



"The effect of the Honor Intrinsic has been so pronounced that it has become 'standard operating procedure' to apply the fungicide prior to core aeration," says Kaufman, Prestwick CC.

Continued from page 26

"Trapper" Burgess Van Dunk IV generally used fungicides like Honor Intrinsic one week prior to, as well as one week after, the aeration of tees and greens, with well-evidenced benefits.


"In following this routine over a couple of seasons, I saw an increase in the fibrous roots, leading to deeper root structures," Van Dunk says. "The stronger root structure actually strengthened the plant in the midst of the extreme summer conditions we had last year, and I am confident the greens and tees will remain healthy."



Hermen Van Dunk IV

"I expect New York CC will experience the same results that Leewood did. In fact, I have been working with management personally to ensure fungicides will be available on the property," Van Dunk says.

Kaufman agrees that Prestwick CC will also need to continue utilizing fungicides, especially to defend the course's ultradwarf bermudagrass from extreme weather conditions.

"During periods of stress and various weather conditions, I know the course is holding up well when it is not only surviving, but thriving," says Kaufman. "Prestwick thrives with assistance from fungicides, which control and prevent common diseases. To me, the decision to purchase fungicides has been easy to justify — and will continue to be." 

Michigan-based writer Chris Lewis has written for The Golf Channel, Colorado Golf Magazine and Desert Golf Magazine among many others. Lewis is a member of the Golf Writers Association of America, and this is his fourth article to appear in *Golfdom*.

TRANSITIONING THE EASY WAY

Van Dunk's slam-dunk tips on a successful career transition

The fear of change is simply not an option for Hermen B. Van Dunk IV. It never has been. ¶ Since working under veteran superintendent Ed Walsh, CGCS, as a college intern at Monroe, N.Y.'s Mansion Ridge GC, he has transitioned to a variety of new career opportunities throughout the last 16 years. After graduating from college, he worked as an assistant at Denville, N.J.'s Rockaway CC and then accepted a new offer a couple years later, as an assistant at West Nyack, N.Y.'s Manhattan Woods GC.

Two years later, he was hired as an assistant superintendent at Eastchester, N.Y.'s Leewood GC, where he served for another two years before he was hired as the head superintendent when he was just 29.

So Van Dunk's friends and family were not entirely surprised when he announced he was transitioning to yet another job earlier this year, after working at Leewood for nine years.

"It was time for a new challenge and for a change," Van Dunk says. "I simply needed to move in a different direction."

To continue to grow as a person and as a professional, Van Dunk began working at Spring Valley, N.Y.'s New York CC as its superintendent back in February. Since the transition occurred, he believes he has already grown on multiple levels — personally, socially and professionally.

"I have grown personally because the change in location and job has allowed me to look only to myself, fully trusting in my abilities to succeed at a new course," Van Dunk says. "I have also grown socially, as I have been forced to open up to new people and to set up a new dynamic with new personalities, with hopes of forging new bonds."

He adds, "And professionally I have grown, knowing my successes at Leewood were recognized by my peers in the area, which ultimately led to my new job."

Considering his past successes with career transitions, Van Dunk offers the following tips to superintendents who may also be contemplating a transition in the near future:

Take full advantage of technology. "Try to stay in touch with past — and new — contacts as often as possible through text messages, phone calls, Facebook, e-mail and Twitter," says Van Dunk. "Remember, if you do transition, never shut any doors. I have continued my relationships with many Leewood members and employees by using every technological application I possibly can."

Network at neutral courses. "Attend local networking meetings, and invite fellow superintendents to play golf at neutral golf courses, where you can learn about new career opportunities and potentially meet other contacts who can introduce you to golf course owners and managers," he says.

No fear. "Never be afraid of change, as fear is often people's worst enemy," he says. "Consider your options when deciding on which transition is best for you and your family."