

Tips:

Aerator Maintenance

Preventive maintenance is key to effective aeration, especially when it comes to hole quality and finish. Low-quality aeration is one indication of a machine malfunction. Excessive vibration and noise can also indicate a maintenance problem.

"Understanding how the product operates is important," says Peter Whurr, vice president of product management for Textron Turf Care And Specialty Products in Racine, Wis. "If you think that something may be wrong with your machine, generally there is."

Whurr advises superintendents to look at the quality of holes and listen for any undue noise.

"A lot of wear and tear can occur during aeration," he adds. "Adhering to a preventive maintenance program will help improve aerator performance and extend the life of their machines."

With that in mind, here are preventive maintenance tips for improved aeration:

Engine upkeep

- Check for oil leaks prior to operating the machine.
- Inspect and clean dirty engine fins with a pressure airline to prevent the engine from overheating. Hose the entire machine down after use to keep it free of dirt and debris.
- Change the engine oil regularly – consult your owner's manual for the recommended frequency, generally every 50 hours of operation. Always use the appropriate oil grade.

Tighten the tines

- Tighten any loose tines before operating the machine to prevent them from slipping out of the holder.
- Inspect the machine for damaged tines. Bent tines won't produce a clean, crisp hole.
- Coring tines should be cleaned with a water pressure hose on completion of the work cycle.

Test the tire pressure

- Make sure the correct tire pressure is set before using the machine. Inadequate tire pressure can cause the machine to operate ineffectively and lead to tire roll off. Consult your owner's manual for the recommended pressure.
- Check tires for any foreign objects, such as nails and stones. Solid tires also should be inspected for damage to the sidewalls or outside perimeter. Missing pieces of tire material can cause difficult operation.

Miscellaneous maintenance

- Tighten any loose nuts and bolts prior to operation.
- On walk-behind aerators, ensure the handle grips are firmly in place.
- Clean and lubricate chains and sprockets according to manufacturer recommendations.

Leaders

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Azusa, Calif.-based Rainbird Golf Division named **Christopher Fay** as its national sales manager. Fay is responsible for managing the growth and development of domestic golf sales for the division. Rainbird also named **David Ro-maine** as its pumping systems product manager.

Tom Handel was named general manager for the combined businesses of Toledo, Ohio-based The Andersons Professional Turf Products Division.

Desert Pine GC in Las Vegas named **Gary St. John** as its superintendent.

John Maeder joined Profile Products LLC as its northeast regional project manager.

International Golf Maintenance named three superintendents: **Fred Gehrish**, Highlands Falls GC in Highlands, N.C.; **Jim Vogel**, Mill Pond GC in Long Island, N.Y.; and **Blake Watson** at the Warner Springs Ranch in Laguna, Calif.

Anne-Marie Fanguy joined the National Golf Foundation as communications manager.

Linkscorp named **Chris Collins** as superintendent at Windmere CC in Orlando, Fla.

Cindy Davis, president and CEO of The Arnold Palmer Golf Co., was elected vice chairman of the company's board of directors.

Michael Hoffman, vice president and general manager of the commercial division at The Toro Co., was elected secretary/treasurer. He has been on the board since 1999.

Plano, Texas-based Adams Golf formed Adams Golf Japan, and named **Kankichi Itani** president of the new subsidiary.

Sam Snead announced he has

formed Sam Snead Course Design, located in Stuart, Fla.

Bayer Corp. Garden & Professional Care announced several personnel changes: **Dan Car-rothers**, head of marketing; **Phil McNally**, field research and development representative for the western United States; and **Chuck Silcox**, field research and development representative for the northeastern United States.

Jarrett Cowden, vice president of marketing and sales for Vermeer Manufacturing, left the company May 1 to begin a new venture that will provide outsourced marketing and advertising services to Vermeer and its dealers.

Troon Golf hired **Terry Bloskey** as vice president of acquisitions and development.

Steven J. Petersen joined Gowan Co. as its Turf Division sales manager.

Smith Turf & Irrigation of Charlotte, N.C., received an Outstanding Achievement Award from River Falls, Wis.-based Foley United.

Racine, Wis.-based Textron Turf Care And Specialty Products honored a number of its dealers with its Raving Fans awards at the GCSAA show. Raving Fans awards recognize dealers for outstanding achievement and excellence in customer service. The dealers honored were **Krigger & Co.** of Gibsonia, Pa.; **Golf Ventures** of Lakeland, Fla.; and **Steven Willand Inc.** of Brookfield, Conn.

Let us know about your people on the move. Send information/color photos to Golfdom's Frank Andorka at 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, 44130. Fax information to 440-891-2675 or e-mail to fandorka@advanstar.com.

The Company Line

PRODUCTS & SERVICES



▲ Pump station

Rain Bird's Golf Division introduces the VFD Pump Station and its latest central control software feature, Smart Pump.

The VFD Pump Station is a system that provides efficient water delivery and energy management for irrigation systems, according to the company.

Smart Pump, available with Rain Bird's Cirrus, Nimbus II or Stratus II central control systems, uses real-time communication with the pump system to optimize flow management.

For more information, contact 800-984-2255, www.rainbird.com or CIRCLE NO. 201

Aquatic herbicide

Griffin L.L.C., a joint venture company of Griffin Corp. and DuPont, is marketing Avast!, a fluridone aquatic herbicide.

The aquatic vegetation management tool offers benefits including species selectivity, long-term residual activity, easy application and no restrictions on access to water bodies following

application. Avast! controls weeds in virtually all freshwater bodies — ponds, lakes, reservoirs, drainage and irrigation canals — for up to 12 months.

There is minimal risk to fish, waterfowl and desired plant species.

For more information, contact 912-242-8635 or CIRCLE NO. 202

Pumping programs

Flowtronex PSI introduces two pumping innovations that hinge on open architecture, a software programming approach which allows all elements of irrigation systems— including pumps, sprinklers and control devices — to talk to each other.

The innovations include:

- PumpLog 2000 — The latest update of the company's monitoring software is easier and more convenient for end users. It can bridge any Flowtronex PSI pumping system with any irrigation control system. PumpLog 2000 makes it possible to monitor pumping and irrigation systems via the Internet.

- PumpLog 2000 CE — Written specifically for today's palm-sized touch-screen personal computers, this version of PumpLog 2000 gives a superintendent touch-screen control of the water system at any time, whether the superintendent is on the course, at home or in the office.

For more information, contact 214-357-1320 or CIRCLE NO. 203



▲ Fertilizer

Lesco's new Novex line of fertilizers offers agronomic and economic advantages over traditional methylene urea/ureaformaldehyde fertilizers, according to the company. Classified as aminoureformaldehydes, the Novex products enhance fertilization efficiency by offering optimum single-season nitrogen release.

The homogeneous products contain less very quick- and very slow-release nitrogen and more mid-range controlled release nitrogen.

For more information, contact 440-333-9250, www.lesco.com or CIRCLE NO. 204

Reel

The Victory reel from **Bush Hog** delivers a consistently high quality cut over months of use without operator or mechanic adjustments, the company says. The new design reduces the frequency of back lapping and virtually eliminates the need for adjustments. The reel also eliminates the inconsistent mowing performance that can result when adjustments of conventional reels aren't made as bed knives, the company says.

Bush Hog also offers the new TDR-11 Tri-Deck Rear Discharge Finishing Mower. The TDR-11 features mechanical float that allows the three 48-inch wide decks to float over mounds and undulations without scalping. Tight turning when trimming is assured by an 80-degree constant velocity driveline.

For more information, contact 334-872-6261, www.bushhog.com or CIRCLE NO. 205



▲ Safety storage

Safety Storage offers a line of standard shelving, separation walls and other interior furnishings for use in hazardous materials storage buildings and lockers. Safety Storage shelving provides convenient storage, handling and use of bottles, buckets, bags and boxes of dry and liquid chemicals, and hazardous materials. Shelving is available in flat or spill-containment configurations.

Separation walls are available for applications where incompatible materials are to be stored in the same building or when it's desired to separate different types of storage and work areas.

For more information, contact 800-344-6539, www.safetystorage.com or CIRCLE NO. 206



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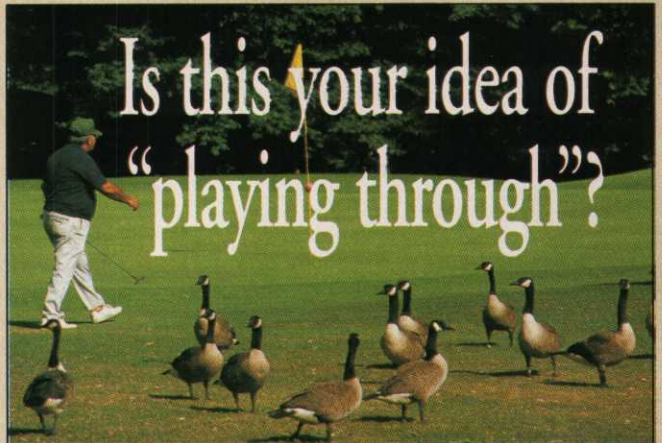
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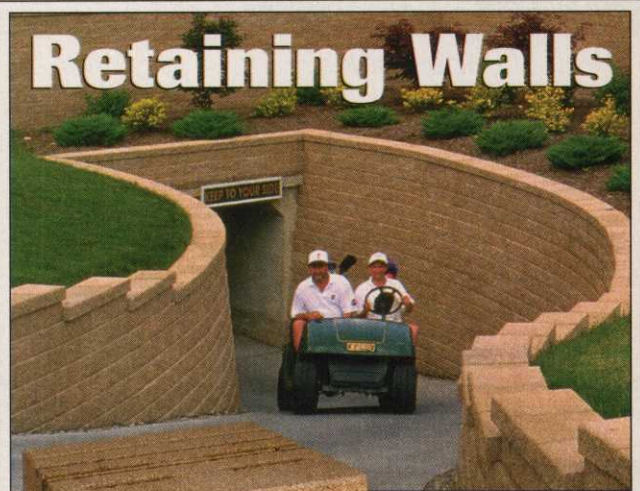


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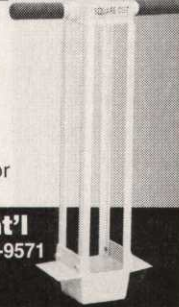
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HELP WANTED

INTERNATIONAL SALES MANAGER – GOLF PRODUCTS

Company: Rain Bird International, Inc.
Reports to: Division Vice-President
Location: Glendora, California

Responsibilities:

Rain Bird International, Inc. seeks a qualified candidate to champion our golf irrigation products at the international level (non-U.S.), and act as a liaison between Rain Bird's International and Golf Divisions. This person will be responsible for meeting international sales and profit goals for our golf products, and will develop and conduct seminars in the use, application, and benefits of these products. In addition, this position requires the development of sales and marketing programs in conjunction with the Golf Division's brand managers.

Qualifications:

Qualified applicant will have an undergraduate degree in business, engineering or liberal arts. Applicant must also exhibit effective communications skills, have experience in dealing with distributors, their installers and specifiers, and have five to seven years of field sales experience. International sales and marketing experience, an MBA in marketing, an understanding of the irrigation industry, and multilingual capabilities are preferred. Extensive international travel will be required.

Please FAX resume and cover letter to:

Jack Buzzard, Rain Bird Sales Inc.; (626) 963-4287
 or e-mail dyoung@rainbird.com



Golfdom's Joke of the Month



On completing a round of golf, Steve was questioned about how his round went. He replied, "It was fine until Bill had a heart attack and died at the 18th hole tee box." The gentlemen in the clubhouse responded, "That must have been terrible!" To which Steve replied, "You bet it was... Hit the ball, drag Bill, hit the ball, drag Bill, hit the ball...".

WEBSITES

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This index is provided as an additional service. The publisher does not assume any liability for errors or omissions.

GOLFDOM, Vol. 56 Issue 6. GOLFDOM is published 12 times per year by Advanstar Communications, Inc. 131 W First St Duluth MN 55802-2065.

Subscription rates: one year \$25.00 (U.S. and possessions), \$35.00 (Canada and Mexico) and \$65.00 (all other countries). Air expedited service is available in countries outside U.S. and Canada at \$45.00 per year. Current issue single copies (prepaid only) \$5.00 (U.S. and possessions), \$7.00 (Canada and Mexico) and \$8.00 (all other countries). Back issues (if available, prepaid only) \$10.00 (U.S. and possessions), \$14.00 (Canada and Mexico) and \$16.00 (all other countries); add \$5.00 per order shipping and handling for both current and back issue purchases.

Application to Mail at Periodicals Postage Rates is Pending at Duluth MN 55806 and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send changes to Golfdom, 131 W First St Duluth MN 55802-2065.

Canadian G.S.T. Number: R-124213133, Publications Mail Agreement number 1436694. Printed in the U.S.A.

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search engines

As the World Wide Web continues to grow, there are millions of Web sites with the information you need. A majority of them are as worthless as my short game.

Finding exactly what one wants on the Web can be difficult, especially when you don't know exactly what you're looking for. In hopes of making the search for relevant information a little easier, we took a few search engines out for a test drive.

Before you start typing away to locate valve stems, replacement heads for sprinklers or the knob that broke off the greens mower, it would serve you well to get as specific as possible.

For our not-so-scientific study, we visited seven search engines and gave them all the same four searches—Golfdom, Lesco fertilizer, Novartis fungicide and Toro greens mowers. With that in mind, let's get to the results:

Yahoo! (www.yahoo.com) – It's the granddaddy of search engines, but it's increasingly not as accurate as it used to be. Yahoo's main page is a collection of news, weather, entertainment, advertisements and offers for free e-mail. That's fine, but it can seem like a gussied up lobby, instead of the nuts and bolts of a card catalog; remember we are trying to find things. Only the Novartis search yielded excellent results, while the Toro greens mowers search gave us a couple authorized dealers in Denver and Mount Aetna, Penn. Not quite what we wanted.

AltaVista (www.altavista.com) – Probably the best of the big search engines, it allows you to look for new

WE TOOK A FEW SEARCH ENGINES OUT FOR A TEST DRIVE TO ENCOURAGE GOOD WEB HUNTING BY MARK LUCE



sion groups and product. AltaVista hit dead on for the Golfdom, Lesco and Novartis searches, and ranked the Toro site we were looking for third. One nice feature of AltaVista is its link to "more pages from this site" which can really help you hone in on what you want.

HotBot (www.hotbot.com) and Lycos (www.lycos.com) – Both sites are not as attractive as the other sites, and they gave nearly identical results not only to each other but to Yahoo! as well. HotBot has an extremely annoying feature at the top of the results page that will search on one of its partner's pages for your search term.

I'm sorry, but I don't need the extraneous junk that some of these sites give me because they are beholden to their advertising partners. Just give me the information I want and get the heck out of my way.

ProFusion (www.profusion.com) – ProFusion usually searches a number of

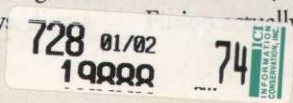
other search engines and then gives the results. Be prepared to get some strange results. For the "Golfdom" search, the first site listed was for Gobi, a company that provides computers. For the "Toro greens mower search," the actual Toro site was listed seventh. And for "Novartis fungicide" the best site was listed ninth.

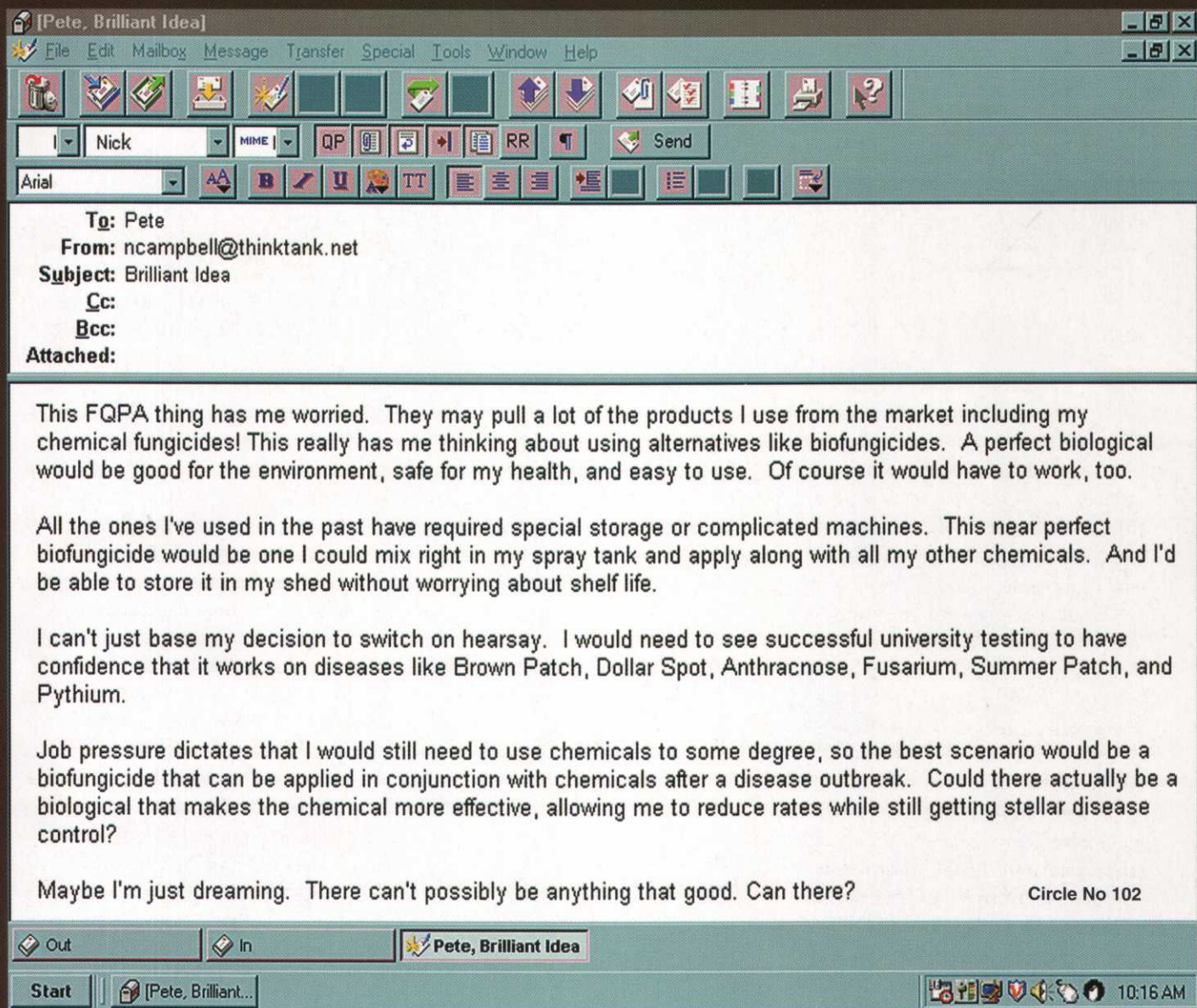
Google (www.google.com) – Google is the best and quickest search engine. Unlike most of the others engines, it's not littered with news, pictures, multimedia and flashing ads. The best feature on Google is its "I'm feeling lucky" button, which will take you directly to the first site listed on the search. It saves the user a ton of time because if you're pretty sure what you're searching for, you won't have to scroll through 10 pages of matches to find the one you want. Of course, if your search terms are off, you may be directed somewhere you don't want to go.

For "Golfdom" and "Toro greens mowers," however, we were rewarded with dead-on results. For the other two searches, we got decent results.

Remember, it's not what you are searching for that counts, it's how you are searching and the reliability of the search engine. As you use the sites, you will begin to tailor your searches to the particular site.

Mark Luce, a free-lance writer based in Lawrence, Kan., uses search engines to find rare brands of beer.





This FQPA thing has me worried. They may pull a lot of the products I use from the market including my chemical fungicides! This really has me thinking about using alternatives like biofungicides. A perfect biological would be good for the environment, safe for my health, and easy to use. Of course it would have to work, too.

All the ones I've used in the past have required special storage or complicated machines. This near perfect biofungicide would be one I could mix right in my spray tank and apply along with all my other chemicals. And I'd be able to store it in my shed without worrying about shelf life.

I can't just base my decision to switch on hearsay. I would need to see successful university testing to have confidence that it works on diseases like Brown Patch, Dollar Spot, Anthracnose, Fusarium, Summer Patch, and Pythium.

Job pressure dictates that I would still need to use chemicals to some degree, so the best scenario would be a biofungicide that can be applied in conjunction with chemicals after a disease outbreak. Could there actually be a biological that makes the chemical more effective, allowing me to reduce rates while still getting stellar disease control?

Maybe I'm just dreaming. There can't possibly be anything that good. Can there?

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