true native grasses.

## Winter irrigation systems protect Colorado courses

By ANDREW OVERBECK

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Here on the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains winter weather does bring snowfall, but it doesn't stick. Because of the brutal winds and lack of steady snow cover, courses are forced to irrigate in order to stave off desiccation.

"We historically get 50 inches of snow," said Fred Dickman, superintendent at the Broadmoor Golf Club in Colorado Springs, which sits at 6,800 feet in elevation. "But it blows off and we have a lot of sunny days that open us up to desiccation. We have to keep the plant and soil moist in the winter months."

To accomplish this frigid task, Dickman has a winter irrigation system that consists of Drisco pipe laid below the frost line and connected to limited areas on the fairways and greens.

"We blow out our regular lines and shut off our regular system and then we repressurize the main line to run the winter system," he said. "Our watering window is

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## Seeded zoysia shows promise in lower transition area

By ANDREW OVERBECK

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Purdue University is working in conjunction with the University of Kentucky to study the viability of seeded zoysia grass in the lower transition zone. The results so far are promising, according to Purdue's turfgrass extension specialist Zachary Reicher.

"We are in our third full year of research here," said Reicher. "We think zoysia is the best overall choice for fairways and tees in the lower transition area from Kansas to Maryland because of its ease of maintenance. It also requires less inputs and it survives the winter better than bermudagrass."

Research has focused on the best approaches to seeding zoysia, specifically studying the best tim-

ing and rates and when herbicides can safely be applied. Work is also being done to determine the best

With seeded varieties, more courses could get the benefits of zoysia without the initial expense.

Previously, zoysia has been only widely available as sod, sprigs or strips. Seeded zoysia costs \$1,500 to \$2,000 an acre compared to \$15,000 for sod and \$5,000 for strip sod.

According to Tim Bowyer of Patten Seed Co., which is supplying the studies with its Zenith seeded zoysia grass, there is now a ready supply of seeded zoysia on hand.

"Before it was a inventory issue," said Bowyer. "Now we can produce the volume of seeded zoysia that the market needs. But there has been no work done on seeding it because it has traditionally been

all plugging and sodding. It can

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Seeded zoysia establishes faster than plugs

## Haines puts PermO<sub>2</sub>Pore to work at San Pedro GC

By DAVID HUBBARD

BENSON, Ariz. — For more than 10 years, Lou Haines consulted with golf course superintendents on porous ceramic technology. Now, as a part owner of San Pedro Golf Course here, the veteran agronomist and golf course superintendent is utilizing his innovative soil conditioning system in his own project.

Slated to open in early December, San Pedro Golf Courses promises a "pure golf" experience that preserves the spirit and tradition of golf.

Carved from high desert terrain in the San Pedro River Valley, 30 minutes southeast of Tucson, Colorado-based Arizona Golf Systems has constructed a much-needed top quality, affordable layout in this area of the state.

With the help of noted Denver-based course designer Mark Rathert they have masterminded a 7,300-yard classic configuration free of real estate development or other distractions from the game. There are no out-of-bounds markers on the course,

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