

OARS

BRANCHING OUT FOR BETTER PLANT HEALTH

Now there are THREE Organic Acid Removal Systems. Each with precise purpose & chemistry to provide year round water management.

The ONLY Organic Acid Removal Surfactant Systems. Patented, Tested, Proven and Guaranteed.

OARS.PS

Soil Penetrating Surfactant

Controls soil water repellency and provides uniform moisture for fast, firm playing surfaces.

OARS.

The Original Surfactant

Ideal for use with mechanical agronomic practices for improved plant health and faster healing.

OARS.HS

Soil Hydrating Surfactant

Improved water retention to maintain moisture in hard to wet soils and reduce desiccation in dormancy.

5484 S. Old Carriage Road
Rocky Mount, NC 27803

AQUA-AID

1-800-394-1551
www.aquaaid.com



Syngenta Business Institute™

ALUMNI UPDATE

I'm now teaching DASR techniques to my four assistants! These four simple steps: Describe, Acknowledge, Specify and Reaffirm are definitely a more appropriate, productive way to give negative feedback.

It was great talking with other supers about member programming/family programming. I was able to come back with a bunch of new ideas for our membership director.

Overall, this was the best educational event I've ever been to in my 15 years as a superintendent. The fact that Syngenta kept it completely free of product advertising was appreciated by all. The camaraderie between the selected superintendents was incredible. It was almost too good to be true!



Adam Bagwell
MPS, CGCS
Crane Creek
Country Club
Boise, ID



Exclusively Sponsored by

Learn more about the
Syngenta Business Institute at
www.greencastonline.com/SBI



DISEASE MANAGEMENT

Lessons learned

What have we learned from this and other tough winters?

"Mother Nature is always in charge, and sometimes we try to do everything right and wind up being wrong." Says Darin Bevard, director, Mid-Atlantic Green Section, USGA from the Pennsylvania office. "When the weather goes against you, there isn't much you can do."

Jim Skorulski, senior agronomist with the USGA office in Massachusetts says, "Some portion of the NE region will experience some difficult winter weather and cold temperature injury on a fairly regular basis. This year's winter weather is more extreme or seems to be impacting a much wider portion of the region and country. There have been records broken for cold temperature and for snowfall totals in many areas, and winter seems to be holding on hard." He adds, "Mother Nature is boss. She flexed some muscle to let us know that."

"Learn that what we do throughout the year will have an impact on what happens when the turf is dormant," says Carmen Magro, CGCS, MBA, professional agronomist and vice president, business development for Stevens Water Monitoring Services. "The turf system's performance level is highly dependent on what we do throughout the year, from year to year. It is why tournament courses begin to prepare for major tournaments years in advance."

Magro adds, "We can only achieve great success by learning to manage all the things that are manageable to the best of our ability...these include soil management, irrigation management and nutritional management in no particular order, but of equal importance."

going, there will be no stopping it," Magro says. "It will surely depend on how well the superintendent addresses the turf's needs as it breaks dormancy, and it will also depend on the practices put in place prior to dormancy."

"If the turf survived the ice/snow damage in the North, then it will green up perfectly if we allow it to transition properly," Magro adds. "If we are delayed in the south by extended cooler temperatures, then the cool season grasses (or painted warm season turf) will hang around a little longer than usual, but be assured once the soils begin to warm ever so slightly, the deep green turf will be on us quickly."

As soon as the grass can be vented or allowed to be exposed to sun and air, do it, Magro says. Do not aerify the turf too soon. Gradually, over a period of 7-10 days of sun and warmth exposure, mow off the dead material and begin your nutritional and IPM management program. "Focus on the fundamental needs of the turf...stimulate growth down through the roots, manage the soil/moisture relationships, air out the turf any way possible to get the gas exchange moving well," he says. "Only in the case where there are active fungi growing and thriving would I make a fungicide application my first priority."

Do not be over aggressive





BALLS BOUNCE DROPLETS SHOULDN'T

BORDER™ T&O is a

concentrated, liquid

spray performance

adjuvant. Its natural

polymers, retention

aids and surfactants help

improve biological efficacy,

reduce off-target movement and increase

spray droplet coverage. **BORDER T&O**

conditions your spray solution like no other

adjuvant so spray droplets stay on target.



It reduces droplet bounce,

improves spray adhesion

and saves you time and

money. **BORDER T&O**

also improves tank mix

efficacy and enhances

the performance of

fungicides, herbicides and other inputs to

give you more value. See for yourself how

BORDER T&O works. Watch the dramatic slow

motion video at www.precisionlab.com

PRECISION
LABORATORIES
Results. Expect it.™

www.precisionlab.com

THE CLEAR CHOICE



KPHITE 7LP SYSTEMIC FUNGICIDE BACTERICIDE

KPHITE 7LP Systemic Fungicide Bactericide is proven effective against pythium, dollar spot, brown patch and fungal diseases. KPHITE is EPA labeled, pH neutral and is uniquely formulated to increase plant health and vigor.



TO FIND A DISTRIBUTOR
OR LEARN MORE
WWW.PLANTFOODSYSTEMS.COM
800.343.7775

DISEASE MANAGEMENT

“Once it [the grass] gets going, there will be no stopping it... If the turf survived the ice/snow damage in the North, then it will green up perfectly if we allow it to transition properly. If we are delayed in the south by extended cooler temperatures, then the cool season grasses (or painted warm season turf) will hang around a little longer than usual, but be assured that once the soils begin to warm ever so slightly, the deep green turf will be on us quickly.”

—Carmen Magro, CGCS, MBA, Stevens Water Monitoring Services

with maintenance practices when the grass isn't growing, Bevard says. Also, monitor the weather and grass closely. “It may be possible to skip fungicide applications to control a disease such as Microdochium patch if, for example, the weather is going to turn dry, warm and sunny,” Bevard says. “The disease will no longer be active under these conditions.”

If you find out that you have experienced winterkill in certain areas, you'll need to determine your next course of action.

There are a number of factors to take into consideration. Depending on the size and location of the areas you have the option of seeding or sodding.

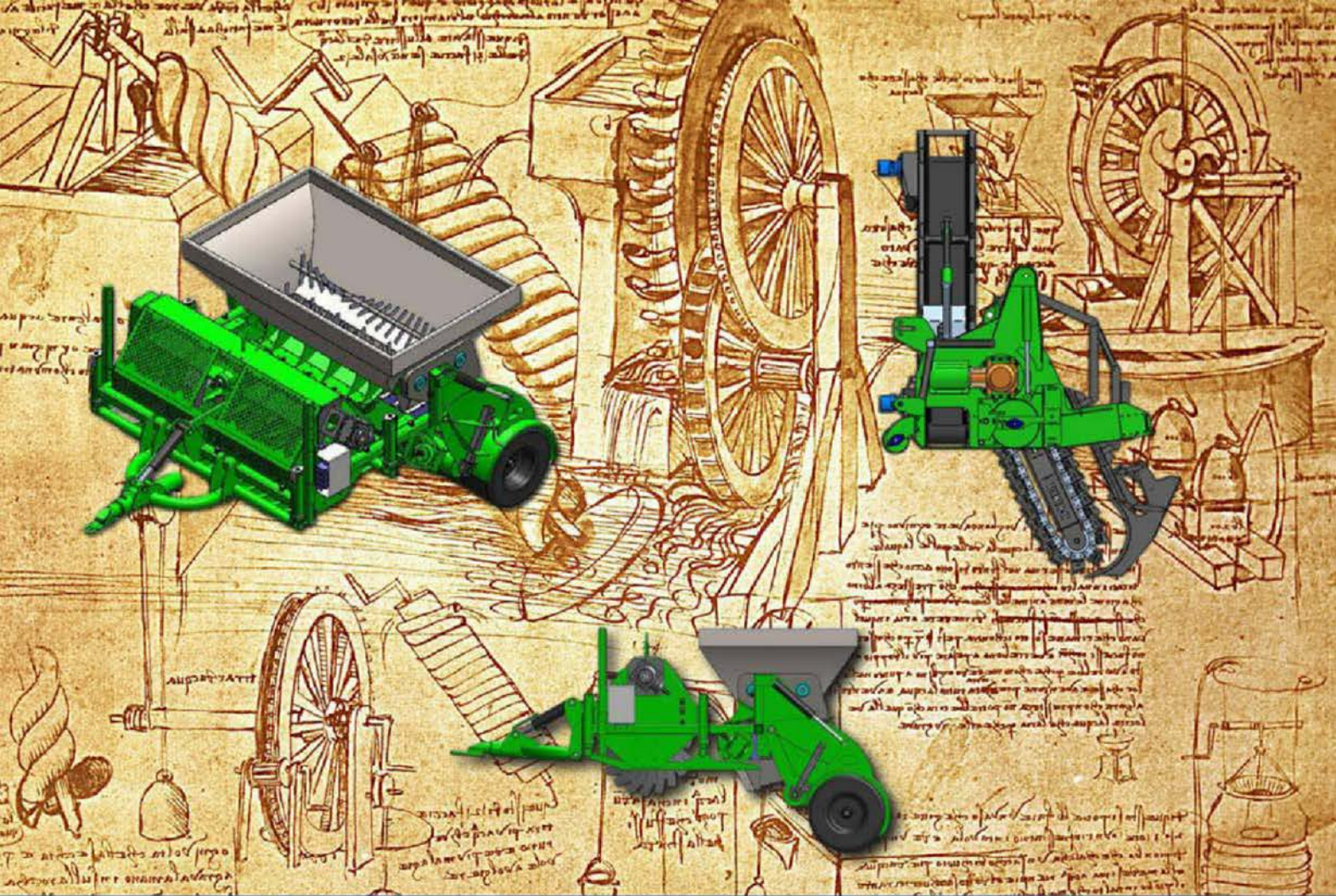
Budget also certainly comes into play here. Availability of the preferred sod is also a question.

If seeding you need to decide what seed to use. Will the seed that matches the primary stand in the affected areas germinate in time to be effective?

If not, what can you use that will establish itself quick enough but not contaminate your stand? What kind of combination can you use that will provide maximum results? What can be done to speed up the germination process?

If any kind of pre- or post-emergent weed control is needed, how do you time it with seeding for optimum control and seed establishment? How do you need to adjust your fertility program?

Keep in mind that the seedlings will not develop a good root system for some time so low rates of fertilizer applied more frequently will be more effective. You will



Da Vinci was ahead of his time...

We are too.

The latest equipment innovations are at
www.stecequipment.com

1-888-325-2532
sales@stecequipment.com

STEC
SPECIALIZED TURF EQUIPMENT COMPANY



Follow us
[@STEC_Equipment](https://twitter.com/STEC_Equipment)



When turf doesn't have any snow cover desiccation can be a major problem. It can thin the turf by affecting some of the plants or wipe out an area by drying out all the crowns.

also need to water the seeded areas more frequently until the plants become established. Mow as soon as the first seedlings reach the mowing height for the area.

To encourage the seedlings to spread mow early and frequently. If hot and humid weather is in the forecast, you may need to apply a fungicide to prevent damping off, Py-

thium, and/or brown patch.

Last, but certainly not least, manage moisture and salts together on a regular basis.

"Monitoring those is simple with today's technology,"

Magro says. "Monitoring will prevent leaching of nutrients from the turf, allow for the most air exchange to take place, allow for the most extensive rooting to take place and simply help to setup the turf to withstand this year's stress and future stresses yet to be encountered." **GCI**

Steve Trusty is a Council Bluffs, Iowa, based writer and frequent GCI contributor.

DR. LEE MILLER, UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI

Still Dragging Hoses?

MAKE HAND WATERING A THING OF THE PAST



...& Substantially Reduce Course Watering Requirements

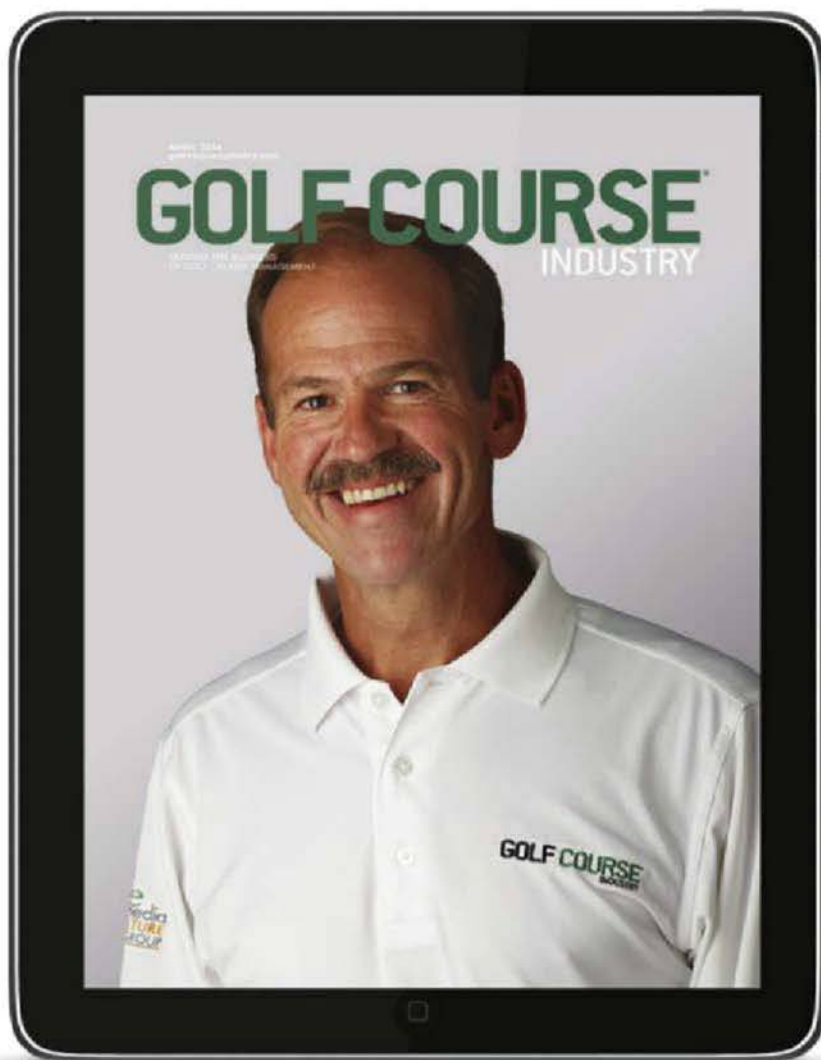
Hydretain
ROOT ZONE MOISTURE MANAGER

To learn more, call us at **352-620-2020** or visit us on the web at **Hydretain.com**

©Copyright 2014, Ecologel Solutions, LLC, All Rights Reserved.

Capturing moisture from the soil before it evaporates, Hydretain® has the unique ability to provide turf, shrubs flowers and trees with needed water between irrigation or rainfall cycles, keeping them healthy and vigorous. This not only saves your landscape from drought stress, but it also saves time and money especially in areas that are difficult to reach with daily irrigation.

got app?



Download the *Golf Course Industry* app today for FREE on the app store.





Brian Vinchesi, the 2009 EPA WaterSense Irrigation Partner of the Year, is president of Irrigation Consulting Inc., a golf course irrigation design and consulting firm headquartered in Pepperell, Mass., that designs irrigation systems throughout the world. He can be reached at bvinchesi@irrigationconsulting.com or 978/433-8972.

THE LITTLE THINGS

Low- to no-cost additions to make your system easier to operate.

Many times the little things make the difference in separating good from average or great from superior. Irrigation design and installation is no different. The little design and installation nuances that make the irrigation system better have always impressed me. When designing, renovating or installing a system, the following are some of the little things that will make your system easier to manage and troubleshoot.

VALVE BOX COVERS

Today's irrigation systems have lots of valve boxes installed for isolation valves, drain valves, air release valves, quick couplers, wire splices and electric valves. When you walk up to a group of valve boxes it would be nice to know what is housed in which box without having to pop them all open, especially if you're in a hurry due to a pipe or fitting break. Valve box covers are available in a variety of colors. Pick one each type of valve, keeping in mind what they'll look like in their installed environment and let your crew know what each color represents.

Tired of not being able to find valve boxes? Here's a hint: attach a #10 stainless-steel washer with a stainless-steel screw on the underside of the cover. This makes the valve box easy to locate with a metal detector. Some manufacturers will even supply the covers with the detection already installed. You can also easily add them to your system's existing boxes.

IDENTIFICATION TAGS

Identifying cables and valves helps tremendously with troubleshooting. With the popularity of today's decoder systems, identifying where a communication cable is coming from along with where it is going should be labeled at the time of installation. For example: "from," "to," "volts," "amps" and "output" at each junction should be put on the tag. Lastly, on conventional systems tagging the communication cable path and all electric valves with controller and zone number is also very helpful.

BALL VALVES

Tired of getting wet when quick couplers are engaged or the key removed? Put a ball valve on the outlet between the key and the swivel using two brass nipples. Now you can keep the water flow off when engaging and disengaging the key, keeping you and your crew drier.

WIRE COLOR

Wire comes in many different colors, for #12 and #14 AWG valve and sprinkler wires, decoder cable and some manufacturer's communication cables. Color coding also helps identify what color operates which communication path or what area of the golf course. For example, greens and tees purple control wires, fairway and rough orange control wires; path A communication blue and path B communication yellow.

However, the most beneficial part

with different colors is distinguishing between old and new wires. When you install new irrigation the new wires should not be any of the same colors as the old wires, so you immediately know which wires you need to deal with.

CASE ALIGNMENT

Ins and outs for greens have been popular for many years, and ins and outs on fairway edges are becoming more popular with today's systems. When you look down on these pairs of back-to-back sprinklers on greens and fairways it would be nice to know which is the in and which the is the out. This is accomplished by placing the selector valve on the opposite side of the sprinkler nozzle. So the "in" sprinklers would have the selector switches on the back side of the sprinkler and the "out" sprinklers on the inside edge against the fairway cut of the green collar.

GRAVEL

Tired of opening a valve box and finding it full of water? Many times this is due to the way the valve box was installed and its inability to drain. If the box is installed on a gravel base, in most cases it will drain. Unfortunately, in most installations, the valve box is installed and gravel is simply poured into the box. This does not help in draining the box at all. Make sure that the box is installed on the gravel, 4 inches is preferred, for it to drain. **GCI**



Bringing soil and water together for over 50 years.
We fix relationships.



We fix relationships.



Are water repellency issues driving a waxy wedge into your soil/water relationships? Probably. Statistically speaking, there comes a time in every soil's life when water just doesn't find it as attractive anymore...

Aquatrols soil surfactants help re-establish the bond between soil and water, making water-repellent areas attractive and receptive to water once again. And with a full line of formulations, we can help you solve a wide range of relationship issues.

Aquatrols. We bring back the .



scan the QR code with your smartphone
or visit [YouTube.com/Aquatrols](https://www.youtube.com/Aquatrols)



Show plenty of patience and "TLC" with your turf because the last thing you want to do is put it under more stress.

BY JASON STAHL

COMING IN FOR **THE KILL?**

Winter's severe cold and snow could heighten anthracnose's impact in 2014, but so could spring weather conditions, experts debate. One thing is certain: stress – whether from dry-and-hot or wet-and-cold conditions – is the key.