

From THE FEED



We're all about making friends at GCI, which is part of why we're glad to work with Bill Brown, the man behind Turf Republic and incidentally, our newest columnist. Another reason is Bill's undying dedication to technology and social media for superintendents. Bill and our own Pat Jones attended this year's Turf Science Live event in South Carolina – and Bill found plenty of opportunities to flex his tech muscles to show off the new industry innovations.



Turf Republic @TurfRepublic



@gcmagazine talking with Tim Kreger.



Changing FOC to obtain better putting surface.



Checking nozzle calibration.



GPS tech on Smithco sprayer.



Lane Tredway discusses some @syngentaUS programs



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Bert McCarty, Bruce Martin and Jim Kerns
Clemson University and NC State University

Investigating 'Mini Ring' Disease Biology, Ecology, and Control

Since its first report in 1999, 'Mini Ring' disease has become a major problem for many golf courses in the SEUSA, and in many parts of the world where bermudagrass is grown on greens. On bermudagrass, mini ring consists of frog-eye (centers still green) circular patches 4 to 18 inches (10 to 46 cm) roughly in diameter that typically develop during hot, humid days of late summer and early fall when bermudagrass growth has slowed. Reasons for its increase are unknown, however, its occurrence has coincided with industry trends such as switching from Tifdwarf and Tifgreen cultivars on golf greens to shallow-rooted and thatch-producing 'ultra-dwarf' cultivars such as TifEagle, Mini Verde, and Champion bermudagrasses. Little prior agronomic research has been performed on this disease, leaving superintendents and scientists baffled on ecological and environmental parameters favoring its occurrence and spread, and with a very sparse database on which to base recommendations for management.

Recently, through its Round4Research fund raising efforts, the Carolinas Golf Course Superintendents' Association has announced a three-year funding for this project.

The researchers are much appreciated to the CGCSA and its members for providing this funding and look forward to performing the research.

Plug and save

The Bear Trace at Harrison Bay has recently become the first public golf course in America to start using all electric mowing equipment. Located in Tennessee, Bear Trace purchased the Jacobsen mowers for \$414,000.

The cost is more than worth it however. The course started using the electric mowers on March 3, and in the first 60 days they cut 317 gallons of gas. In the same time, the electric bill for the course only rose \$47.

The equipment is much quieter than gas mowers, also cutting down on sound pollution on the course.

"For years, the golf course industry had been labeled as a polluter," course superintendent Paul Carter says. "Having the ability to use this equipment is going to make a world of difference. It's going to make a difference for us as a crew, for the golfers who play here and for the wildlife."

