

Superintendents face a big job in picking up after Hurricane Irene.



NEWS WITH A HOOK

# Off The Fringe



## Hurricane Irene Slams Golf Courses

**A**lthough Hurricane Irene was just a Category 1 when it hit New England and was quickly downgraded to a tropical storm, it caused massive damage to golf courses throughout the region. While many areas were not hit as hard as forecasters predicted, the effects of Irene were felt on golf courses far and wide.

No area was more affected than central Vermont, where record rainfall led to unprecedented flooding.

Montague Golf Club in Randolph, Vt. lost the fairway and green of its par-3 10<sup>th</sup> hole to the swollen Third Branch of the White River. According to the club's website, only seven holes were playable after the storm. The greens on the third and fourth holes were new, as was the tee on the sixth.

Also in Vermont, the 36-hole Quechee Club suffered severe damage from the waters of the raging Ottauquechee River. On the Highland Course, the third green and short game practice green were washed away, as were numerous bunkers. The Lakeland Course suffered terrible damage to fairways and bunkers and portions of the courses were left with an eight-inch layer of mud as waters receded.

The club was in the midst of a renovation of all of its 36 greens under the guidance of architect Brian Silva. Ken Lallier, CGCS, oversees the two courses.

Courses on the eastern side of Irene, such as Metacomet

### NEW ENGLAND GOLF COURSES GET HIT HARD

BY ANTHONY PIOPPi

Country Club in East Providence, R.I., received little more than an inch of rain, but the winds did extensive damage.

Superintendent Paul Jamrog said that Metacomet will lose between 20 and 22 trees as a result, and the clubhouse roof suffered such severe damage it must be replaced.

"There is so much debris, it's going to take a week to clean up," Jamrog said.

In Farmington, Conn., the Farmington River overflowed its west bank, flooding 30 of the 45 holes on the Tunxis Plantation Course. Water that crested the east bank covered parts or all of holes five through 13 at the Country Club of Farmington.

The Farms Country Club in Wallingford received five inches of rain, and heavy winds left the course strewn with

debris. Altogether, it was enough to cause havoc with the Connecticut Mid-Amateur Championship that superintendent Paul Sabino hosted.

"We had the place set in anticipation of 10 inches of rain, we only received five inches. We were surprisingly dry 36 hours later," Sabino said. "I'd just lost my three summer help people, so you can imagine the clean-up we were faced with. But by the end of it all, we still had the greens rolling at 10-and-a-half."

AS  
SEEN  
IN



The **Golfdom Daily**

**Poll:** Do you accept the explanation that a change in dew point caused the brushes to fall off the greens mowers at the PGA Championship?

I dew not!  
**95%**

I dew **5%**

PHOTOS COURTESY: PAUL SABINO

# Phoenix Environmental Care Acquired by UPI

**R**ecently United Phosphorous Inc. announced they had acquired Phoenix Environmental Care. “We are excited to have a more comprehensive product line to help provide additional utility and choice to the market place,” a statement from the company read.

Phoenix Environmental Care, a post-patent company serving the turf and ornamental market since 2004, will continue with business as usual, company president Owen Towne told *Golfdom*.

“Phoenix Environmental Care will continue to operate according to our strategy,” Towne says. “All of our employees are going to be retained.

This was always looked at as a good arrangement for all the people involved with Phoenix. This is a good deal for everyone.”

Towne says the acquisition — which originated as talks of a collaboration before UPI decided an acquisition would be better — will bring Phoenix Environmental Care some new opportunities. Among those opportunities, Towne listed access to a wider portfolio of products; access to more capital for research; and better manufacturing facilities to bring new products to market quicker.

“We’re going to maintain the Phoe-



“This is a good deal for everyone,” Towne says.

nix Environmental Care portfolio of products and our distribution strategy,” Towne says. “This will just increase benefits for superintendents and our distributors.”

One Phoenix Environmental Care employee, speaking on condition

of anonymity, echoed Towne’s feelings, saying that the mood within the company is that of opportunity, not adversity.

Phoenix Environmental Care manufactures fungicides, herbicides, insecticides, PGRs and aquatic chemicals.

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## PGA Championship Greens Damage Leads to Lawsuit

Last month, *Golfdom* reported on the damage to two greens at Atlanta Athletic Club during the PGA Championship. The PGA of America, as well as director of golf course and grounds Ken Mangum, CGCS, explained that they believed a significant rise in the dew point caused greens mower brushes to stick in the turf.

Not so, according to Rodney Lingle, CGCS, a 32-year superintendent and owner of GreensPerfection brushes, the brushes used at the PGA Championship. And he wants the world to know it wasn’t his brushes that caused the mower mishaps.

A lawsuit filed in the circuit court of DeSoto County, Miss., on Aug. 31<sup>st</sup>, states that when the brushes are used properly, they are incapable of inflicting damage “similar to or anything like the damage to the 14<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> greens at Atlanta Athletic Club.” The complaint says the statements are “defamatory” and constitute product disparagement.

“All the facts proving my brushes did not and could not cause that damage will come out in this litigation,” Lingle said in a statement to *Golfdom*.

The lawsuit states that Lingle should be entitled to punitive damages from the PGA of America, Atlanta Athletic Club and Mangum.

## Syngenta to Shake Up Product Line

It appears that Syngenta is gearing up for an action-packed year.

Bob Goglia, brand manager for the company, announced that they will be unveiling seven new products in the next 12 to 18 months. The first product is actually an old product with a new twist — Daconil Action.



Daconil Action combines the active ingredient in Daconil fungicide with acibenzolar-S-methyl, a turf protein booster. The company says the new Daconil Action will offer superintendents enhanced disease control and improved turf quality.

“Daconil has been a foundation for turf disease control for 30 years,” Goglia said. “Daconil Action combines with a turf protection booster, helping the plant stay healthy and defend itself naturally.”

Acibenzolar-S-methyl (also known as acibenzolar) belongs to a product category called Host Plant Defense Induction, established by the Fungicide Resistance Action Committee (FRAC), in Group P. Once absorbed, acibenzolar stimulates the natural defense response or the Systemic Acquired Resistance (SAR) of the turfgrass by activating the production of PR proteins.

“The product is a true plant health enhancer,” Goglia stated. “It is recognized as a turf health product by the scientific community.”

Goglia detailed the roll-out plan for Syngenta in the next 18 months. Superintendents can expect one or two new products to be announced at the Golf Industry Show in Las Vegas (late February 2012); another one or two products to be announced in mid- to late-summer 2012; and one or two more new products to be announced in late 2012/early 2013.

“You’ll be seeing a lot more products based on turf health,” he said.