

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

ProTurf Division of O. M. Scott & Sons, has announced the appointment of four new technical representatives. All four men have been golf course superintendents or assistant superintendents. In Colorado, Utah, southern Wyoming and southeastern Idaho, Jim Barnes will take over ProTurf service and sales. Barnes has been golf course superintendent for the **Baca Grande Corp.**, Crestone, Colo. Bill Brazeau will offer ProTurf products and technical advice to professional turf men in northeastern Illinois. He has most recently served as superintendent of the **Westmoor Country Club**, Brookfield, Wis. The West Virginia and southeastern Ohio territory has been assigned to Eddy Eaton, who was assistant superintendent for the city of Middletown, Ohio. The new technical representative in southwestern Florida is Bob Smith, former assistant superintendent of the **Deland Country Club**, Deland, Fla. ... **Pacifica Recreational Products**, Concord, Calif., has announced the signing of touring pro Mary Wolfe for representation on the LPGA golf tour. ... Bobby Bryant has been named head pro at the new **Beckett Ridge** golf course, Cincinnati. ... Ed Heath is pro at **Orange Tee**, Knoxville, Tenn. ... George Thompson, superintendent at **Columbia Country Club**, Chevy Chase, Md., has been named superintendent of the year for the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents. ... Bert Seagraves has been elected president of the **Georgia PGA Section**. ... Arthur C. Young has been appointed manager for golf products in the consumer products company of **Uniroyal** and he will be in charge of both Providence and Farmville, Va. sales departments. ... **Life Investors** of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, an insurance conglomerate, has purchased **Mader Products** which includes the **Confidence** line of golf clubs and named Ken Young president of Confidence. ... William

Krouse of **Champaign Country Club**, Ill. is president of the Illini CMAA Chapter. ... Gilbert D'Avignon is general manager of **Ravisloe Country Club**, Homewood, Ill. ... Phillip Freese is general manager of **Glen Hollow Country Club**, Greenwich, Conn. ... Harry Swanson is club manager at **Riverside Golf Club**, North Riverside, Ill. ... Tom Boukidis is pro at **Spring Valley Country Club**, Wis. ... Middle Atlantic PGA Chapter has named Carroll Boggs of **Cumberland Country Club**, Maryland, as professional of the year. New president is Bill Strausbaugh of **Columbia Country Club**. ... George A. Fitzpatrick is president of **Simmons International Corp.**, Carson, Calif. ... Jim Ferriell is pro at Cincinnati's **Terrace Park** club. ... Gary Danback is pro at **Alpine Country Club**, N.J. ... Geoff Kimbrough, former pro at **Burning Tree Club**, is now **Etonic** products salesman covering the gulf states. ... Dale Brown is

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superintendent at **Indianola Country Club**, Iowa. ... Lee Davis, of **Arrowhead Country Club**, San Bernardino, Calif., is president of the Southern California CMAA Chapter. ... Joe Dubsy is pro at **Pasco Municipal Course**, Washington. ... Jim Gilber, of **Dayton Country Club**, Ohio, is president of the Southern Ohio PGA Section. ... Phil Peer is pro at **Mansfield Country Club**, Mansfield, La. ... Bob Quiett is superintendent at **Cedar Crest Country Club**, Topeka, Kan. ... Del Cochran is pro at **Paradise Valley Country Club**, Casper, Wyo. ... Bob Watson is pro at **Westchester Country Club**, Rye, N.Y. ... Clark W. Upp is manager at **Lakewood Country Club**, St. Petersburg, Fla. ... Stan Ferguson is pro at **Inverness Country Club**, Chicago. ... Tom Apple is pro at **Eagle-Vail Golf Club**, Avon, Colo. ... Gary Johns is pro at

Rapides Golf and Country Club, Alexandria, La. ... Pete Gillespie is manager of **Dalhart Country Club**, Texas. ... Steve Philbrook is pro at **Mayacoo Lakes** near West Palm Beach. ... Dave Bryan is pro at **Milburn Golf and Country Club**, Overland Park, Kan. ... Frank Garvin is president of the **Philadelphia PGA Section**. ... **ProGroup**, Chattanooga, Tenn., has named Farrell Eaves vice president of manufacturing and Tom Dussing vice president of **Duckster**, a clothing subsidiary. ... Bob Eaton, former vice president of **Etonic** golf shoes division of Eaton, is general manager of consumer products for Bausch & Lomb, Rochester, N.Y. ... Mike Parker of **Blue Mound Golf and Country Club**, Wauwatosa, Wis., is president of the Wisconsin Badger CMAA Chapter. ... Edward Hoffman is general manager of **Salem Country Club**, Peabody, Mass. ... Alfred C. Rancati is manager at **Fort Lauderdale Country Club**, Fla. ... C. C. Callahan is club manager at **Briarwood Country Club**, Meridian, Miss. ... Keith Krinsky is pro at **Sun Prairie Country Club**, Wis. ... Rod Thompson is pro at **Burning Tree Golf and Country Club**, Mt. Clemens, Mich. ... Richard Pittman is pro golf and tennis salesman for **Spalding**, in North Carolina, working out of the Greensboro-High Point area. ... Gene Neyman is pro-manager at **Meceola Country Club**, Big Rapids, Mich. ... David Steel is pro at **Pine Hills Golf Club**, Calhoun, La. ... Bill Downs is pro at **Jackpot Golf Club**, Nev. ... Harold Kerr is superintendent at **Dyersville Country Club**, Iowa. ... Rod Barrett is club manager at **Rolling Hills Country Club**, Wilton, Conn.

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PENNSYLVANIA SUPERINTENDENT'S BENSULIDE PROGRAM

You Don't Have To Live With Poa Annua

Bob Reighter, superintendent at Pilmont Country Club in Huntingdon Valley, Pa. has lived with *Poa annua* fairways for 14 years. To use his own words, from the Fourth of July to October 15th every year has been "pure hell. Now, although it gets rough at times, I have quite a bit more control since I have started using bensulide."

Reighter has applied bensulide to the fairways and greens on his north course five times in six years. That was two years in a row, then he skipped a year and did some seeding in weak spots, then three more years in a row.

"I still have *Poa annua*," he told GOLFDOM, "but I feel that I have it under control. I have reduced it from 60 percent to 20 percent in the fairways and 10 percent in the greens."

Six years ago, his approaches in August and September were mostly goosegrass and dead annual bluegrass. Over a period of two years, he closed the north course in the middle of October and sodded half the approaches each year. This totaled about 80,000 square feet of Penn-cross bent. He said these were also treated with bensulide. The only annual bluegrass in these areas came from aerifying in the fall of the year. For this reason, he discontinued fall aerifying two years ago. He now aerifies in the middle of June.

"Timing is very important as to when bensulide should be applied," he said. "I have put it on anywhere from the last week of July to the second week in August. A good guide is when your night temperatures drop into the 55-60 range. I am usually up a few times a night just to take a look at the thermometer."

He said he did not have any root damage or burn from the bensulide until this past year. About three weeks after it was applied, the fairway grasses started to lose their root



Reighter

system, but with light watering he managed to pull them through with only minor wilting. He said this was due mostly to the thatch condition.

"Late in October, I sliced the fairways to remove some thatch," he said. Depending on how they look in July, I expect to skip another year's application of bensulide. The greens showed no signs of damage."

He said the collars have also been treated with the greens but he has had a different situation there. The *Poa* population on the collars is 40 to 50 percent. The bensulide does not kill the existing *Poa* plants and with the spray programs and water practices on the greens, he has been able to keep the *Poa* on the collars. With seed being cut into them on the off years, he feels they will increase in bentgrass population.

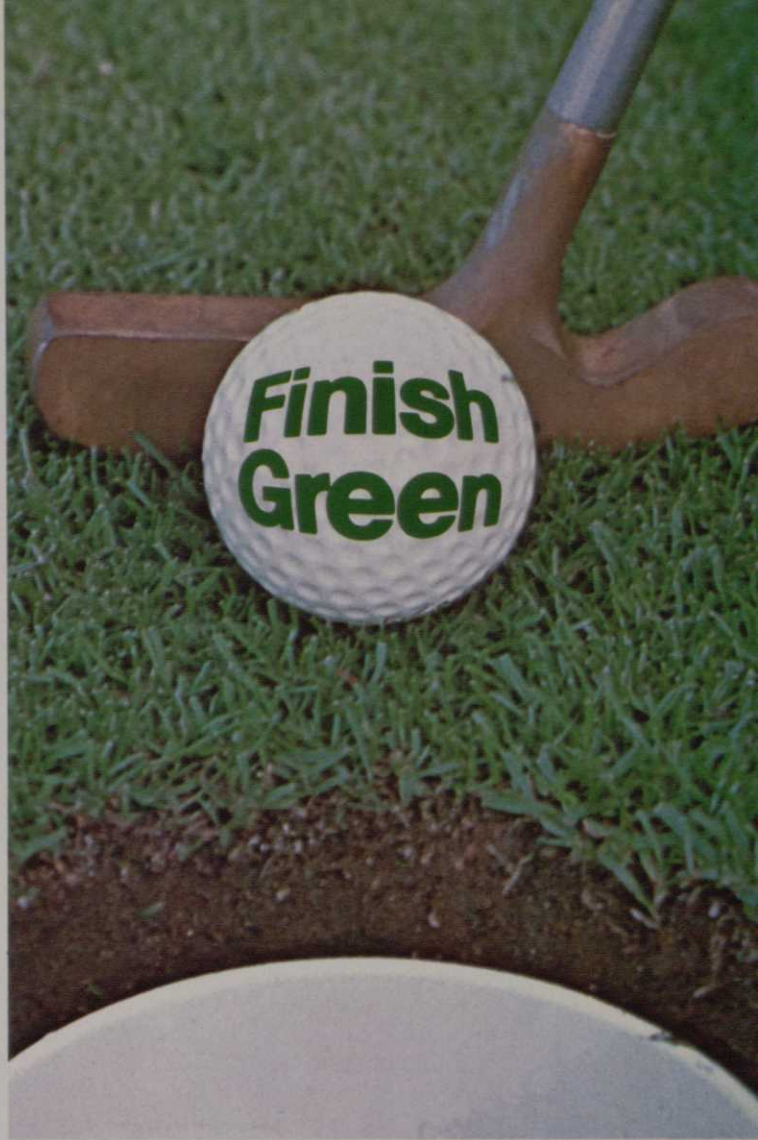
"The bensulide was applied in the form of Pre San at 15 pounds per acre on the fairways and nine ounces per 1,000 square feet on the greens," he said. "It was applied on the fairways with a 200-gallon sprayer equipped with a boom and tee jet

nozzle using 50 gallons of water per acre. This was watered in with fairway sprinklers. Fifteen minutes a setting was used, and this followed by 30-minute settings in the morning. The bensulide was applied to the green with a spray hawk boom using five gallons of water per 1,000 square feet. This was also watered in with a syringe nozzle by a regular watering the next morning."

His fertilizer program for greens is four to six pounds of nitrogen per year using 20-0-16 fertilizer and a 6-3-0 organite sewage sludge. On the fairways, he uses the sludge in December, June and August for a total of 1½ to two pounds of nitrogen for the year. The fairways are sprayed for preventative control of disease and insects. The greens are also sprayed on a normal program.

"For years," he said, "our members would rave about the golf course in the spring of the year and always add 'but what will it be like in August?' Each year, I cut the fairways and put more seed in them. The past six years I have done this twice. In the past four years, I have used less than 200 pounds of bentgrass seed. I have done sodding, but not much beside the approaches."

When Reighter first started on the *Poa* program, he used calcium arsenate applied in August at a two-pound rate on the fairways. Then in early September, he cut Penn-cross bent into the fairways at 60 pounds to the acre. On his 14th fairway, he applied bensulide at the 15 pounds per acre rate. The difference in the next year was outstanding but the price at the time was \$34 a gallon. "During that year the price dropped to \$19 a gallon and that fall we changed programs," he said. "Now my members are just as pleased in the fall of the year as they are in the spring." □



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OVERSEEDING WITH QUALITY

Selection of grasses, establishment and maintenance for bermudagrass

Even in the South — where bermudagrass is king — there is enough frost in the winter to cause turf dormancy. Overseeding is the answer to provide a uniformly dense playing surface and desirable green turf, according to A. R. Mazur, assistant professor of horticulture at Clemson University.

"Overseeding straw-brown bermudagrass turf is necessary to provide the surface and an aesthetically pleasing sward," Mazur told GOLFDOM. "Overseeding also prevents attrition damage to bermudagrass and is prompted by the fact dormant turf areas become unsightly when they are readily invaded by a host of winter annual weeds when competition is lacking."

Mazur has compiled information on overseeding periods in various regions of the country, attributes and criteria for selection of overseeding grasses and guidelines for establishment and maintenance of overseeded areas.

The length of the overseeding period ranges from three months in the lower south and coastal regions to seven to eight months in more northern areas, Mazur said. During this period overseeded grasses, particularly those on greens, must persist under close frequent mowing and heavy foot traffic. He said basic attributes and criteria for the selection of overseeded grasses are:

- rapid germination and establishment
- tolerance to disease, close frequent mowing, traffic and frost
- gradual transition back to bermudagrass in the spring.

"Annual ryegrass has been used traditionally for overseeding purposes mainly because of its rapid germination, fast establishment, good wear resistance, low cost and wide availability," Mazur said. "However, susceptibility to *Pythium*, coarse texture, low frost tolerance and rapid loss in the spring created a need for alter-

natives to annual ryegrass."

He said during the 1950s research was conducted to evaluate the overseeding potential of other cool season grasses¹¹. Studies have shown that red fescue maintained good density on putting surfaces during winter and exhibited excellent spring transition⁸. *Agrostis* species were found to be slow in establishment, provide inferior turf during winter and exhibited excellent prior to and during spring transition⁷.

Research in Florida⁵ showed little difference in performance of monostands of red fescue, Kentucky bluegrass, creeping bentgrass or rough bluegrass. However, results from Texas⁴ and Virginia⁸ indicated rough bluegrass was the first grass to decline in the warm spring weather. In the Texas studies⁴ rough bluegrass showed quicker establishment than Kentucky bluegrass while the slower establishing bentgrasses exhibited a smoother transition. Mazur said studies have shown annual ryegrass and rough bluegrass are more effective in masking the presence of weedy annual bluegrass because of their light color⁶.

"Attempts have been made to improve overseeding quality through mixtures and blends of cool season grasses by taking advantage of the strong characteristics of individual grasses," he said. It has been demonstrated, however, that pure stands of grasses are generally superior to mixtures of two or more grasses⁵. Turf quality of mixtures was shown to be correlated with the amount of superior grass in the mixture. He said in the last six or seven years a great number of improved turfgrass cultivars have been developed and provided a new source of materials for overseeding. Several perennial ryegrass and red fescue varieties in particular have shown superior results¹⁰.

These improved cultivars have shown less seedling mortality,

greater seedling vigor and/or tiller production as well as greater disease tolerance². The perennial ryegrasses in particular exhibit improved wear and frost tolerance while the red fescues provide finer leaf texture and upright growth habit preferred by golfers^{2 10}. Although bentgrass provides dense and upright growth it tends to remain soft and lacks the resiliency necessary for a quality putting surface, he said.

Proper timing, seeding rate and method of establishment are instrumental in the success of an overseeding both in terms of quality and cost.

Overseeding too early in the season can result in failure because of high incidence of *Pythium* under warm humid conditions and/or excessive competition from bermudagrass. Seeding dates range from early October in Virginia⁷ to a late November in Florida⁵. The best indicator of optimum seeding period is when the night temperatures are consistently in the 50s¹⁰.

Method and degree of seedbed preparation have also been shown to have a pronounced effect on overseeding establishment rate and quality^{1 8}. The ideal situation in the transition from warm to cool season grass would be to cause little or no reduction in putting quality. Traditionally, the accepted method to insure uniform germination and reduce bermudagrass competition was to mow vertically in at least two directions and scalp the bermudagrass turf. Vertical mowing, in addition to reducing bermudagrass competition, physically removes thatch that can reduce germination. A layer of topdressing (4-6 mm) has been shown to improve rate and uniformity of overseeding germination¹⁰.

Overseeding rate is a factor of the number of seedlings that will develop for a particular species during the winter months. Rates are generally high because plants on the whole remain in the seedling stages and mortality rates are high due to disease, competition and traffic. Generally, we think of a range of 10-25 millions seeds per 1,000 square feet for overseeding putting greens. The great variability in range is due primarily to seed size.

"With the larger seeded and more vigorous species such as *Lolium* we think in terms of 10-15



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OVERSEEDING continued

million seeds per 1,000 square feet, while with the smaller seeded less vigorous species such as *Agrostis* we need 20-25 million seeds per 1,000 square feet," he said^{2 10}. Quality overseedings on putting greens have been obtained with red fescue at 17-26 pounds per 1,000 square feet, annual ryegrass at 50-60 pounds per 1,

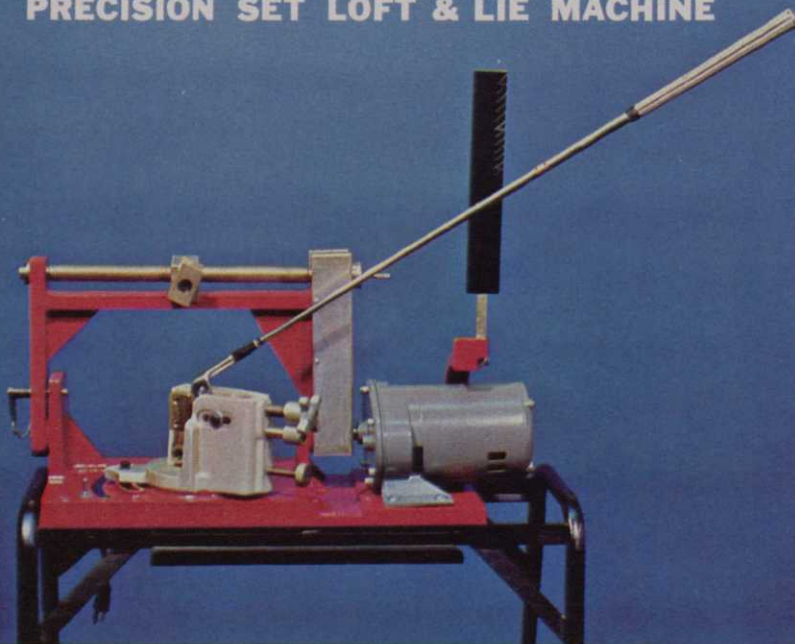
000 square feet and bluegrasses at 10 pounds per 1,000 square feet^{9 10}.

Frequent fertilizer applications are important for the maintenance of turf quality during the winter months. Applications of one pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet from a soluble source have been shown to adequately supply these needs⁷. The first fertilizer application should be delayed until two or

three weeks after germination. Fertilizer materials should be watered in thoroughly to avoid salt burn injury to seedlings.

Mowing schedules should be established as soon as necessary and maintained with adequate frequency so that no more than one-third of the leaf surface is removed at any time. Height of cut will vary depending on use from 1/4 inch on putting greens to three inches on some lawn areas. Putting surfaces are initially mowed at 1/2 inch and gradually decreased 1/16 inch with time as conditions permit until the desired 1/4 inch is attained. Depending on environmental conditions and quality requirements, overseeded greens should be mowed between three and six times weekly.

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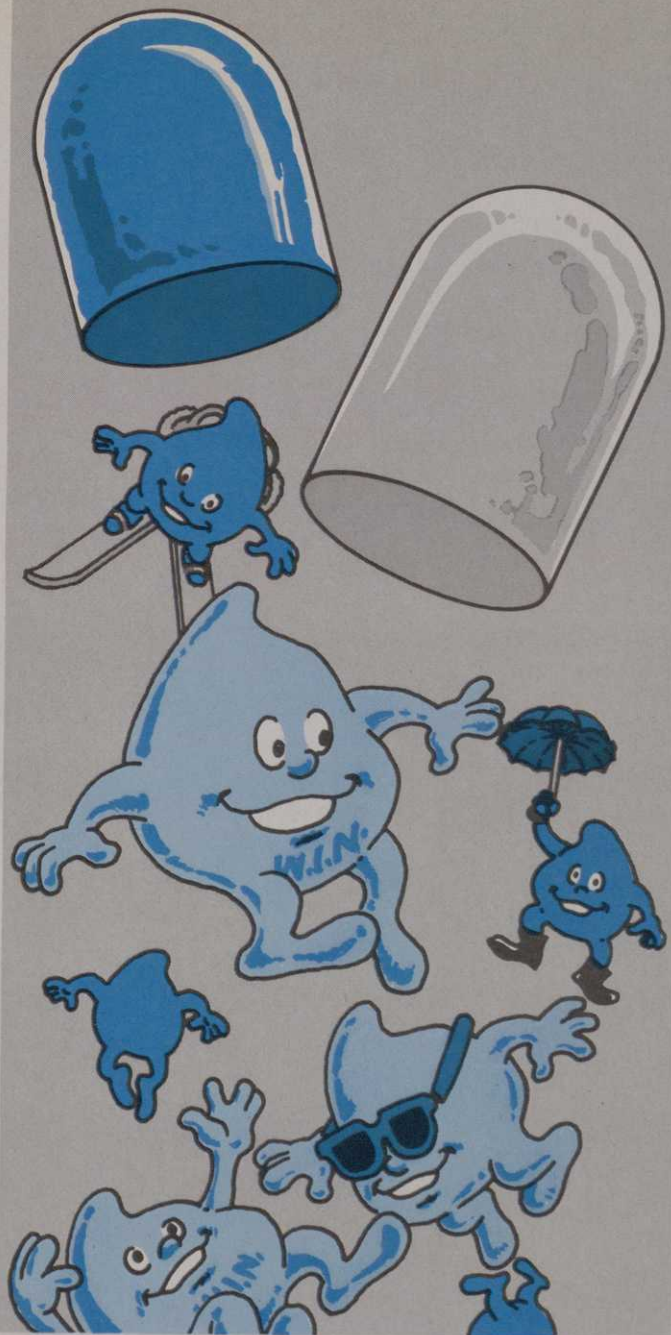
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