

Good News, Bad News for Bayer's Nematicur

In February, Rob Kloska, superintendent of Jupiter Island Club in Hobe Sound, Fla., expressed concern that Bayer's Nematicur would soon be taken off the market by the EPA.

"I have nematode problems really bad," Kloska said. "[Superintendents] wouldn't be able to make it down here without Nematicur."

For Kloska and other superintendents who use Nematicur to battle nematodes, there's good news and bad news. The good news — they can still purchase and use Nematicur for at least the next three years. The bad news — Bayer will voluntarily phase out Nematicur by May 31, 2005.

Nematicur, whose common name is fenamiphos and comes from the organophosphate nematicide chemical family, has been around for more than 20 years. A Bayer spokesperson said the company is already working on a replacement.

A Ball Mark Was Never So Easy to Repair

You can tell your golfers that Danny Edwards has made it easy for them to fix ball marks.

Edwards, a Senior PGA Tour player and CEO of GreenFix Golf in Scottsdale, Ariz., recently introduced the GreenFix Ball Mark Repair Tool, which takes the bending over and straining your back out of fixing a ball mark.

That's because a ball-mark repair tool is molded to the cap of a putter grip. Hence, the tool is always with a player who ventures onto a green with his putter. All the player has to do is engage the tool, hold the club face in his hand and repair the ball mark.

"No more excuses," says Shawn Emerson, director of agronomy at Desert Mountain in Scottsdale, Ariz. "GreenFix gives all golfers the ability to properly repair ball marks. I believe that GreenFix will do for ball marks what alternative spikes have done for spike marks — gone."

We Americans love to have it easy. The GreenFix Ball Mark Repair Tool is up there with the remote control, paying at the pump and pizza delivery. Thanks Danny.



The ball-mark repair tool is molded to the cap of a putter grip.

Quotable

"I wish every course we played was in this condition. I can't say enough about David Johnson. He goes to the nth degree to make sure every blade of grass is immaculate."

— Barb Trammel, LPGA Tour's vice president of tournament operations, commenting on superintendent David Johnson and his course, Mission Hill CC in Rancho Mirage, Calif., which hosted the Kraft Nabisco Championship in March. (Rancho Mirage Press-Enterprise)

"The obvious victims of your proposals are not golf club manufacturers nor the elite golfers who may be compromising the integrity of a few 100-year-old courses. The true victims are beginning golfers, women golfers and seniors. Your actions, therefore, appear to be thoughtless."

— Frank Thomas, former USGA technical director, ripping his former employer for proposing to place restrictions on clubhead size. (GolfWorld)

"I'm building a course [Trump National GC] right now in Briarcliff Manor (N.Y.), and I'm totally involved. We're building a waterfall that's going to be 90 feet high, and five thousand gallons of water a minute are going to come down. It's a par three with the green sitting at the foot of the waterfall."

— Business tycoon and golf expert(?) Donald Trump on his new plastic course. His statement probably has the other Donald (Ross, the Donald that matters most in golf) spinning in his grave. (Travel + Leisure magazine)