

# Off The Fringe

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"It's only going to benefit superintendents and anybody that deals with having to keep records," Israelson said. "Architects and contractors are using the GPS technology. It makes sense for us to start using it."

Mark Schmidt, Deere's senior project manager, was attending his fourth Feedback program and said more superintendents are gaining an interest in GPS. Deere touted its GPS spray record-keeping system, and fleet and service management program.

The former provides superintendents with the capability to record spatial spray applications automatically so they can manage and assess performance of applied products — and use the data to prove compliance with environmental regulations. The system's technology allows for a sprayer to capture information about a particular application. The information

is transferred in real time to a base station where a superintendent can record and analyze it.

"The system allows superintendents to keep historical records of all the applications they've done," Schmidt said.

The fleet and service management program features a preventative-

maintenance hour meter that can be programmed with service intervals. "When the machine logs 25 hours, you can program it to be ready for an oil change," Schmidt explained.

E. Charles Ulevich, director of golf course maintenance for Hayfields CC and Turf Valley Resort Conference Center in Ellicott City, Md., said the GPS would likely become a tool superintendents can't do without. Ulevich said he played golf at a course whose GPS system would shut down golf cars if they strayed 10 feet from the cart path.

"It's phenomenal," he added.

Ulevich said he would use the system for record keeping of pesticides and fertilizers. Ulevich, who oversees 54 holes and 60 employees, would also use GPS to track maintenance vehicles.

"But tracking maintenance vehicles might keep you in the office too much," he added. "[GPS] is another tool that makes our lives easier, but it also has the potential to make you lazy."

Ulevich is also concerned about price and says cost will be the driving factor on whether GPS is widely used in the industry. "Like all technology, though, it will get cheaper in the future," he predicted.



JOHN DEERE/STEVE TRUSTY

Superintendents are excited about the GPS spray record-keeping system.

## Quotable

**"Everybody from every walk of life has been affected by this in some way or another. You almost feel guilty trying to return to some normalcy. ... But you have to try to return to some sort of normal activity."**

— Charlie Fultz, superintendent of Country Club of Culpeper (Va.), on the aftermath of Sept. 11

**"We don't call it beer. We call it aiming juice."**

— Vicky, our new favorite beverage cart girl from Woodland Hills GC in Eagle, Neb.

**"We thoroughly enjoy listening to our guests talk, not about their golf games, but about the deer they saw across the fairway, the alligators they saw along the lakes or even the even raccoon that was snooping around their carts looking for goodies."**

— Gary Meyers, manager of sports turf and golf course maintenance at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla.

## November In Turfgrass Trends:

**REMOTE DIAGNOSIS:** Extension agents and other experts examining problem turf have only so many hours in a day and sometimes it's not possible to see a site firsthand. The remote diagnosis work being done at the University of Georgia promises to relieve the overworked specialists and speed diagnosis for problems that commonly beset turfgrass.

**DISEASE STUDY:** Even though the

weather did not cooperate (it was unusually cold this year in Central Pennsylvania), Penn State's Wakar Uddin gathered good data for his disease study and the effect of Insignia application on turfgrass. Let's just say the results are more interesting that Penn State's football season so far.

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