

Jennifer Remsberg, residential market manager for Bayer Professional Products, said superintendents are more concerned about the fate of products, not the fate of companies. "This is a product-driven market," she added.

Still, superintendents should know that consolidation can be good, Pulliam said. "When mergers happen, the size of the businesses are much larger," he noted. "That allows us to spend the dollars we need on research and technology, which is critical to solving superintendents' problems."

Often, companies involved in mergers break away from their pharmaceutical and industrial parent companies, which can be positive, Pulliam said. They become stand-alone companies and focus their energies and dollars on one audience.

There are also concerns that consolidation will escalate prices. But Pulliam said, "There's plenty of competition [to keep prices in check.]"

What's next? Will Syngenta and Dow Ag unite to form Syndow?

"Mergers will continue," Pulliam says. "I'll let it go at that."

## Houston, We Have a Problem

### TEXAS COURSES HIT WITH OVERSEEDING WASHOUTS

By Frank H. Andorka Jr.

**M**uch of the buzz at the South Texas GCSA's meeting in March concerned the unseasonably wet and cold winter that disrupted overseeding programs at many Houston-area courses.

"In my 16 years in the business, this is by far the worst overseeding season I've ever seen," said George Cincotta, superintendent at Riverbend CC in Sugarland, Texas.

Cincotta says normal overseeding (with *Poa trivialis*) occurs in Houston between Oct. 1 and Nov. 1, when temperatures range between 70 degrees and 80 degrees. This year, temperatures dipped into the 50s most days this winter, and 2 to 3 inches of rain washed the seed into the collars.

"There will be a lot of collars in this area looking great," said Robert Bryan, superintendent at Windrose GC in Spring, Texas. "But there will be some thin spots on the greens."

Bryan said he has heard other superintendents question the need to overseed after their experience this year. "A lot of guys are saying, 'If it's going to be like this, why do it?'" he said. "It's easier to maintain bentgrass if this going to be the result."

Speaking of overseeding, here are 10 guidelines for overseeding your greens and tees, provided by David Kopec, professor of turfgrass management at the University of Arizona:

1. Stop nitrogen fertilization at 25 days before overseeding. Substitute or maintain potassium fertilization.

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## Quotable

**"I don't care if you have a hangover — just don't sound like it on the hotline."**

— Rhys Arthur, superintendent at Indian Spring CC in Silver Spring, Md., on guidelines for his employees when updating the "Course Condition Hotline"

**"On certain holes, they need it."**

— Greg Norman on Augusta National's plan to renovate several par 4s to make them more difficult. The Shark, by the way, missed the cut for The Masters. (Associated Press)

**"Every architect's dream is to do a project right on the beach. All you have to do is push it up and plant it, push it up and plant it ..."**

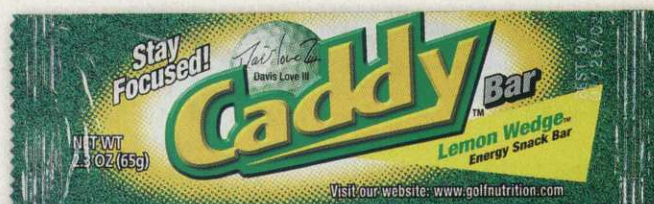
— Architect Bill Love on getting back to basics in design.

**"I don't think it's a coincidence. This ball has made that much difference in my game."**

— Joe Durant, formerly ranked No. 208 on the PGA Tour and winner of two events this year, on using the new Titleist Pro V1 solid-core golf ball, which goes further and is easier to control. (USA Today)

## The Energizer

We don't want to insinuate anything, but maybe you should try a Davis Love III Caddy Bar to help you do your job. The Caddy Bar, manufactured by Phoenix-based Golf Nutrition, has 19 ingredients which are clinically proven (whoaa!) to help golfers improve their focus and concentration. We assume the bar can help superintendents, too.



The Caddy Bar, available in peanut butter and lemon wedge flavors, also contains lipoic acid and lutein, two nutrients important for nerve cell regeneration and energy recovery. So no more complaining about those 12-hour days. Now get to work!