

By the numbers

\$1 billion What New Mexico's golf and golf tourism industry was worth to the state's economy in the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2005, according to a study from New Mexico State University

0.4 The percentage decrease of rounds played at all U.S. facilities in 2007 compared to 2006 year to date through July, according to the National Golf Foundation

\$1 The amount of money Olde Sycamore Golf Plantation in Charlotte, N.C., donated from every round of golf played at the course Aug. 31 through Sept. 3 to benefit the Fallen Heroes Foundation, which supports families of military members who've become disabled or lost their lives in the line of duty.

110 The number of golf courses that hosted Tee It Up for the Troops tournaments Sept. 7 as part of a fund-raising campaign for wounded American soldiers



5 The number of golf course superintendents Bayer Environmental Science and The Environmental Institute for Golf will send to the GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show in Orlando, Fla.

The percentage of all rounds played in the U.S. by the 15 million core golfers in the country, according to the National Golf Foundation; it's also the same percentage the same group is responsible for regarding all golf-related spending

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Quotables

"The poor water quality isn't really a problem for the grass, but it would be a big problem if it was Bermudagrass. Thank God for paspalum. This course wouldn't have been built if it wasn't for paspalum." – **Stew Bennett**, CGCS, at the semiprivate, 18-hole Alden Pines Country Club in Bokeelia, Fla.,

"When I came on board, I reduced water usage 30 percent. I weaned the plant to not need as much water. I add soil amendments, use time-release fertilizers, and aerify and verticut more frequently. I use growth retardants to control top growth." – **Tom Trammell**, CGCS, director of agronomy at Doral Golf & Resort

Fall cleanup and winter prep

The kids are back in school, there's a chill in the air, and fall colors are starting to appear. As you transition to fall, it's important to think about fall clean-up and preparing your course for the winter months. Proper preparation will keep your crew and budget one step ahead this spring. Here are some tips:

1. Cultural practices. Core removal through aeration promotes air circulation in the soil's root zone and should be completed before turf goes dormant. Aeration reduces the amount of thatch on greens and fairways, improves drainage and relieves compaction. Verticutting removes thatch and provides a smoother surface. Topdressing with porous materials such as sand fills aeration holes and smooths the turf's surface. Topdressing also helps to decompose thatch by activating microbes.

2. Chemical applications. In the North, chemical applications are crucial to preventing and curing fall diseases before turf becomes dormant. Preventive snow mold treatments are encouraged if your course experiences significant snow cover. In the South, consider preemergent herbicide applications to control winter annual weeds

and fertilization to help Bermudagrass adapt to impending cooler weather.

3. Winterizing equipment. Protecting your equipment through the winter months means saving yourself from costly, time-consuming repairs in the spring. Winterize sprayers and irrigation systems by cleaning and removing water and perform maintenance on leaf blowers, snow blowers, plows, carts and mowers. Proper pesticide storage is critical because some products can't tolerate freezing temperatures. Make sure all pesticides and fertilizers are stored properly in dry, airtight containers.

4. Labor, planning and winter projects. Review labor needs and line up seasonal employees during slow months. Examine budgets and develop the strategy for next year's maintenance plan, taking advantage of early-order programs to buy chemicals in advance and save money. Schedule winter projects such as rebuilding bunkers, tree removal or landscaping.

– Information provided by Kyle Miller, senior technical specialist for BASF Turf & Ornamentals