



GROWING THE GAME

Some course owners try to get new players involved in the game by reaching out to schools and giving kids a chance to experience the pristine conditions as they learn a solid swing. Steve Graybill, owner at Foxchase Golf Club in Stevens, Pa., does so by combining golf with a classic harvest-time event.

Graybill worked with local farmer Warren Hoover to put into action the inspiration to bring in new players he realized while attending the 2012 Golf Industry Show in Las Vegas: turning a corn maze into a five-acre, open-to-the-public golf maze.

The corn fields near Foxchase have also sprouted a nine-hole course just for beginning players, wind-

ing through the scenic stalks with 10 to 15-yard-wide swaths of fairway. Clubs and golf balls are provided, tee times are whenever the player shows up and each hole only runs from 40 to 125 yards. Bunkers and water hazards are noticeably absent. If that's not attractive enough for casual players and families, there aren't any "greens" – just a five-gallon bucket buried in the ground at the end of the hole.

Playing the course is even cheap, as low as a \$5 trip through the nine, though picking up a hotdog and drink is a little extra. With the response Foxchase has gotten, however, they'll be harvesting crops of new, interested players for a long time to come.

Lending a hand

Aussie superintendents came together in support of a golf club that was vandalized earlier this year, helping to replace damaged turf. Victoria's Drouin Golf Club lost six greens when they were sprayed with Arsenal Xpress back in April.

Though superintendent Jason Allan tried to help the course weather the chemical onslaught, the herbicide

did its job and left greens damaged as the winter melted off. Before the start of the season (you remember that spring begins in September in Australia, right?), the club had to make the difficult choice to do some resurfacing.

Allan first got help from the National Golf Club, which donated more than 30,000 square feet of bentgrass turf, worth more than \$40,000. Once the replacement sod

was delivered by Anco Turf, Allan needed another hand in fixing the greens themselves. He put out a call for help, and more than 50 turf pros from area courses and volunteers showed up to make short work of turning the course green again. Not only were the greens repaired, volunteers also laid out the new 19th green, which had been in construction but stalled thanks to the vandalism.