

Hole of the

▶ Hole No. 7 | Marvel Golf Club | Benton, Ky.



PHOTO COURTESY: MARVEL GOLF CLUB

Month

Hole Stats

Distance: 427 yards

Par 4

The Turf

Green: Penn A-1/A-2
Creeping Bentgrass

Fairway: Transcontinental
Bermudagrass

Nestled along the western shores of Kentucky Lake, Marvel Golf Club is Western Kentucky's premier 18-hole championship golf course. Designed by Palmer Course Design and opened in 2005, Marvel sits upon some of the most pristine landscape found anywhere in the bluegrass state.

Christopher S. Gray Sr. serves as general manager and director of golf course operations. As the National Public Course and Overall Winner in the 2007 GCSAA/ Golf Digest Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards, Gray and his crew have successfully integrated quality turf conditions and environmental responsibility at Marvel. Throughout the course's changing scenery, native regions and environmentally enhanced areas commonly come into play during a golfer's round.

The par-four seventh hole illustrates this combination of pristine turf and natural beauty. As the most demanding par 4 on the front nine, the fairway narrows at the landing area where bunkers will catch any errant shot to the right. The elevated green, sloped from front to back, requires an accurate shot to keep the ball on the putting surface. Running along both sides of the fairway and behind the green are massive naturalized areas waiting to engulf a wayward shot.

Establishing and maintaining these naturalized areas are one of Gray's greatest challenges.

"We have an enormous problem with soft crabgrass throughout the golf course," Gray said. "In our naturalized areas, we aren't able to use a pre-emergent herbicide because it inhibits the germination of the native seed bed we want to promote."

To control the soft crabgrass in these environmentally sensitive areas after it has germinated, Gray uses Drive® DF herbicide.

"Drive gives me the ability to effectively spray out the soft crab without negatively affecting our native broomsedge bluestem, which is the cornerstone of all our naturalized areas," Gray said. "Protecting and enhancing the environment has always been a top priority in my career, and Drive helps me accomplish that."

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