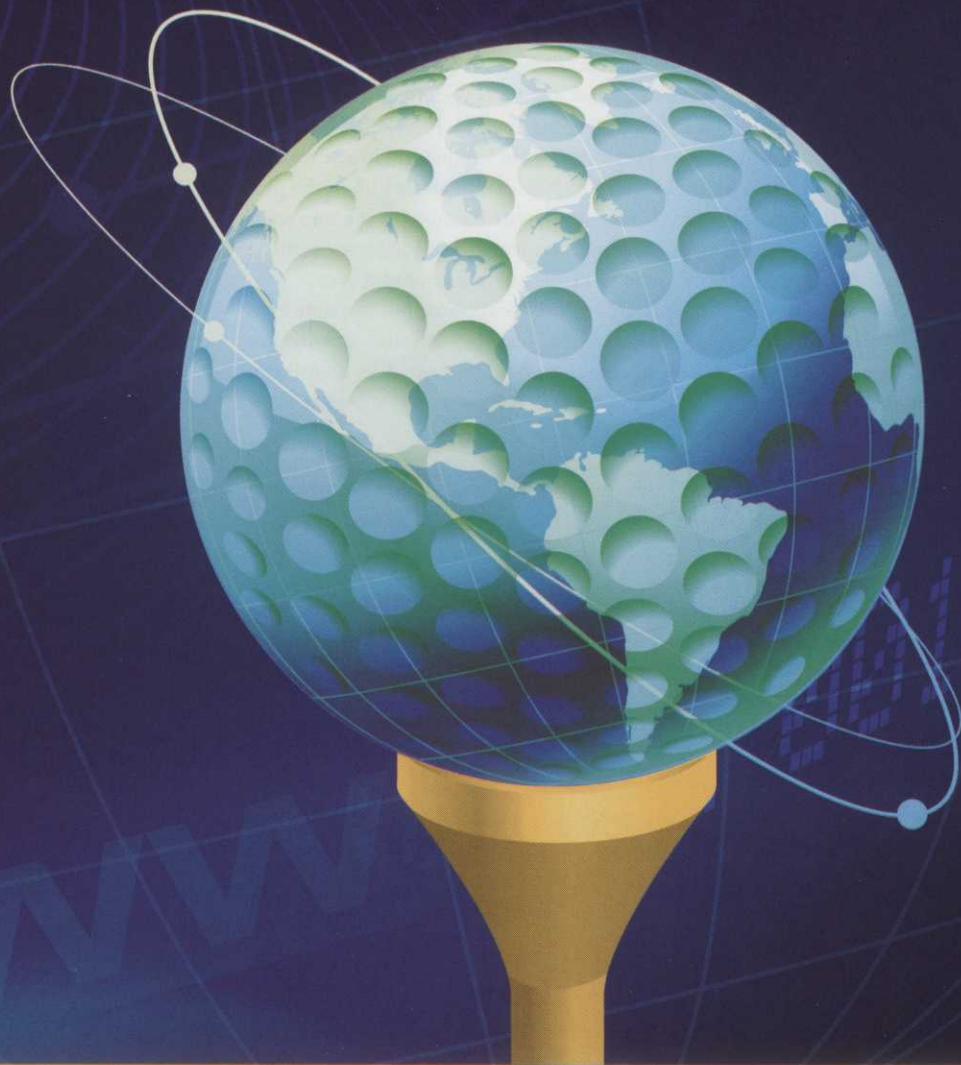


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plied to turf rather than assuming the nominal rate was applied to accurately calculate the percentage of chemical that occurs in runoff and ensure the pesticide concentrations measured in runoff reflect those that would occur with labeled applications.

**Basis of concern.** In field experiments involving pesticide application, it's not uncommon for application rates to differ by plus or minus 15 percent or more from nominal rates, even after careful calculation, calibration of spray equipment and application by experienced people (ACPA, 1996; Mojasevic and Helling, 1998). In an analysis of more than 1,600 pesticide applications, improper boom height (60 percent of errors), miscalculation of application rate (26 percent) and variation in pass time (14 percent) were most responsible for inaccurate application rates (Braverman et al., 2001).

**Approach.** Three main approaches are used to verify pesticide application rates (Massey et al., 2002). Two indirect measures are the catch-back method and the pass-time method. The catch-back method involves measuring the spray solution volume before and after application to determine if the desired volume of test solution was applied to the test plots. The pass-time method involves measuring the time it takes the applicator to pass over the test plot having known length and comparing this time

to the speed used in calculation.

Experienced applicators are able to apply within plus or minus 2 percent of the targeted spray volume or pass time. Making several practice runs before each pesticide application improves overall accuracy.

Field protocols written for regulatory purposes typically require the application to be within plus or minus 5 percent of the target spray volume or pass-time value. Variances exceeding these criteria should be scrutinized closely, and the cause of the misapplication determined before proceeding with additional applications.

A direct measure of deposited residues uses application verification monitors, which are paper discs, polyurethane foam plugs, Petri dishes, etc., placed in the test plot to collect spray deposition that occurs during application. The application verification monitors are collected and analyzed chemically for the test chemical(s) being applied. Prelabeled monitors are positioned before application in an arrangement spanning the length and width of the plot to allow a representative sample of the spray pattern. We used about one application verification monitor per 100 square feet of plot area.

Immediately after application, the monitors are collected and handled carefully so as to not lose pesticide content, wrapped in aluminum foil and immediately frozen until analyzed. Care

also must be taken to not walk on or otherwise disturb treated turf surfaces after application. A catwalk might be helpful to prevent plot disturbance when retrieving the monitors.

If, after analysis, the pesticide contents of the individual application verification monitors are found to vary by more than 20 percent within an application, the source(s) of the variability should be determined and reduced to ensure uniform pesticide treatment in future studies (Massey and Lenoir, 2003).

## SAMPLE HANDLING, STORAGE

**Quality control principle.** The application monitors and runoff samples must be labeled, handled, and stored properly to preserve the scientific integrity of study results.

**Basis of concern.** Improper handling and storage of samples can result in unacceptable degradation losses and compromise the integrity of the samples and, thus, the scientific validity of the overall study.

**Approach.** The collection of application monitors should begin immediately after application and the samples stored frozen to stabilize residues and solidify liquid spray droplets to prevent spills. Provisions should be made to have ample help to collect the application monitors, recognizing labor requirements rise with plot size and the number of monitors used.

A 'dry run' collecting the application verification monitors helps assess the time needed to collect, wrap and store the monitors. Runoff samples should be placed on ice during or immediately after collection and transported on ice back to the laboratory. Ideally, a robust, sensitive analytical method would be in place before initiating the field-conduct phase of a runoff study as this assures timely analysis of samples. However, if the samples can't be analyzed soon after collection, it's best to analyze at least a subset of the initial runoff samples. These samples then would be frozen along with the remaining unanalyzed samples and reanalyzed when the remainder of samples is analyzed. By comparing the initial and final analyses of these samples, the storage stability of pesticide residues in the later-analyzed samples can be determined.

## ACCOUNT FOR RAINWATER

Much planning, effort and expense are associated with the conduct of a pesticide runoff experiment. While all aspects of the study are important, several are of critical importance to

## Quality control considerations

Quality control considerations are important when conducting a plot-scale turf runoff experiment. These include:

- A well-designed protocol serves as an invaluable reference throughout a study as many construction and study conduct activities build on one another.
- Consultation with the chemical manufacturer, other researchers and the targeted end-user of the information generated by the study can help address important aspects of study design.
- To prevent extraneous water from entering the plot, the plot must be isolated hydrologically from surrounding area.
- One of the most important considerations for plot construction and maintenance is the interface that exists between the down-slope edge of the plot and the runoff collection apparatus because it represents a potential point of loss for surface runoff.
- The delivery rate and uniformity of the rainfall simulator must be verified under field conditions.
- One must know the amount of pesticide applied to turf rather than assuming the nominal rate was applied to accurately calculate the percentage of chemical that occurs in runoff and ensure the pesticide concentrations measured in runoff reflect those that would occur with labeled applications.
- The application monitors and runoff samples must be labeled, handled and stored properly to preserve the study results' scientific integrity.



overall outcome of the study. Perhaps the best way to summarize the approach encouraged is to strive to account for as much of the rainwater and applied pesticide as possible. **GCI**

*Joe Massey, Ph.D., is associate professor in the department of plant and soil sciences at Mississippi State University. Credit USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research Online (ISSN 1541-0277), Volume 7, Number 5.*

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## NOTEWORTHY SHOW PRODUCTS

The Golf Industry Show in Orlando, Fla., was, as usual, the place to meet, greet and get a leg up on your golf course preparation planning. In the more than 20 years of attending the annual event, I've had the opportunity to refresh my friendships, start the year's championship planning in the right direction, and investigate new equipment and products available to make preparations for upcoming major events a little less stressful.

Now that I can finally feel my feet again after miles of traversing the show floor, there are several products that might be beneficial and warrant consideration for inside-the-ropes golf course operations.

During events, a primary objective is to produce a quality and precision cut for putting surfaces. Walk-behind greensmowers are at the forefront in this crucial area. Because 50 percent of the game – at any level – is played on putting greens, this is often where your reputation as a golf course superintendent is made.

There are plenty of quality mower choices for the superintendent, but one unit caught my attention this year – the Jacobsen pedestrian Eclipse model. I was intrigued by:

- Mowing head widths available from 18 inches to 26 inches and available as floating or fixed heads. These varying widths are essential for a quality and consistent cut whether the surfaces are smooth, pitched or undulating.
- Adjustable settings for ground speed, reel speed and frequency of cut. These adjustments are important when you employ volunteers at an event who might be unfamiliar with your putting greens.
- The option of hybrid or battery power, which equates to fuel savings. Also, the battery-powered units allow for early morning starts without impacting any neighborhood noise ordinances at classic golf courses such as Winged Foot or Pebble Beach.
- Improved floating-head capabilities that will reduce surface scalping at lower heights

of cut on the most undulated turf surfaces.

The Rules of Golf state a bunker is a hazard consisting of a prepared area of ground from which turf or soil has been removed and replaced with sand. But, many major events are contested during the summer months, which can mean thunderstorms with heavy downpours resulting in bunker damage. To repair a bunker quickly and return it to play, you need a quality, rapid drainage system. And, like it or not, an inordinate amount of work is dedicated to the perfect ball lie within the hazard.

Pfafftown, N.C.-based Atlantic Installations created an innovative golf course drainage technology called the Quickplay 46 chamber unit for efficient bunker drainage. Benefits of the product include:

- A chamber engineered to provide more efficient drainage, a larger filtration surface area, and a greater water-storage capacity resulting in fewer washouts by replacing the tile and stone system of bunker drainage.
- By eliminating the gravel within a trench, there are no stones or rocks migrating to the surface to become a rules issue or impact play.
- The outlet pipe has a 4-inch capacity that can tie into the fairway drainage system and is adapted and fitted easily.
- The quick removal of standing water reduces the contamination of a white sand material with silt. The reduction of silt eliminates the need to constantly replace or refresh bunker sand that might vary playing conditions.

During championship play, removing water quickly from an integral playing surface allows you to return the golf course to the officials and competitors.

The new bentgrasses and ultradwarf Bermudagrasses require constant surface maintenance to produce the quality playing surfaces amateurs and professionals have come to expect. With these expectations come daily surface grooming and turf management requirements. Advanced Turf Technology created a versatile turf manage-

ment system of interchangeable “easy in, easy out” reel attachments for surface turf issues. Its benefits include:

- For final surface preparations for an event, you might wish to vertical mow lightly, brush or groom the surface lightly, and spike and roll depending on conditions. With this system, you can change quickly from one operation to solve your needs.
- Meeting the requirements for quality putting surface maintenance. Whether you're controlling organic matter or horizontal leaf blade orientation (grain), especially in ultradwarf species, Advanced Turf's four-step process provides 10 surface grooming options.
- The brushing and spiking attachments would solve surface moisture and leaf lay-over problems.

- The vibratory roller cassette would be an ideal method to smooth footprinting at round's end to smooth surface before an evening mowing. The weight of each attachment varies between 25 to 70 pounds.

Major tournaments require firm, fast putting surfaces to challenge competitors. Precise water management promotes healthy turf, but receptive greens necessitate a keen eye and a delicate irrigating touch. Two products that might be the next generation of water management tools come from Advanced Sensor Technology and TRW Enterprises/Precision USA.

Advanced Sensor uses a wireless device to monitor soil temperature and moisture content. At a championship venue, the sensors have demonstrated the coolest time to roll greens isn't between 5 a.m. and 7 a.m., but earlier, thus, reducing stress to the turf during championship play when adding water might become problematic.

Precision's handheld moisture content meter eliminates the guesswork involved with spot-watering greens. It will assist superintendents in establishing benchmark numbers for moisture content and allow them to determine when, where and how much water to apply. These meters received their championship experience at the 2007 PGA Championship at Southern Hills Country Club in Oklahoma. **GC**

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## Weigh it down

**R**yan Renovaire pull-type fairway aerifiers/slicers have built-in weight trays so additional weight can be added in order for the blades to penetrate more effectively into heavy soils. Tom Athy, CGCS, at Omaha Country Club in Nebraska, uses concrete cylinders for added weight while aerifying/slicing heavy soils. Each cylinder measures 12-inches long and 6-inches in diameter and weighs about 28 pounds. Four cylinders per weight tray equals about 112 pounds. The concrete cylinders were acquired free of charge from a local concrete-strength, quality-control testing company. The original weight-tray sides were extended by welding used fairway mower bedknives on the three outer sides. The original inner sides were cut off with an acetylene torch so the cylinders can lay end to end. The cylinders are kept in place with quarter-inch-thick steel strappings, which are positioned over the top of the cylinders extending the full length of each weight tray. Half-inch-diameter holes were drilled on either end of the strappings so they can slide over the vertically placed rebar. The strappings are wired to the rebar on each end to keep them in place.



## Sweep it in

**T**he Toro 5020 Sand Pro is equipped with an optional factory spiker attachment, which is about 60-inches wide. Adolfo Garcia, superintendent at the Chileno Bay Club in Cabo San Lucas, BCS, Mexico, added brushes to it for sweeping topdressing into the spiker holes and turf surface. He purchased two large, stiff industrial brushes that are slightly wider than the spiker attachment. Both brushes are mounted to a metal frame using quarter-inch-thick flat steel bolted to 1.5-inch angle iron, which is spot-welded onto two pieces of 1.5-inch square tubing. The other end of the square tubing has a 1-inch diameter piece of steel pipe welded to it. It's mounted to the Sand Pro in such a way that allows the brushes to be placed in a raised position for transportation. Garcia topdresses the greens and then uses the spiker attachment and brushes to sweep the topdressing into the spiker holes and turf surface. The brushes cost about \$75 each. The steel materials cost about \$35, and the mechanic's labor took about 2.5 hours. **GCI**



## Travels With Terry

Globetrotting consulting agronomist Terry Buchen visits many golf courses annually with his digital camera in hand. He will share helpful ideas relating to maintenance equipment from the golf course superintendents he visits – as well as a few ideas of his own – with timely photos and captions that explore the changing world of golf course management.

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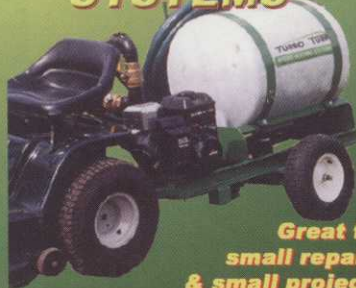
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**Pat Jones** is president of Flagstick LLC, a consulting firm that provides sales and marketing intelligence to green industry businesses. He can be reached at psjhawk@cox.net or 440-478-4763.

## REINVENTING YOURSELF

Last month, I dragged my wife to a rock concert for the first time in years. It was a retro show featuring a bunch of gray-haired artists from the '60s like B.J. Thomas, the Fifth Dimension, Peter and Gordon, Ronnie Spector (and, of course, the Ronettes) and The Rascals. I loved every minute of it. My wife sat by my side patiently through the whole thing, but barely tolerated it.

The truth is my wife has abandoned the '60s (as well as the '70s, '80s and '90s) in favor of keeping up with our children. As opposed to her Luddite husband, she has an iPod filled with music from the 21st century. While I can recite every lyric of every song ever written by Lennon and McCartney, she can sing along with tunes from Korn, the Black Eyed Peas and rap groups whose names can't even be printed in a family magazine like this one. I just asked her what her current favorite band was and she replied "Flogging Molly." Apparently, it's an Irish punk group. I kid you not.

In short, she's hip, and I'm not. It makes me fearful for our future. As McCartney wrote, "Will you still need me, will you still feed me, when I'm 64?"

Yet, despite the fact I'm sneaking up on being an old fogey, and she's a hot young thing, she seems to still care for me. Perhaps she'll even change my bedpans in a few years.

So, on the cultural radio dial, my tuner is stuck on the "oldies" station. My tastes in music, clothing, books, movies and pretty much everything else were set in concrete by the time I was 25. In a nutshell, I'm a happy dinosaur.

That said, from a business standpoint, I've tried to keep up. I'm pretty competent on computers, I read all the business books I can get and I try to challenge myself constantly to get better at what I do. That's what led me to what I'm doing now. As most of you know, I had a pretty good gig as the publisher of another magazine three years ago. We built the publication from

scratch to success. But success had its price tag. I found that I missed the fun of struggling to do new things, and I wasn't particularly happy pushing paper around my desk. So, I reinvented myself. I sat down and made a written list of the things I loved to do and the things I hated. At the top of the love list was

- being with my family;
- writing;
- speaking and teaching;
- working with great folks; and
- helping superintendents.

At the top of the hate list was

- managing other people;
- traveling 180 days a year;
- corporate B.S.;
- meetings; and
- did I mention corporate B.S.?

**Start now and begin to reinvent yourself. It's all about being happy and satisfying the needs of yourself and, if you have one, your family.**

Through that exercise, I came to the conclusion that it was time for me to do my own thing. Thus, I started my little company. The only corporate B.S. I deal with now is scooping up the doggie doo out of the backyard of Flagstick LLC's global headquarters. (I guess that's corporate D.S.)

So, here's the point of this rambling: I want to challenge each of you to do exactly what I did. Sometime in the next two days I want you to clear your schedule, make sure no one bothers you, get a piece of paper in front of you and write down the answers to the following questions:

- What do I really love to do? What hon-

estly makes me happy?

- What do I genuinely hate about what I'm doing now?

- If I could create my perfect life, what would it realistically be like?

- When I go to sleep at night, what nice thought will I have in my head?

- Conversely, what keeps me up at night and how can I get rid of that pain?

When you complete this exercise, you'll have a piece of paper that can change your life. That's exactly what I did, and I'm pretty happy these days. You can be, too.

If you're good at what you do (and I know you are), you need to take control of your life and reinvent yourself. You can and should manage your life rather than letting others do it for you. Think about it: Why are you doing what you're doing, and does it make you happy?

So, here's my challenge to you: take one hour, just an hour, and reinvent yourself.

What do I mean by reinvent? I mean you need to take stock of your life, decide what's good and what's bad and make a plan to become the person you want to be.

I know that sounds like new-age gibberish, but I'm serious. Set a time and go through the process. I don't care if you're 19 or 91. It's a healthy thing to do. You need to have a plan for your professional and personal life.

To put it another way, if you were going to do a project on your course – let's say rebuilding tees or installing a new pump station – wouldn't you make a plan?

Wouldn't you specifically map out every step of the process and know, in advance, what resources, time and effort you'd need to get the job done? Wouldn't you have a specific goal in your mind before you even start?

Your career and your life are no different. In fact, they're higher priorities. Don't wait. Start now and begin to reinvent yourself. It's all about being happy and satisfying the needs of yourself and, if you have one, your family. Almost every superintendent I've met is a perfectionist at heart. Just for once, be a perfectionist about yourself. **GC**

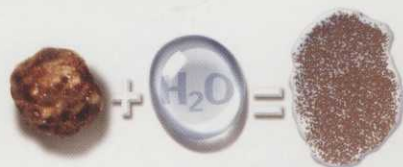




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Cypress, TX



## “Amazing”

- Michael Thomas,  
Dir. of Golf Course Maintenance,  
The Country Club at Mirasol,  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL

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INTO YOUR GREENS.

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- 🔥 No Shoe Pickup
- 🔥 No Ball Pickup
- 🔥 No Runoff

And, as you can see, according to some of the top names in the industry, it means this is pretty great stuff.

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