

Off The Fringe

Business briefs

Scotts, Monsanto get go ahead

In a victory for The Scotts Co. and Monsanto, the Oregon Department of Agriculture has approved an 11,000-acre control area in central Oregon where 400 acres of the two companies' Roundup Ready Creeping Bentgrass will be grown. The joint project has been criticized by area bentgrass growers who are concerned about cross-contamination.

The decision followed public hearings last November and in June. The new variety is enhanced through biotechnology to tolerate Roundup Pro herbicide, which will allow invasive weeds to be controlled without harming the bentgrass.

The research will lead to full production if approval is gained by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Approval could come in either the fall of 2003 or the spring of 2004. Planting within the new control area is expected to begin this fall.

"Superintendents have been forced to co-manage both *Poa* and bentgrass," said Don Suttner, regional technical development manager at Monsanto. "That often means frequent chemical applications to control insects, weeds and disease. Because *Poa* requires more irrigation, they've had to water more often, too. Eliminating *Poa* reduces many of the other inputs superintendents need to worry about."

Environmental Golf joins venture

Calabasas, Calif.-based Environmental Golf, a subsidiary of Environmental Industries, formed a joint venture with environmental consultant, golf course agronomist and certified superintendent Ted Horton, of THC Consulting. Horton will partner with Environmental Golf to share expertise on environmental stewardship, indigenous landscaping and habitat protection

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Defense Against Disease

BIZARRE WEATHER PATTERNS
MADE DIAGNOSING SUMMER
DISEASES DIFFICULT. HERE'S
WHAT THE USGA AND OTHERS
SAW THIS YEAR

By Frank H. Andorka Jr.,
Managing Editor

No one can quite explain the bizarre weather patterns across the country this year. It's almost as if something has gone wrong with the seasonal clock, making it particularly difficult this year to figure out which diseases might strike your course.

Still, the members of the USGA Green Section staff and others have been diligently trying to help superintendents diagnose and do battle with problems as they cropped up. Here's what they saw this summer:

Northeast Region – The USGA agronomists in the Northeast said the heat and humidity caused dollar spot to appear on several courses, but they assured regional superintendents that the rumors of fungicide resistance were greatly exaggerated.

"Disease pressure was extremely high," says Dave Oatis, the USGA's Northeast Green Section director.



CHIPCO PROFESSIONAL PRODUCTS

Dollar spot has attacked golf courses in several regions.

"Under these conditions, no fungicide held up as long as it would have under more moderate conditions."

Anthracnose also posed considerable problems for superintendents in the Northeast, and summer patch plagued golf courses in the area. Oatis said syringing those areas helped, but superintendents must not overwater. "Good water management is critical at this point of the season," he says.

Mid-Atlantic Region – Stan Zontek, director of the USGA's Mid-Atlantic region, said he saw a resurgence in take-all patch.

"I saw two courses (vs. none last year) suffering from the disease,"

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at Pelican Hill and Oak Creek golf courses in California as well as strategic business planning and project support.

NGCOA launches Beginner Friendly program

The National Golf Course Owners Association launched a Beginner Friendly Course Certification program through its "Get Linked. Play Golf" player development program. The purpose of the program is to help people locate courses in their area that welcome new golfers. About 500 courses have been certified as Beginner Friendly.

Hinckley resigns from ClubCorp

Jim Hinckley resigned in July as president and chief operating officer of Dallas-based ClubCorp after more than 30 years.

GCSAA Growth Has Been 'Steady'

Since January 1994, GCSAA says its membership has grown 58 percent — from 13,300 to an all-time high of 22,000. What's with the big increase?

"The biggest reasons for the growth are the increase in member services that GCSAA provides, the value employers see in the association and our more aggressive recruiting activities," said GCSAA spokesman Jeff Bollig.

Bollig downplayed the growth spurt, though.

"I would not classify the increase in membership from one year to the next as huge," he said. "We have been on a fairly steady pace since 1996 of about 1,000 added members per year. I would agree that the jump from 13,300 to 22,000 over eight or nine years is significant, but it is not as if it was a spike in growth. It has been steady."

GCSAA's membership includes superintendents, assistant superintendents, golf course management executives, educators, students, corporations, industry representatives and others. The superintendent membership, including assistants, is about 17,000. "Superintendent still account for the majority of our membership growth over the extended time period," Bollig said.



Scanning the Web

Frank Andorka reviews www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/public/heart/obesity/lose_wt/index.htm

(All sites are preceded by <http://> unless otherwise noted)

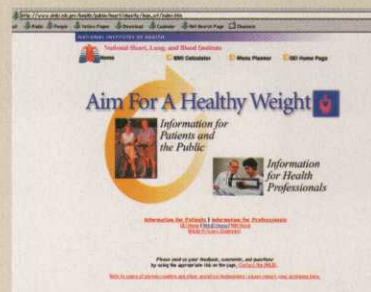
Are you trying to lose weight and revamp your lifestyle? Then the "Aim for a Healthy Weight" initiative from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) is for you. This interactive Web page offers numerous tools to help you figure out your ideal weight and how to get there.

It starts by giving you the tools to determine whether or not you're overweight in the first place. If you click on the Body Mass Index (BMI) calculator, it will ask you to enter your height and weight. Then it will give you a number between 18 and 30, which you can compare to a chart to see how you measure up.

If you determine that you're overweight (or obese — there's a clinical difference), don't despair. Click over to the "Meal Planner" page, which offers suggestions of what foods you can eat to

stay within a predetermined calorie count. You should visit the "Smart Shopping" module, which gives you tips on how to read nutrition labels more effectively. The site also provides tips on what kind of exercise program will take off those unwanted pounds and low-fat recipes that will have you eating good-tasting, healthy food in no time.

It's no surprise that this site is so useful and extensive: The NHLBI is a sub-institute of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) (www.nih.gov), a national clearinghouse for the latest health information. If you're suffering from health-related problems, this would be a good place to start educating yourself about them. They have an index of common (and not-so-common) health problems and extensive information on all of them. The NIH re-



mains true to the mission it established for itself in 1887 — "to uncover new knowledge that will lead to better health for everyone."

Golfdom's managing editor Frank H. Andorka Jr., who discovered that he was overweight (but not obese) when he visited this site, compiles Scanning the Web. You can reach him at fandorka@advanstar.com with future column suggestions or sites you think he should visit.