

to see if it really worked.”

Greg Wiles, superintendent at The Links at Echo Springs in Johnstown, Ohio, had grown frustrated with other granular fertilizers he had used because his mowing baskets were always full of the fertilizer after an application.

“I was tired of putting down fertilizers and then picking them up the next time I mowed,” Wiles says. “I was looking for a granular that would get down to my turf where it would actually do some good.”

From what Wiles had heard, Novex might solve his problem.

#### **The solution**

Lesco allowed researchers at Penn State University to test the fertilizer early last year, and the product received praise for producing an immediate green-up *and* long-term results. In the study, the product received high marks for its ability to get down below the canopy quickly. The study found that one day after an application, mowers picked up less than .5 percent of the product, compared with over 10 percent for other granulars.

At the same time, the fertilizer provided a quick greening affect because of its active water solubility, the study says. In fact, it outperformed some foliar when it came to green-up.

Brian Rowan, product manager of golf fertilizers for Lesco, says the key is its particle size.

“We tightened our

size,” he says. “Water breaks down the outer layer and provides immediate green-up. But the sulfur coating helps it last for a longer period.”

Wiles says his first application of Novex produced impressive color — a little too impressive in some places, he adds.

“I saw a striping effect — darker green alternating with lighter green — where I’d overlapped too much,” Wiles says. “I learned my lesson.”

Once he adjusted his application procedure, Wiles says he was pleased with its performance.

Pierpoint said the smaller particles didn’t stick to his crew members’ shoes, which meant it didn’t track all over the course

Pierpoint says the product also doesn’t create a dust cloud around the applicant, which lessens health concerns surrounding its application.

Both Pierpoint and Wiles say they’re looking forward to putting the fertilizer down this spring. “As soon as the ground temperatures are warm enough, we’re going to put it on the greens,” Wiles says.

“We’re looking to expand our program to tees, roughs and fairways this year,” Pierpoint says. “We’re looking forward to similar results there.”

Rowan says the plant producing the fertilizer should be at full capacity — 75 tons per day — by the end of February. ■

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# Tips

## Selecting Amendments

**Trial on your own course is the best method to rate soil enhancers, expert says**

**M**any products are considered “amendments” to the turf system, including inorganic, organic, microbial, nutritional and hormonal materials. Historically, some have lived up to advertised claims and some haven’t. Despite the fact that many have now been proven effective, the plethora of products on the market still creates confusion.

“The superintendent is drowning in a sea of amendment technologies that all claim to be the magic bullet,” says Bill Torello, a University of Massachusetts professor of turfgrass management. Torello recommends superintendents ask themselves several questions before buying new amendments, such as:

***Have there been unbiased field tests on the material and, if so, how much?***

“It is only common sense that the buyer make sure the material in question has been field tested by a strictly unbiased source, such as universities or well-known private laboratories/companies,” Torello recommends. “If there’s limited information with only private testimonials from individual users, then it’s a buyer-beware situation. Ask for copies of the research reports, which support the claims of the sellers.”

Torello says many amendments are expensive and should be tried on a trial basis on your own course if questions remain.

“Trial on your own course is the best test, but there must be several replications of the product and control

areas where the material is not used for comparison,” he adds.

That’s the strategy that superintendent Kevin Downing has implemented at Willoughby GC in Stuart, Fla.

“The benefits of enhancement are not always readily visible,” he says. “I’m conservative in nature, so I take my selective shots. If something looks viable, I’ll try it for awhile. I’ll split greens or do percentages to see if it does have an effect.”

***Do I really need this product to manage my turf?***

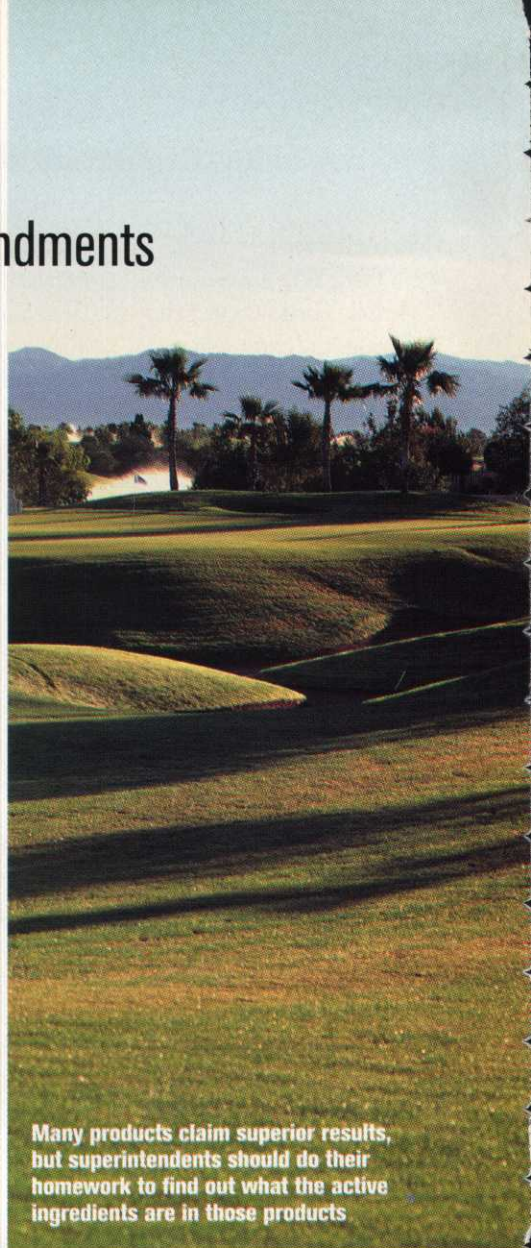
Of course, different products mean different answers. If the product is humate or humic acids, for example, then research shows that these amendments respond best in soils/growth mediums low in organic matter, Torello says. That would include grow-in, sand-based greens that do not have the organic matter and cation exchange capacity to supply mineral nutrients, particularly micronutrients.

Mike Vella, superintendent at Sugarloaf GC in Carrabassett Valley, and Downing agree about maximizing the value of humic acids and calcium products.

“Spraying calcium and humic acid has become a big thing,” Vella says. “It works, particularly in grow-in situations because you don’t have any nutrients in straight sand until you get some organic matter built up.”

Adds Downing: “We’ve used calcium silicate products during tournaments. It seems to help the turf stand up better and gives you better ball roll.”

***If there’s a response, is it because***



Many products claim superior results, but superintendents should do their homework to find out what the active ingredients are in those products

***of the added material or to the stated “active ingredient,” which makes each product unique?***

“Examples would be the colorants or iron additions to a liquid fungicide application, where the active ingredient is the fungicide, but the additives will green-up the turf as a side effect,” Torello explains.

Many products claim superior growth, color and/or density of turf when they are applied. Superintendents should do their homework to discover the active ingredients and additives.

*Peter Blais, the author of this article, is a writer who operates a golf media relations firm in North Yarmouth, Maine. He can be reached at pblais@maine.rr.com.*

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## Leaders

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

**George Hamilton Jr.**, senior lecturer



at Penn State University, received the 2000 Distinguished Service Award from the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council.

The following superintendents recently achieved certification: **Glen Moore Jr.**, Toledo CC in Toledo, Ohio; **Norman C. Risk**, Christian Reformed Recreation Center in Hastings, Mich.; **Andrew J. Scully**, Greystone GC in Owings Mills, Md.; **Donald H. Johnson**, Garra de Leon GC in Santa Cruz, Costa Rica; **Donald Portwine Jr.**, Ames Golf & CC in Ames, Iowa; and **Wade D. Vecchio**, Cotton Ranch Club in Gypsum, Colo.

KemperSports Management named **David Groelle** as superintendent

of the Royal Melbourne CC in Long Grove, Ill., and **Tom Prichard** as superintendent at the Glen Club in Glenview, Ill. The company also named **Scott Abell** as director of business development.

**Tim Finchem**, commissioner of the PGA Tour, was awarded GCSAA's 2001 Old Tom Morris Award.

The Golf Course Builders Association of America named **Jack Nicklaus** as the 2000 recipient of its Don A. Rossi Award. It also certified three of its member companies: Prinsburg, Minn.-based **Duinick Brothers Golf**, Marengo, Ill.-based **Golf Creations**, and St. Cloud, Fla.-based **Reed H. Bertinsky Inc.**

The **Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program**, a joint public-private effort to foster sound envi-



## Markers

**Par Aide's** new Proximity Marker and Contest Indicator make it easy to facilitate contests like closest to the pin, longest drive and longest putt. The polycarbonate signs are sturdily built and can withstand rain, wind and hail, according to the company. The signs can also be customized with a course logo.

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CIRCLE NO. 202

ronmental practices, received GCSAA's 2000 President's Award for Environmental Leadership.

**David Williams** was named vice president of the British Institute of Golf Course Architects.

Pacific Sod named two sales managers: **Larry Kaiser** oversees the company's northern California territory and **Steve Whitehead** oversees its southern Nevada and western Arizona markets.

**William A. Raney** was named president of [www.eteetime.com](http://www.eteetime.com).

Arnold Palmer Golf named **Timothy J. Tierny** as president and chief executive officer and promoted **David Polansky** to chief financial officer.

**Lee Rogers** was named territory manager in the Northeast for Tri-Pro turf and ornamental markets. His newly created territory includes Virginia,

## Turf blankets

**Typar** Turf Blankets help greens retain warmth and moisture in the winter and create an environment similar to that in a greenhouse. The blankets are porous to allow sunlight, air, water and nutrients through them.

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CIRCLE NO. 203

West Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine.

Tyler Enterprises named **Craig Filley** as director of strategic development. The company also named **Steve Beckman** its southwestern Indiana sales representative.

**Tom Works** was named vice president of Landscapes Unlimited's irrigation group.

Pennington Seed appointed **Stanley J. Kleczynski** and **Charles W. Lohse** as territory managers for the professional turfgrass group.

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](mailto:fandorka@advanstar.com).

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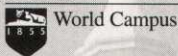
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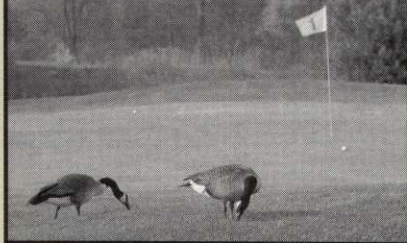
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## Golfdom's Joke of the Month

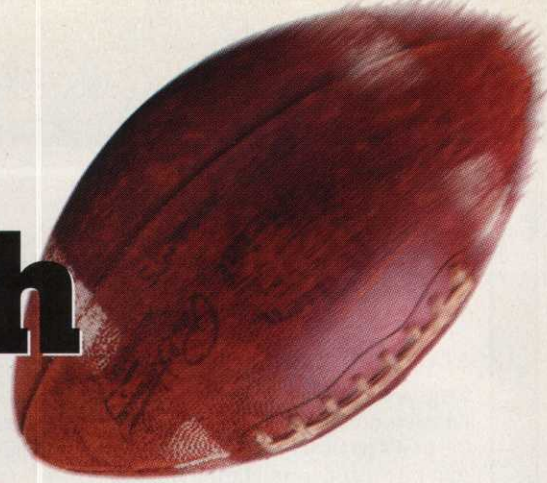


A grandfather and grandson were playing golf together. On a severely dog-legged par 4, the grandfather told the grandson, "When I was your age, I'd aim right over those trees and hit the green every time." The grandson thought about that comment and decided to give it a try. He hit a perfect drive, but it landed right in the middle of the 50-foot trees. The grandson looked sadly at the grandfather, who said, "Of course, when I was your age those trees were 8 feet tall."

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# super bash

THE SUPER BOWL DESERVES A SUPER PARTY.  
HERE ARE SOME TIPS TO MAKE YOURS A BLAST  
BY MARK LUCE

**M**ore people will watch Super Bowl XXXV on Jan. 28 than bothered to tune into the presidential debates.

All the hype, bluster, media credentials, corny interviews, endless pre-game and much-anticipated commercials won't mean much, though, if you can't enjoy the game with a few of your favorite friends.

We at *Golfdom* won't ever be accused of having the social graces of Martha Stewart, but we do know how to party, especially when it's the biggest game of the year. Instead of filling your head with early pigskin prognostications, we thought we might give you a few tips on making your Super Bowl party a hit, even if the game turns out to be a dud.

## TV size

In this case, size does matter. If you are housing a 9-inch black-and-white television, we suggest you head to the local sports bar or another friend's house, since part of the glory of the Super Bowl is actually seeing it.

## Seating

Before you start inviting folks over, figure out exactly how many people you can squeeze into your television viewing area and how many extra

chairs you have. People don't want to crane their necks to see the action, and since the game usually clocks in at about four hours, comfort is of the essence.

## Beverages

A good host doesn't run out of liquid refreshments. To be on the safe side, figure on getting at least six beers per person, excepting the kids, of course. It's not a bad idea to have plenty of soft drinks, a pot of coffee and a few bags of ice.

## Food

Since the game starts at 6 p.m. (Est), partiers will get hungry quickly. For hearty football fans, a crock-pot full of chili or vegetable stew will be welcome. If you are lucky enough to live in a pleasant clime, barbecue must vault to the top of the food list. You could also order a few of those 6-foot party subs from a local deli. If you're lazy and uncreative, you can always order out for pizza. But be prepared for a long wait because there are other lazy and uncreative people out there.

## Snacks

True fans know that nothing goes better with football than salty snacks. So stock up on potato chips, pretzels, Chex mix or Doritos. Augmenting these should be an array of dips and sauces, ranging from the easy-to-make and sinfully good California Dip to salsa, from spinach dip to Rotel's Tex-Mex mix. More is good.

## Wildcards

Unless you like to do dishes, you should procure mounds of paper plates, plastic cups, plastic silverware and napkins. No need to get fancy football designs on these accessories; just go plain. No fan should complain about the service when it features free chow.

## Advice for the host

Don't try so hard to entertain — that's what the game is for. Relax, enjoy yourself and watch fellow party-goers do the same.

*Mark Luce lives and writes in Lawrence, Kan. Unlike years past, he will not host a Super Bowl extravaganza this year.*

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