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Circle No. 109



Coming Up Aces

Holes in one are not easy to make, so imagine the surprise of golfers at the Tommy Hilfiger Pro-Am in Las Vegas last November when not one, not two but *three* holes in one were shot in the course of the tournament on the same hole — two of them coming back-to-back.

"I've never seen anything like it," said Joe Dahlstrom, head golf professional at Royal Links GC, which hosted the tournament. "A single hole in one is rare enough, but three on the same day and two back-to-back is unheard of. If I hadn't been there, I wouldn't have believed it."

The 8th hole, designed to mimic the famed Postage Stamp hole at Royal Troon in Scotland, yielded the three aces to Scott Hatch of Stratham, N.H., as well as Arthur D'Allesandro Jr. and Jimmy Dee of Marshfield, Mass., back-to-back.

Let's hope the lucky golfers treated their friends at the gaming tables that night.

Over 50

Continued from page 20

of good universities have learned the latest technologies.

They have an edge over us unless we're willing to spend time to keep up with the latest practices. It's not all about agronomics anymore. Clubs want strong business-oriented superintendents and good communicators. Those who work hard at learning the best new ways to maintain a course and train quality crews will succeed.

On the need to stay fit:

You should watch your health as you mature. I was once overweight and to the point where if I saw exercise coming, I would lie down until it passed. But I lost 50 pounds last year by eating a healthy, balanced diet combined with several hours of weekly aerobic exercise and weight training. I feel better than I have for years.

Watch Your Gas

THINK ABOUT HOW YOU POUR AND STORE

Did you know a typical gasoline can emits nearly 8 pounds of hydrocarbons through spills and evaporation each year? (Trust us, hydrocarbons are bad.) Compare this to a new car, and a portable fuel container emits twice the amount of hydrocarbons that a car does annually.

Charlotte, N.C.-based Husqvarna Forest & Garden Co. recently signed on with the newly created Alliance for Proper Gasoline Handling, to promote improved environmental, health and safety. Husky and the Alliance offers the following common-sense tips:

Use proper containers

- Use approved gasoline storage containers with a proper spout for pouring.
- Keep the container tightly sealed and out of direct sunlight.
- Always open and use containers in a well-ventilated area.

Store carefully

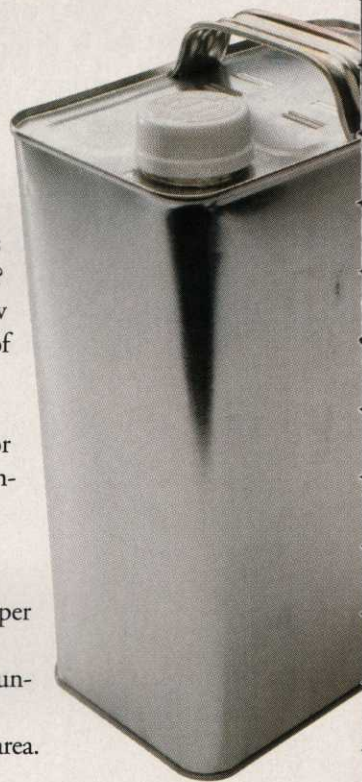
- Store no more than 10 gallons.
- Store gasoline in a cool, dry place.
- Buy and use fuel in the season purchased.
- Store at ground level, not on a shelf to minimize the danger of spilling.
- Store and use far away from drinking water wells. Gasoline moves quickly through soil and into groundwater.

Fill cautiously

- Always use a funnel and/or spout to prevent spilling or splashing.
- Always refuel outside where there is adequate ventilation to disperse vapors.
- Refuel on concrete or asphalt rather than on soil or near water.

Avoid spills/Dispose properly

- If a spill occurs, use kitty litter, saw dust or an absorbent towel to soak up the spill, then dispose of it properly.
- Never dispose of gasoline down the drain, into surface water, onto the ground or into the trash.



The Smell of Victory

A shout of approval for U.S. Micro-bics, a California company that has successfully taken the stink out of horse dung.

The company announced recently that its patented Bio-Raptor process and proprietary microbial mixtures have "successfully reduced offensive odors, pathogens, and seeds from horse manure and turned the organic matter into a high quality soil amendment for landscape and architectural projects."

The Bio-Raptor is a shredder, conveyor and screening system for solid manure applications. The one-step process pulverizes, aerates and sprays the manure with a microbial blend. Recent tests with horse manure have shown impressive results, including odor reduction within three days, pathogen and seed reduction within seven days, volume reduction up to 45 percent and ammonium reduction of 95 percent, according to the company.

LOOK YOUR BEST.



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TDR-11 Rear Discharge Mower

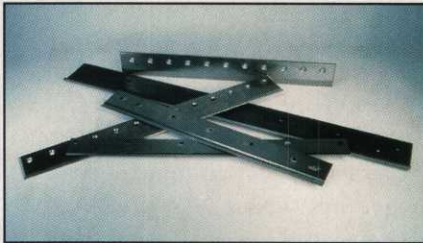
Verti Cut Mower



Pull Type Sprayer



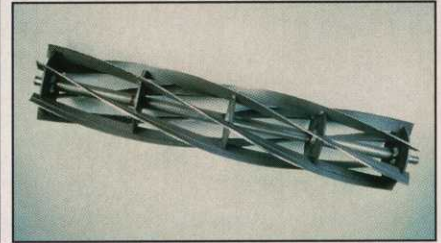
Reel Mower



Tournament Bed Knives



Reel Sharpener



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Off The Fringe

Continued from page 18

bility of GCSAA itself. The only reason that's important is that if the organization has a good reputation within the golf community, our members benefit from it.

Finally, I'm proud of the establishment of a strong corporate culture here in Lawrence. In my mind, it's a culture of service.

5. What's your wish list for the next five years?

There are two overarching goals for between now and 2005. First, we want for the superintendent to be viewed as the key to the economic vitality of the

facility and the enjoyment of the game. Much of what we're doing supports that. The Professional Development Initiative is part of that. Our public relations program is part of that.

Second, we want the GCSAA to be viewed as one of golf's leading organizations in terms of importance to and influence on the game. We've made a conscious decision to move from being a golf course maintenance organization to a golf organization that has, at its heart, golf course maintenance.

There's an old saying that, "The rising tide raises all boats." If GCSAA as an organization has high credibility,

our members can go along for that ride. If a member can be viewed like a PGA member is today, then we've made it.

6. You're one of the best time managers I've ever met. What tips would you give to readers on making the most of every day?

I plan a week at a time. On Friday, I'll plan my whole next week's schedule. I know what I want to accomplish. From there, I take my daily schedule and break it into 30-minute segments. Then I put down specific and achievable items I want to accomplish in that 30 minutes. It's like the old saying, "How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time."

One little trick: I try to do one more thing than my schedule dictates — sign one more letter or whatever. It adds up over the course of the week.

7. Who inspires you?

On a general level, I'm inspired by the person with the big heart and not as much talent. The person with the positive attitude who really is out to make things better. Woody Allen said 80 percent of success is showing up. I like those people, too.

8. Do you still maintain and update a "written plan" for your life and career? If so, what's next after a long and successful tenure at GCSAA?

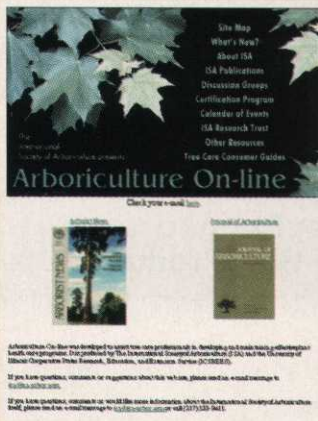
It (the plan) is a little looser today than it once was. Not because I'm any less interested in my career, but my goals right now are all about my children (two boys, 19 and 16, and a daughter, 13). All my focus is there. That's what I'm about when I'm not at the office.

I don't think much about my professional plan anymore because I'm enjoying myself so much here. It seems like the more you accomplish, the more you see there is to accomplish. It's a never-ending challenge. I want to continue to serve the game of golf and stay in association management. Then I think I'll be pretty happy.

Scanning the Web

When I play golf, I find myself in the trees far more often than I'd like, so I have a lot of time to wonder how superintendents keep them all healthy. Here are a few sites that will help us all figure that out (all sites start with <http://> unless otherwise noted):

***** — Bookmark it and return frequently; * — Look at only if absolutely necessary



*****www.isa-arbor.com — The official site of the International Society of Arboriculture provides both technical and general information about taking care of trees. Not only is it full of information, but it's easily navigable as well. It contains archived material from the *Journal of Arboriculture* and *Arborist News*, as well as discussion groups. This site is a great resource for all tree care information, but I have one quibble: The archives for the *Journal* only contain abstracts and don't give visitors any idea of how to get the full articles.

****www.natlarb.com — The National Arborist Association breaks its site into clear, targeted sections: consumers, professionals and general industry information. It has a click-through format that makes it easy to find what you're looking for, and there's plenty of information here. If you need to find an arborist in your area, this site has a search engine to help you.

**www.timbertree.com — This Stuart, Fla.-based tree care company will help you get basic information on tree care. It's a good site for beginners because it's thorough. It covers different stages of tree development, from the original planting through transplanting and offers tips on long-term care as well. It should answer the simplest tree-care questions.

Scanning the Web is compiled by Frank H. Andorka Jr., Golfdom's associate editor, who ducks each time he tries to hit a pitching wedge from behind a 60-foot oak. You may reach him at fandorka@advanstar.com with future column suggestions or sites you think he should visit.

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For over 75 years, Jacobsen has led the industry in cutting technology. (Which, in part, has protected superintendents from pointing fingers.) Complaints like "slick greens" you can live with, if

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no one to blame but themselves for missing putts. For more information or the nearest dealer, call 1-888-922-TURF or visit www.ttcsp.textron.com.



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Circle No 111

Up a Creek

With the effort some architects expend crafting a golf course, it's easy to forget Nature was there first. Not so at the 9th hole at CordeValle GC in San Jose, Calif., which opened in September.

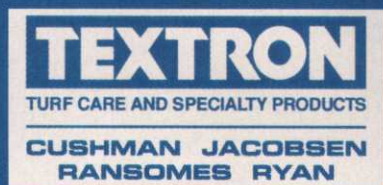
A creek that predates the course bisects the fairway of the 425-yard par 4, providing golfers with two options, according to superintendent Jim McPhilomy. Heroic golfers aim right if they believe they can carry the creek at 230 yards, leaving them an easy 165 yards to the pin, McPhilomy says. Play-it-safe golfers aim left to avoid the creek entirely.

"If I've got a tailwind, I'll play to the right," McPhilomy says, laughing. "If I'm playing into the wind, I'll play to the left. Wind conditions often determine how you're going to play the hole."

McPhilomy says the creek's risk/reward contribution to No. 9 makes it one of the more challenging holes on the golf course, for both golfers and maintenance crews. McPhilomy's crews spend 20 hours a week hand-trimming the grass surrounding the creek and pulling weeds from it to prevent its natural beauty from deteriorating.

"You walk a fine line on the maintenance side on a creek like that," McPhilomy says. "You want to keep the creek looking clean, but you don't want to destroy what nature put there in the first place."

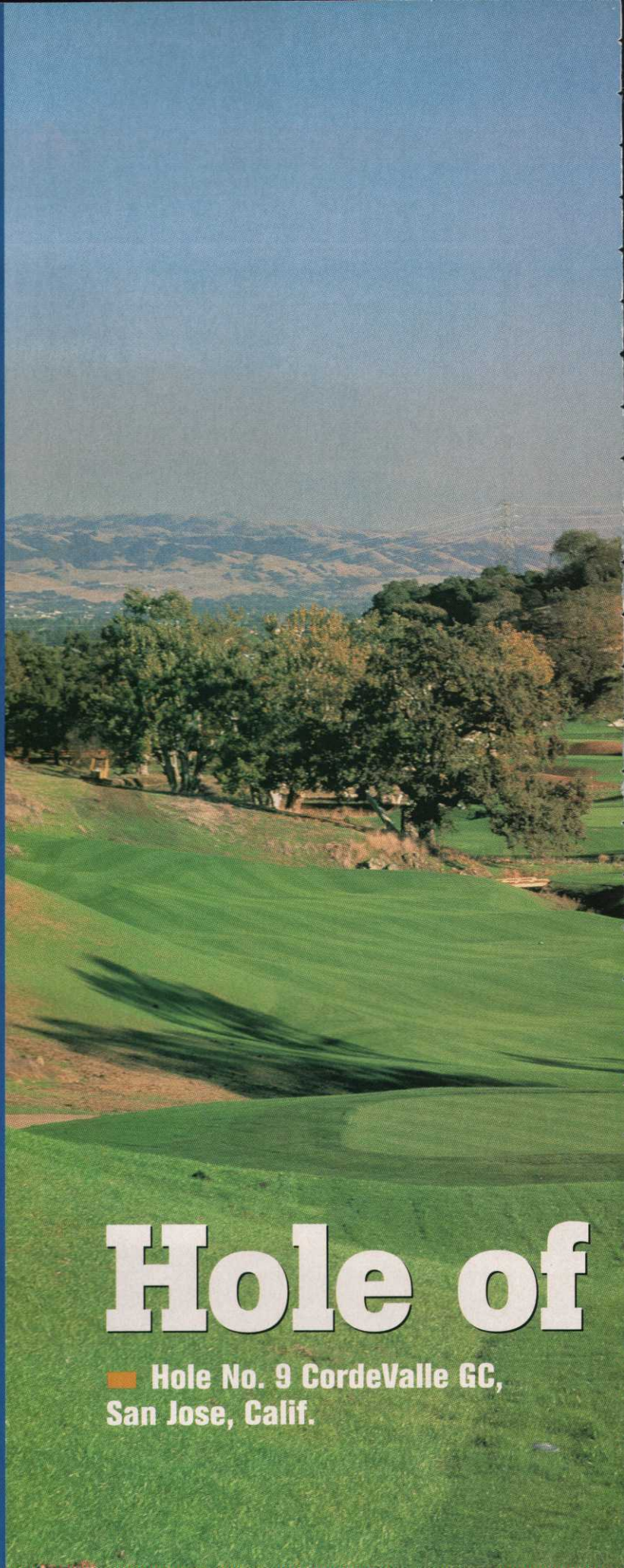
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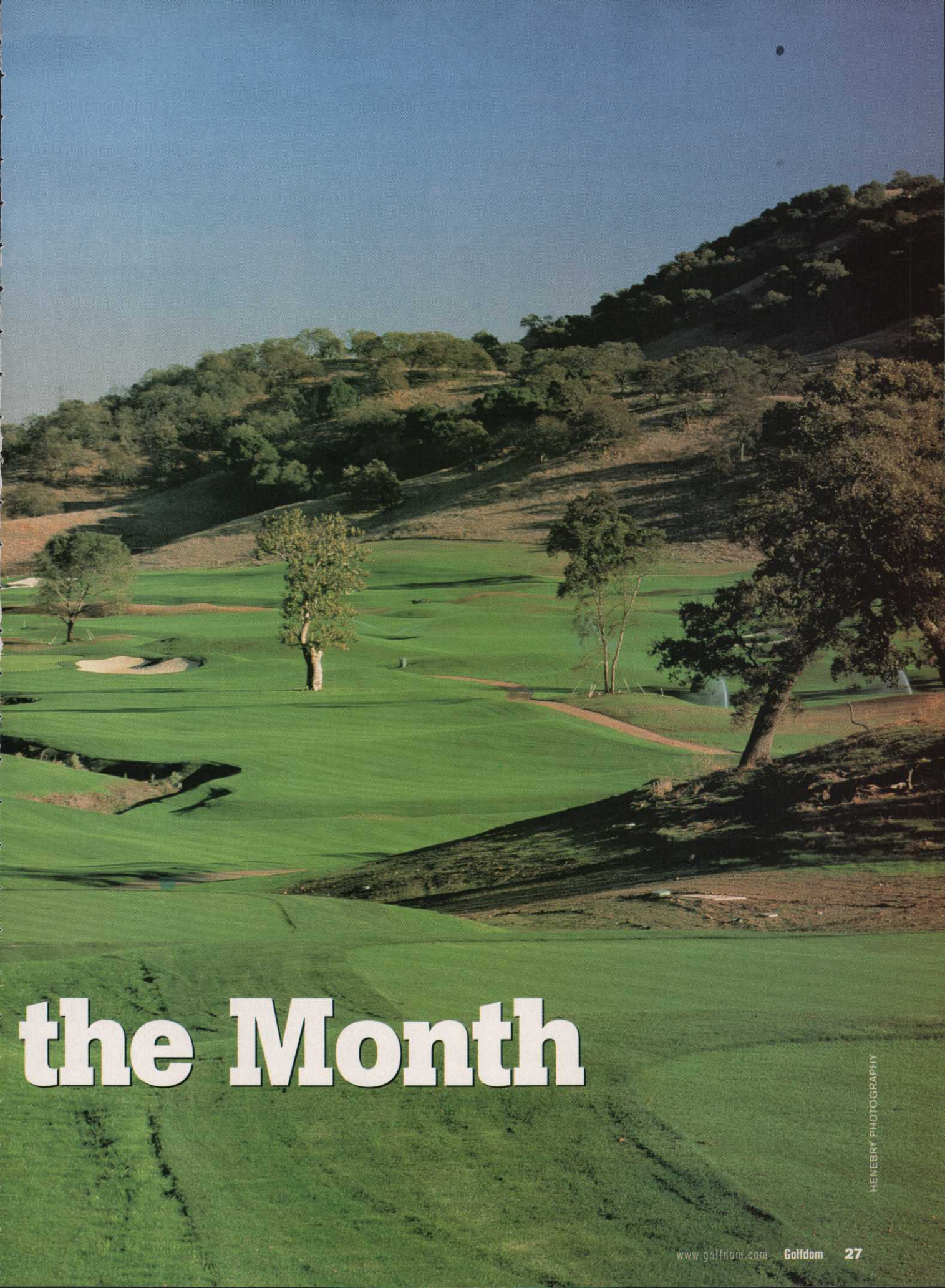


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Circle No. 112

Gauging Gray Leaf Spot

'We're all trying to find the best method of control,' one superintendent says

BY LARRY AYLWARD, MANAGING EDITOR

It's creeping farther North, and Massachusetts superintendent Mike Sosik is preparing for its unwelcome arrival. "It's getting closer," Sosik says of the mysterious gray leaf spot, a perilous turfgrass disease that decimates perennial ryegrass. "I'm getting more concerned."

Gray leaf spot, caused by the fungal pathogen *Pyricularia grisea*, resembles a frightening foe from *The X-Files*. You don't know when it might hit. When it does, you might mistake it for something as simple as drought stress or insect damage.

Then, when you discover it is gray leaf spot, it's too late because your fairways are devastated — and you're looking at thousands of dollars in turf repairs.

"People say it won't move this far north," Sosik says of the disease having an impact on his course, Middleton GC, located in northern Massachusetts. "But I don't see it stopping."

Sosik expects gray leaf spot to appear in his area in 2001, and he's already taking precautions. Middleton's tees and fairways are comprised of perennial ryegrass, and Sosik is attempting to convert them to bluegrass. Last spring and fall, he overseeded with a 70 percent bluegrass mix.

"I've always overseeded with ryegrass," Sosik says. "But the best thing is to get away from rye. This is a logical first step for me."

Sosik says he'll consider applying a fungicide later, but he's confident about his overseeding program. "By the time (gray leaf spot) arrives, the tees and fairways will be mostly bluegrass," he says.

Just south of Middleton at Rockrimmon CC in Stamford, Conn., superintendent Tony Girardi discovered gray leaf spot on his course's roughs in early September. Like Sosik, Girardi says he will overseed with bluegrass in the spring.

"This is my first time experiencing it," Girardi says of the



disease. "We're all trying to find the best method of control."

It's spreading

Gray leaf spot has been around for nearly 50 years, diagnosed mostly on warm-season grasses such as St. Augustinegrass and Bermudagrass in the South, says Bruce Clarke, director of the Center for Turfgrass Science at Cook College/Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J. It was detected sporadically among northern cool-season grasses in the late '80s and early '90s.

But in 1991, a gray leaf spot outbreak was discovered attacking perennial ryegrass fairways on golf courses in Kansas. Its presence was also reported in Middle Atlantic states. After a period of inactivity from 1992-94, gray leaf reappeared with a vengeance in 1995. "We had a bigger episode ranging from North Carolina up to Kentucky and into New York," Clarke says.

Again, gray leaf spot was fairly inactive in 1996 and 1997, but in 1998 another major outbreak occurred, Clarke says. This time the disease attacked golf courses in states ranging from Georgia to New Hampshire and as far west as the Rocky Mountains.

"Every few years we have an outbreak, and it seems to be getting worse and more widespread," Clarke says. "It's becoming a national problem. We need to get a handle on it if perennial ryegrass is going to be an important component on golf course fairways."

Gray leaf spot usually appears in late July or early August, but it can appear earlier and is more devastating if it does, Clarke notes. "When turf is on the ropes from heat stress, you'll see a lot of the disease," he adds.

Gray leaf spot tends to be a problem on higher cut turf,

Gray leaf spot symptoms include leaf lesions with a tan center and an outer margin of brown.