

Hole of the

▶ Hole No. 1 | Plantation Golf Course | Maui, Hawaii

PHOTO COURTESY: KAPALUA RESORT

Month

Hole Stats

Distance: 520 yards

Par 4

The Turf

Green: Tifeagle

Fairway: 328 Bermudagrass

Each January, golf greats gather for the PGA TOUR's Mercedes-Benz Championship at the Plantation Golf Course on Maui. This 7,411-yard course, designed by Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw, hosts more than 45,000 rounds a year. Both amateurs and professionals admit that one of the challenges is walking the course, primarily because it begins at sea level and climbs more than 400 feet.

Coore and Crenshaw designed the first hole as a beautiful introduction to the course; however, it also grabs players' attention as a challenging par-4 hole that stretches 520 yards. It requires a big tee shot



to a wide right-to-left fairway and a set of fairway bunkers on the left that depict the splashing waves of Honokohua Bay. A solid drive sets golfers up to hit a short iron onto a large green that slopes from left to right, catching the approach shots and curving them toward the hole location.

Course superintendent, Oswaldo Cardenas, works closely with Juan Gutierrez, director of agronomy and facility maintenance, to keep the Plantation fairways and greens in perfect shape. The 27-member crew faces a myriad of challenges, and uses a full-scale cultural and chemical approach to control fairy ring, pythium blight, weed invaders and tropical broadleaves.

In early 2007, Cardenas noticed a serious infestation of mushrooms in greens and rough areas. "We applied Insignia® fungicide in rotation with two other fungicides to deal with fairy ring and the infestation has practically disappeared," Cardenas said. "During the limited-sunlight rainy season, Insignia helps us overcome diseases like pythium blight and bermudagrass decline."

Insignia controls an exceptionally broad spectrum of turf diseases and provides residual control for up to 28 days. Cardenas has incorporated Insignia into his preventive maintenance program and will continue to use the product on other diseases that may challenge the Plantation.

To learn more about Insignia and BASF, visit www.betterturf.com and www.basfturftalk.com.



GOLFDOM'S HOLE OF THE MONTH IS MADE POSSIBLE BY:

