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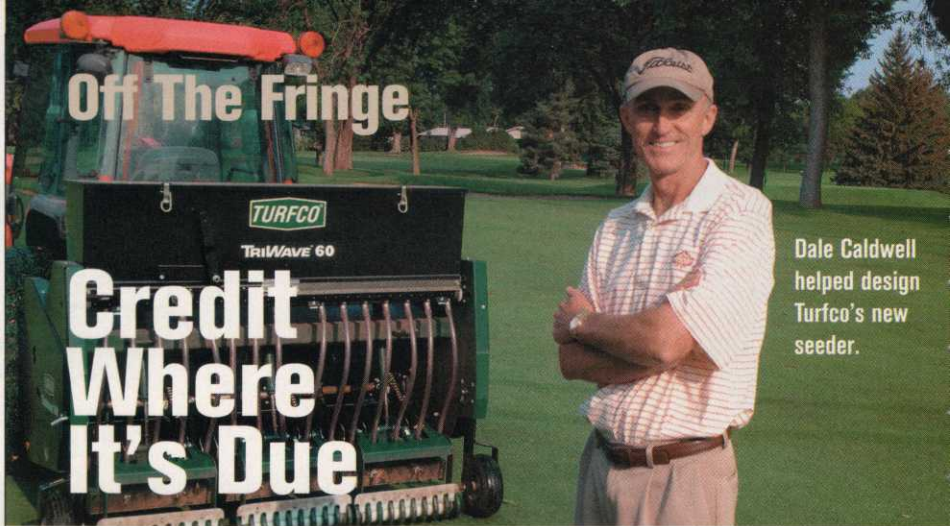
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Off The Fringe

Credit Where It's Due

Dale Caldwell helped design Turfco's new seeder.

TURFCO'S KINKEAD SALUTES SUPERINTENDENTS FOR HELPING TO DESIGN NEW EQUIPMENT

By Larry Aylward, Editor in Chief

It was Scott Kinkead calling. The vice president of Turfco Manufacturing wanted to talk about his new seeder, the TriWave. But Kinkead wasn't calling to wax about how great the new machine performs. He was calling to talk about the superintendents who helped design it.

"I want to make sure they get the credit they deserve," Kinkead says.

It's not uncommon for superintendents to help companies create new equipment. It's just that superintendents, a humble bunch, often do it without much fanfare.

Kinkead recognizes that. So he credits superintendents for originating the ideas for many new products.

"We mechanize the solutions for the problems that they come up with," Kinkead says. "I just don't think people always appreciate how much impact superintendents have on the [development of] actual products."

One of the superintendents who helped Kinkead create the TriWave is Dale Caldwell, who has been the superintendent at the Minneapolis Golf Club for about 22 years. When Minneapolis-based Turfco began research on the TriWave three years ago, Kinkead visited the Minneapolis Golf Club to talk turf with Caldwell. He asked Caldwell what his challenges were when it came to seeding.

Kinkead and the Turfco engineers used Caldwell's feedback when they went to the drawing board to invent the seeder. Caldwell said the seeder he was using didn't follow contours very well, and it tended to rip up turf when run over high spots and not seed when run over low spots. Also, the seed would fall next to the slit.

"Dale told me, 'It would be nice if we could actually put the seed in the slit,'" Kinkead recalls.

It just so happens that Caldwell was one of the first superintendents in the nation to use the TriWave. Lord knows he needed it.

Caldwell's course suffered massive winterkill in the spring of 2005. The Minneapolis area received below-average snow that winter, but desiccation was at a premium thanks to continuous freeze and thaws.

"There wasn't a blade of grass on about 13 of my fairways when we came out of winter," Caldwell says.

Caldwell overseeded the course's fairways four times, once using the seeder he helped create before it was on the market. "The TriWave helped get the seed right where we wanted it," he says. "It was a bad year for golf courses, but it was a great time for us to come up with a seeder prototype."

Turfco's design features a disc, not a blade, which separates the soil. The Tri-

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Off The Fringe

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Wave also features 18-inch heads to follow contours better, improving seed-to-soil contact.

This is not the first time that Turfco and the Minneapolis Golf Club have teamed to devise a new product. The course's first superintendent, Herb Cohrs, and his brother, Arthur, had the idea for the first mechanized topdresser in the early 1960s. The brothers brought their idea to Turfco, known as Sodmaster then, to help them devise the topdresser. John Kinkead, Scott's father, worked with them to create it.

At the time, golf course maintenance workers used shovels to spread topdressing sand on greens. The first topdresser, developed by the Cohrs brothers in conjunction with Sodmaster, featured wooden slats and a wooden hopper. Turfco sold the first unit in 1961.

Caldwell is glad to continue the tradition of helping the Kinkeads design new equipment. "I'm happy to do anything I can to make anyone's job in this industry easier," he says. ■



Scott Kinkead (right) says golf course superintendents like Caldwell deserve credit for their ingenuity.

A Combined Effort

CHEMICAL COMPANIES ADD TO THEIR FORMULATIONS TO IMPROVE PRODUCTS

By Curt Harler

A trend in turfgrass seems to be to double-up chemicals ... or triple-up or quadruple-up, if that is the proper term. This trend was obvious in several presentations given by golf industry representatives at the C-5 Turfgrass meetings as part of the Crop Science Society of America gathering recently in Indianapolis.

Doubling-up is the theory behind a new wetting agent from Aquatrols. Synergistic alkylpolyglycoside-block copolymer surfactants give 1.4 times better water infiltration and increased the time for water runoff by 2.5, according to Stan Kostka, western regional sales manager for Aquatrols. The combination also seems to have some effect on increased nitrogen-use efficiency.

Bayer Crop Science is adding StressGard formulation technology to a number of fungicide products. Tartan, released earlier this year, features StressGard, a formulation that strengthens the plant and helps Tartan improve the overall turf quality while controlling 13 turf diseases. Bayer's new Lynx product, with activity against anthracnose and brown patch, also will be packaged with StressGard.

So, if two is good, does that make three better? Syngenta Professional Products' Instrata, a Daconil-Banner MAXX-Medallion combination, shows promise for snow mold control with activity on anthracnose, brown patch, summer patch and others.

Not to be outdone, PBI/Gordon has devised a four-way combination called Q4Turf, a herbicide that was registered in 2006. It combines Drive, Dismiss, 2,4-D and dicamba (Surge). Recommended for cool-season grasses, it might be approved for bentgrass in 2007. It may also be labeled for warm-season bermudagrass. Its use is recommended in 50 gallons of solution per acre (there was a significant improvement at 50 gallons versus 40). As would be expected, it has excellent activity on broadleaf weeds.

At Dow AgroSciences, the company's Escalade2 herbicide combines 2,4-D, fluroxypyr and dicamba. According to Mike Melichar, customer agronomist for Michigan and Indiana, Dow is also releasing a new sulfonamide herbicide that contains penoxsulam, which has good soil-residual activity. It is effective against English lawn daisy, a problem in the West. The product is safe on cool- and warm-season turf and is a "reduced risk" material. ■

Harler is managing editor of *Golfdom's TurfGrass Trends*.

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