

Ice Breaker

IT'S PROFILE TO THE RESCUE FOR FROZEN GREENS

Jack Cronin, a distributor of Profile Porous Ceramics in New England, has made a discovery that superintendents should find beneficial. He has learned that Profile melts ice on greens like a midday summer sun.

As Northeast superintendents learned last winter, ice can destroy greens and fairways. Turf suffers crown hydration, the rupturing of plant cells caused by ice crystals. But several superintendents are turning to Profile to melt ice before it damages turf, according to Cronin of R.F. Morse & Sons.

Northeast superintendents have used organic products to melt ice for years. They attract sunlight because they're dark, and they melt ice. But ...

"When the organic product gets through the ice, it's very susceptible to float to the low area," Cronin says. "Then around June when the temperature starts to rise, the area is growing out of control."

Cronin says a superintendent in New Hampshire was the first to use Profile to melt ice.

"He had done several of his greens with an organic product, but he wasn't able to finish because he ran out," Cronin says. "He went back to the barn and found he had some Profile left over from the year before."

Profile is completely different from organic products, but the superintendent thought it might melt ice because of its dark color. He applied it to four greens on a Friday.

When he came back Monday, the ice on the four greens had melted enough that he used a snow blower to remove it. But the ice on the other greens, where he applied the organic product, was still solid and couldn't be removed.

Cronin says Profile works faster to cut through ice without causing greens to grow wildly in the spring because it's a soil amendment. Profile isn't marketed for melting ice, but several superintendents in the Northeast are using it to do so.

Painting With Primo

Syngenta's scientists are always dreaming up new ways for superintendents to use their popular plant growth regulator, Primo, including the latest: tank-mixing Primo with paint to mark areas where superintendents don't want golfers to drive golf cars, particularly around greens.

Dave Ross, technical manager for Syngenta's turf and ornamental group, says the Primo/paint mixture allows superintendents to mow those areas less often, which means the paint stays around longer, Ross says.

Now if only Syngenta scientists could figure out a way to use Primo that would force golfers to obey the painted marks instead of blithely ignoring them as they so often do.

— Frank H. Andorka Jr., Managing Editor

Five Great Things Said About Green Design

Many things have been said about greens and the complexities of designing them. Contributing editor Geoff Shackelford searched his library of design books to come up with what he thinks are five of the best things ever said about green design from five deceased men regarded as golf legends. The sayings remind us not only of how important green design is, but also how subjective tastes are when it comes to interpreting the architect's work.

"A putting green has features just like a human, or, at least, it should have to be worthy of the name. Of course, there are many which are no more impressive than the vacant, cow-like expression of some people, but then again there are some with rugged profiles which loom head and shoulders above the common herd, and the moment we clap our eyes on one of these, impulsively we murmur, 'Ah! There's a green for you!'"

— A.W. Tillinghast, architect

"I am beginning to think that the idea of flat greens or slightly falling greens is more truly scientific than the American plan of small greens targeted or banked to stop almost any shot that hits them. Only a real golf shot will hold those big, flat or slightly retreating greens; and you may have to exercise yourself between the ears in selecting the shot to play."

— O.B. Keeler, golf writer

"Putting greens constructed with relation to the length and topography of the hole are the making of a real golf course."

— Donald Ross, architect ▶

"There should always be a definite advantage to be gained from an accurate and intelligent placing of the tee shot, or a reward offered for a long, well-directed carry over some obstacle. This advantage or reward can be only in the shape of an easier or more open road for the second shot. When we soak the green with water, we absolutely nullify the advantage which the design of the hole has held out."

— Bobby Jones, player and architect

"... greens to a golf course are what the face is to a portrait."

— C.B. Macdonald, architect

