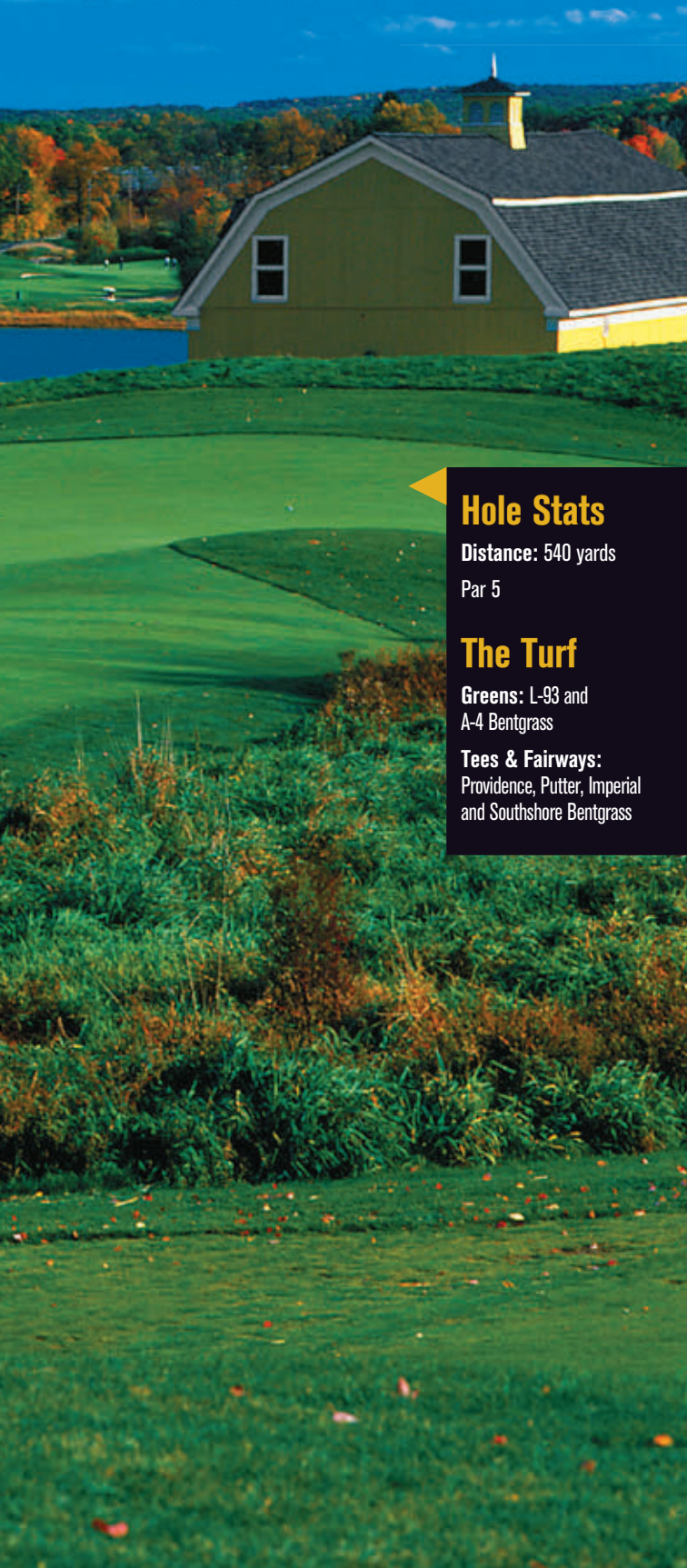


Hole of the

▶ Hole No. 9 | The Ranch Golf Club | Southwick, MA



Month



Hole Stats

Distance: 540 yards

Par 5

The Turf

Greens: L-93 and
A-4 Bentgrass

Tees & Fairways:
Providence, Putter, Imperial
and Southshore Bentgrass

The Ranch Golf Club's yellow barns stand in tribute to its transformation from a century-old dairy farm into the "Best Public Course in Massachusetts," according to Golf Digest. The renovated barns serve as the clubhouse and pro shop, while pristine playing surfaces have replaced the former pastureland.

The Damian Pascuzzo-designed course, completed in July 2000, guides players through meadows, woodlands, creeks and streams. "Each hole has a unique micro-environment and natural beauty that enhance the challenge," said Jedd Newsome, the club's golf course superintendent.

Hole 9 – nicknamed "Glacier" for its undulating slopes and Berkshire Foothill views – calls for a long drive to a downhill green. Golfers have the best chance of reaching the par-5 hole in two strokes with a drive down the left side of the fairway. Laying up the second shot just short of the wetland is wiser than shooting straight for the hole.

But for Newsome, what's in the air presents more challenges than any hole on the course. "Our moist environment keeps everything green," Newsome said. "In fact, they grow tobacco just miles away," he said. "But because we're in a valley, we also have poor air circulation that breeds disease."

Dollar spot thrives in humidity. The straw-colored spots start out small, but spread aggressively, devastating broad swaths of turf. "I once had half a fairway dissipated from dollar spot," Newsome said. "So I sought newer chemistries and a better preventive program."

Newsome defends his tees and fairways using Emerald® fungicide at a label rate of 0.18 ounces per 1,000 square feet. "I've been completely clean of dollar spot for three seasons," said Newsome, who's worked at The Ranch for four years. "It was a perennial pest until we started using Emerald in the early season. We're getting a minimum of 28 days control and making fewer applications."

Newsome rotates Emerald mid-season with Curalan® EG fungicide at a rate of 1.0 ounces per 1,000 square feet. He also applies Insignia® fungicide at 0.9 ounces per 1,000 square feet preventing take-all patch for a minimum 21 days. "These products make my job easier," he said.



To learn more about these products and BASF visit www.betterturf.com and www.basfturftalk.com.

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

