

Golfdom

OCTOBER 2001

This card is void after December 15, 2001

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NAME (please print) _____ JOB TITLE _____
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I would like to receive **GOLFDOM** free each month: Yes No

Signature _____ Date _____

1. My primary business at this location is: (fill in ONE only)

GOLF COURSES

- 01 10 Daily Fee/Public
- 02 20 Semi-Private
- 03 30 Private
- 04 40 Resort
- 05 50 City/State/Municipal
- 06 55 Other Golf Courses (please specify) _____
- 07 60 Golf Course Architect
- 08 70 Golf Course Developer
- 09 90 Golf Course Builder
- 10 105 University/College
- 11 100 Others Allied to the Field (please specify) _____

2. Which of the following best describes your title? (fill in ONE only)

- 12 10 Golf Course Superintendent
- 13 15 Assistant Superintendent
- 14 25 Owner/Management Company Executive
- 15 30 General Manager
- 16 35 Director of Golf
- 17 70 Green Chairman
- 18 45 Club President
- 19 75 Builder/Developer
- 20 55 Architect/Engineer
- 21 60 Research Professional
- 22 65 Other Titled Personnel (please specify) _____

3. What is your facility's annual maintenance budget?

- 23 A More than \$2 Million
- 24 B \$1,000,001-\$2 Million
- 25 C \$750,001-\$1 Million
- 26 D \$500,001-\$750,000
- 27 E \$300,001-\$500,000
- 28 F \$150,001-\$300,000
- 29 G Less than \$150,000

4. If you work for a golf course, how many holes are on your course?

- 30 A 9
- 31 B 18
- 32 C 27
- 33 D 36+
- 34 E Other (please specify) _____

Please send Golfdom to the following people at my organization:

Name _____
 Title _____
 Name _____
 Title _____
 Name _____
 Title _____

101	113	125	137	149	161	173	185	197	209	221	233	245	257	269	281	293	305
102	114	126	138	150	162	174	186	198	210	222	234	246	258	270	282	294	306
103	115	127	139	151	163	175	187	199	211	223	235	247	259	271	283	295	307
104	116	128	140	152	164	176	188	200	212	224	236	248	260	272	284	296	308
105	117	129	141	153	165	177	189	201	213	225	237	249	261	273	285	297	309
106	118	130	142	154	166	178	190	202	214	226	238	250	262	274	286	298	310
107	119	131	143	155	167	179	191	203	215	227	239	251	263	275	287	299	311
108	120	132	144	156	168	180	192	204	216	228	240	252	264	276	288	300	312
109	121	133	145	157	169	181	193	205	217	229	241	253	265	277	289	301	313
110	122	134	146	158	170	182	194	206	218	230	242	254	266	278	290	302	314
111	123	135	147	159	171	183	195	207	219	231	243	255	267	279	291	303	315
112	124	136	148	160	172	184	196	208	220	232	244	256	268	280	292	304	314



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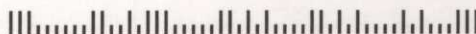
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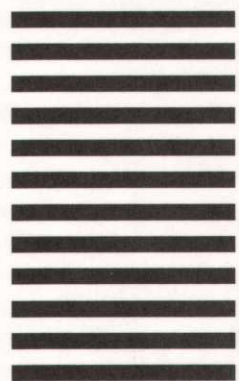




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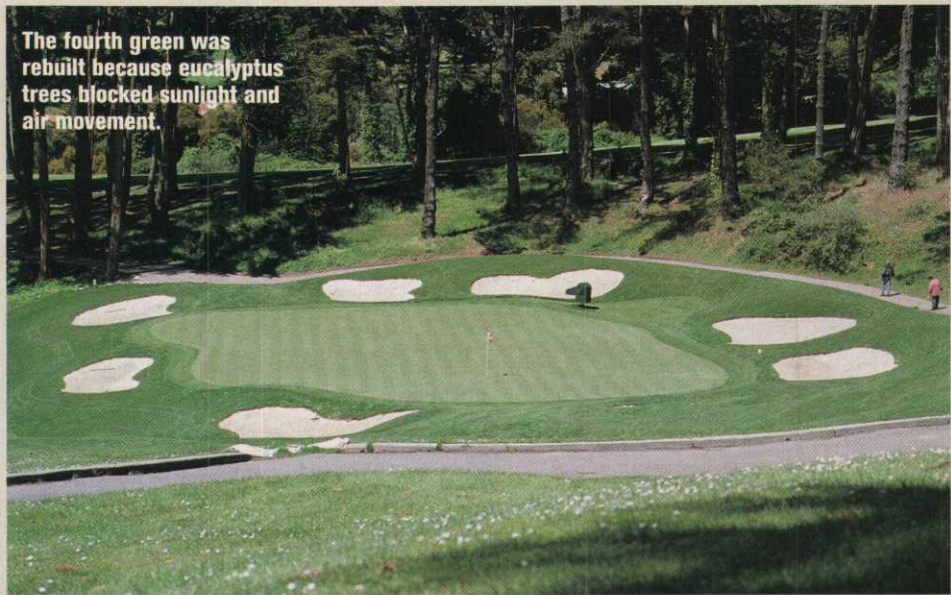
Real-Life Solutions

Continued from page 50

Hutchins' plan called to scrape out the old sod by hand to preserve the original contours of the greens. While the old greens were completely poa annua, the dominant grass in the San Francisco Bay area, Hutchins chose to resod them with bentgrass. Could bentgrass greens thrive in the cool, foggy climate of the area? "The choice of bentgrass was risky, but I needed to establish a grass that was resistant to the Anguina nematode variety," Hutchins explains.

The greens feature a combination of SR 1019, SR 1119 and SR 1020, the newest strains of disease-resistant bentgrass.

About a year after the resurfacing phase, Hutchins determined the par-3 fourth hole needed to be completely rebuilt to eliminate future problems. The green was small and sat in a



The fourth green was rebuilt because eucalyptus trees blocked sunlight and air movement.

FREDDY BIRD

low area that was surrounded by tall eucalyptus trees that blocked both sunlight and air movement.

Hutchins built the new green to twice its original size to allow for more pin placements. It was built to USGA specifications, and sub-surface drainage system was installed to increase airflow to the root

system. Power was run to the green's side so fans and halogen lights could be connected to increase airflow and light intensity.

The sub-surface aeration system was constructed with 4-inch perforated PVC pipe that was laid out in a grid over the green.

The perforated pipe was routed to larger drainpipes surrounding the green that routed to natural collection areas lower than the green. A 4-inch gravel layer capped the grid for water filtration.

The 14-inch-thick root zone was created with a mix of different sands, soil conditioners, rock minerals and organic amendments. Courses around the Bay Area are taking heed to the progress of Presidio's bentgrass experiment. "All of these measures came from being creative about finding solutions," Hutchins says. ■

Saunders is a free-lance writer based in Truckee, Calif.



FREDDY BIRD

The sixth green is handling the transition to bentgrass well, which is unusual in San Francisco's cool, foggy climate.

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Pile on the Potassium, Among Other Things

By Larry Aylward, Editor

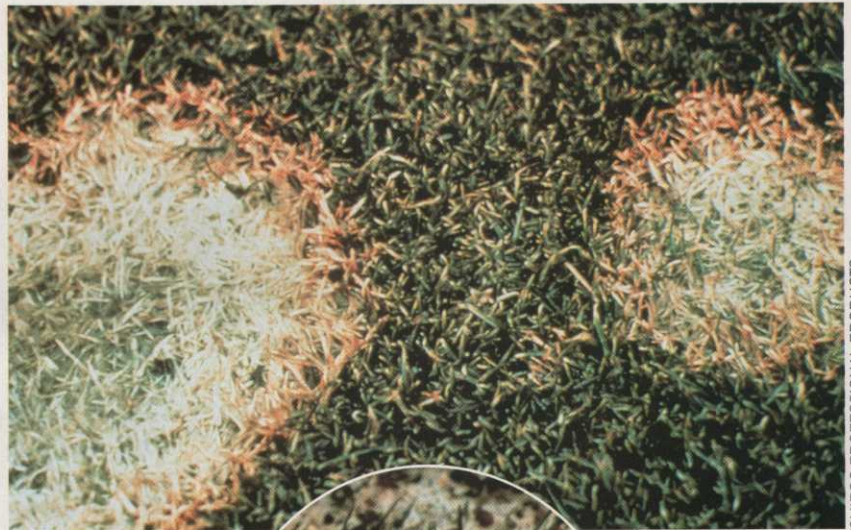
Bill Spence, superintendent of The Country Club at Brookline (Mass.), is still scratching his head about the wacky winter of 2000-2001, which wreaked havoc on golf courses throughout the Northeast.

The winter featured a few nasty freeze-thaw spells that spelled doom for golf course greens, fairways and tees. Spence says he's never seen anything like the turf loss Mother Nature inflicted on his course and others.

Knowing what the veteran Spence experienced last winter, we called him to get his take on preparing a course for snow, ice and blustery winds. He offered good advice, but he also recommended we call superintendents who are tending turf in Canada and are more accustomed to winter's unpredictability and spite. In fact, Spence says he's going to solicit the help of his Canadian counterparts to combat winter kill.

We contacted Nancy Pierce, superintendent of the Links at Crowbush Cove in Charlottetown on Prince Edward Island, which is north of Nova Scotia and surrounded by the cold waters of the Atlantic Ocean. We also spoke with Jim Skorulski, USGA agronomist for the Northeast Region. Between them, Pierce, Spence and Skorulski know something about preparing golf courses for winter's wrath. Here are their tips:

- Proper drainage is vital to keep water pockets from freezing, Skorulski says. "In any area where the course is pocketing water, you're at the greatest odds of losing turf to crown hydration injury," he explains.
- Don't mow your course too late



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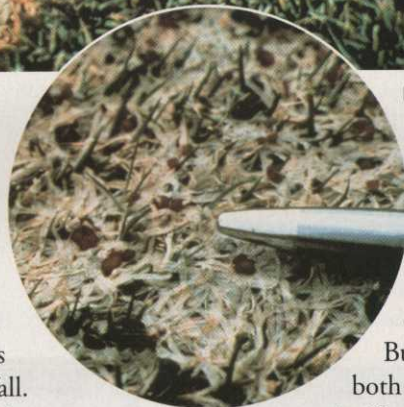
in the fall, Spence says. Last winter, Spence says he noticed that the courses in his area damaged most by winter kill were the courses whose crews mowed late in the fall.

"I generally shut down my mowing in mid-October," Spence says. "The golf course gets a little fuzzy, but it seems to help."

■ Pile on the potassium, Pierce says. In Canada, most superintendents apply more potassium than nitrogen annually. Pierce says potassium helps make turf hardy during the winter.

"We have sand greens at our course and we put down 7 to 8 pounds of potassium compared to 4 to 5 pounds of nitrogen," Pierce says. "It helps."

■ Proper timing of fertilization and fungicide applications is vital, Spence says. At The Country Club, Spence and his crew spray greens, tees and fairways in November with a



Correct timing of a fungicide application in the fall is important to control snow mold.

fungicide to control snow mold.

But Spence and Pierce both warn that fungicide can't offer much protection to turf that's been covered by ice and snow for six months.

Spence and his crew fertilize for the final time in early October while the turf is still growing. "We do a dormant application but that's just before it snows around Thanksgiving," Spence adds.

■ In late November or early December, Pierce and her staff apply a heavy topdressing to greens. "It's the last thing we do," she notes.

But it's important not to mat the topdressing material in the greens so it can provide a physical barrier to ice formation around the crowns of the turf, Pierce says. "If the crowns die, the turf dies," she adds.

■ Try to grow more bentgrass on greens, Skorulski says. "Bentgrass can tolerate winter kill much more than annual bluegrass, which has the lowest cold temperature tolerance," he says.

■ Timely aeration is important — but not too late in the fall when snow and cold temperatures are looming, Pierce says.

"You don't want to do it too late because you want some recovery," she explains. "But you also want some holes so any surface water will drain into them and protect the crowns."

■ Cover greens with reliable materials to protect them from the elements. Pierce doesn't use covers in the winter, but she says several Canadian superintendents rely on them to shield greens. Spence says he uses covers on 12 of his greens that are shaded and have had previous problems with ice.

A popular technique in Canada is to put a cover on a green, place about 18 inches of straw on top and add another cover. "The straw keeps the green dry and acts as a good insulator," Pierce says.

Other superintendents use Styrofoam to cover greens. Spence uses a black plastic-woven product that's about three-eighths of an inch thick.

■ If greens are covered with ice, superintendents should try to melt it. Spence says sunflower seeds and activated charcoal will help.

■ In Canada, some superintendents employ ventilation systems to gain proper air exchange, Pierce says. Grass still breathes when covered by snow and ice and produces carbon dioxide — and too much carbon dioxide can be toxic to the covered turf. A ventilation system, which can be easily constructed with 4-inch perforated drain pipe, allows the carbon dioxide to escape.

■ Paint your greens. When the ice and snow subsided early last year, the tennis club across the street from The

Country Club suffered severe damage to its poa annua playing surface.

"Ninety-nine percent of the surface was cooked ... except the lines where the areas were painted," Spence says.

Turf experts believed the paint sealed the crowns of the turf and protected it from the freeze-thaw cycles. Spence is considering painting his greens this fall. "Folks who have done it in the past have had good luck," he says, noting that superintendents

should not use metal-based paint.

■ If you have a problem green that's more susceptible to winter kill and you know it's going to be damaged, Pierce advises you to build a temporary green in the fall.

"If you build it early in the fall, you'll have a nice putting surface by the spring," she adds. "It will make it easier for golfers to accept the fact that a green is out of play if they have a half-decent surface to putt." ■

The Worst Winter Kill They'd Ever Seen By Larry Aylward, Editor

They came from throughout the country last March to witness the startling developments that transpired at The Country Club at Brookline (Mass.) and other golf courses in the Northeast. "They" were college turf professors and other turf experts. The "strange developments" were several cases of the worst winter kill the professors and turf experts had ever seen in the area.

"The last time I saw turf loss like that was in 1977 at Pebble Beach GC when we were in the third year of a drought and the first year of not being able to water our fairways," recalls Bill Spence, superintendent of The Country Club and former superintendent of Pebble Beach.

"It didn't matter [last year] if you were at a big-budget or low-budget club — you suffered," says Jim Skorulski, USGA agronomist for the Northeast Region. "[The weather] didn't take any prisoners."

Spence and Skorulski aren't exactly sure what caused the turf devastation. But they agree it had something to do with the wacky winter, which included severe temperature swings.

"We had a heavy rainstorm prior to December, and the water froze after it," Spence says. "At the beginning of January, most of the courses around here had a couple of inches of ice on them. That kind of scared me."

Then it snowed several inches soon after. After about three weeks, Spence and his crew removed the snow from the greens at The Country Club and melted the ice. Most of the greens were in decent shape.

In early February, however, Mother Nature dropped 8 inches of snow on the area. Then it got warm and the snow began to melt. Then it got extremely cold

and the melting snow froze quickly.

Spence and Skorulski believe the freeze-and-thaw-cycles, especially the latter sequence, led to the turf loss at The Country Club and other courses.

"You couldn't walk on these courses in the early spring because the smell of the decomposition would knock you over," Spence says. "The courses smelled like sewers."

Spence says greens with poor drainage or abundant shade were wiped out.

"Annual bluegrass (poa annua) was the major victim," he adds. "My greens are a mix of bent and poa, and the poa got cooked."

"What's interesting is the greens that were annihilated were greens we rarely have problems with," Spence adds. "But the greens we normally have problems with weren't damaged badly. This was true at other courses."

The veteran Spence, who has worked in all types of weather conditions, knows how to prepare his course to combat winter kill — but not last winter's destruction.

"I don't think there's anything that could have been done," Spence says. "We may never see anything like this again."

But Spence learned a lesson. "Every once in awhile you find out who's the boss," he says. "There's no doubt in my mind that it's Mother Nature."

Skorulski agrees the damage was the worst he's seen in the Northeast, but superintendents working there could have it worse. "In Montreal and eastern Canada, superintendents deal with this kind of winter kill routinely," Skorulski adds. ■

My wife Beth is a passionate “to-do” list maker. She has short-term “to-do” lists, long-term “to-do” lists, needs-to-be-done-in-the-next-five-minutes “to-do” lists. Sometimes you can’t walk across my dining room because it’s buried in lists.

I must have learned something from her. As I straightened up the palatial “Tech Talk” offices the other day, I found my own “to-do” list — several topics I’ve been meaning to discuss, but can never find the time or the space to do so. Well, as Beth would say, there’s no better time than the present.

Real technology

In recent conversations with superintendents, I asked them to tell me what their offices might look like in the future.

While they gave me several practical suggestions, I thought about additional technological advances that would *really* help them manage their careers, such as:

■ **Live-action fast-forward:** Since you can now apparently pause live TV (I saw it on a commercial somewhere, I swear), someone needs to devise a live-action fast-forward remote that would allow you to fast-forward through the green chairman’s fatuous speech at the next meeting.

■ **Particle transporters:** Superintendents need particle transporters like those used on the *Starship Enterprise*. You wouldn’t have to worry about the costs of going to the national show. With the particle transporter, you push one button and you’re there.

■ **Hand-held disease diagnostic equipment:** I’d like to see a small device that scans plant tissue as you wave it over the turf and instantly diagnoses diseases and other problems. It would save so much time that you might have an opportunity to play your course occasionally.

Web-site watch

What if they created a Web site, but nobody visited it? I sense that it would look much like www.golfsuper.com, GCSAA’s site designed to teach average golfers about what superintendents do.

Time to Attack My ‘To-Do’ List

BY FRANK H. ANDORKA JR.



WHAT IF THEY
CREATED A WEB
SITE, BUT NOBODY
VISITED IT? TRY
GOLFSUPER.COM
TO FIND OUT

Don’t get me wrong: I admire what GCSAA is attempting to do. Superintendents often have the lowest profile at the course and anything that can raise it is good. But when I typed “golf course superintendents” into three prominent Web search engines (Google, Yahoo and Ask Jeeves), golfsuper.com didn’t appear on any of them (though many of the state chapter sites did, which I found heartening).

If I’m an average golfer, search engines would be my most likely place to start looking for information. The fact that GCSAA’s site failed to appear makes me wonder how many golfers will actually take the time to find it.

Failure to communicate

I confused at least one reader with my August column on global positioning system (GPS) technology.

The column referred to a superintendent who was taking care of five more acres than he needed to on the course, a disparity he discovered after mapping the course with GPS. One sharp superintendent pointed out that since the ratio of chemicals per acre wouldn’t change, what did it matter if you had 90 acres instead of 100 acres?

My point (which I clearly failed to make) was that without an accurate map, the superintendent would waste chemicals (and chemical dollars) because he’d be taking care of five acres of turf more than he should. I’m sorry for any confusion I caused.

Well, that’s the last item on my “to-do” list for today. My wife’s right: It *does* give you a great sense of accomplishment.

Frank H. Andorka Jr., managing editor of *Golfdom*, can be reached at 440-891-2708 or fandorka@advanstar.com.

The Company Line

■ PRODUCTS & SERVICES

► Reviewing a New Herbicide

PBI/Gordon's Bill Brocker (left), vice president of marketing, and Mark Miller, manager of product professional products and agricultural sales, examine the weed control performance of a new ProForm herbicide formulation that the company expects to introduce later this year. The product's new active ingredient, Carfentrazone, is from the triazolinone family of herbicides and was introduced a few years ago for use in crops. For turf applications, it's being combined with three other components in a low-volatile ester formulation. The new herbicide will be recommended for spring and autumn use.

For more information, contact 800-236-5413 (east of the Mississippi) and 800-236-5411 (west of the Mississippi) or

CIRCLE NO. 200



Fungicide

Simplot Partners introduces PolarKote, a preventative fungicide that has proven effective in controlling gray snow mold and pink snow mold. The products are

available in 10G, a 10 percent granular formulation, and 4F, a liquid sprayable formulation.

For more information, contact 208-332-0932 or

CIRCLE NO. 201

Herbicide

Syngenta Professional Products introduces Touchdown PRO, a non-selective, systemic herbicide that provides superintendents with an improved glyphosate-based product. Touchdown PRO controls more than 170 weeds and is a good product for control of winter annual weeds and tall fescue in dormant bermudagrass or bahiagrass, according to the company.

For more information, contact 336-632-2115,

www.syngenta.com or

CIRCLE NO. 202

Soil modification

Profile Products introduces Tee & Fairway to its line of porous ceramic products. Like its porous ceramic products designed for sand-based putting greens, Tee & Fairway is designed to modify soil structure to provide a better

Utility vehicle

The new **Cushman Commander** utility vehicle from Textron Golf, Turf & Specialty Products carries large cargo loads and can be customized for many missions, according to the company. Replacing the Cushman Hawk line, all Commanders feature heavy-duty leaf springs, hydraulic shock absorbers and reinforced front suspensions.

For more information, contact 888-922-TURF or

CIRCLE NO. 203

agronomic root zone. Uses of the product include: amending poor soils during tee box construction, relieving compaction, and topdressing.

For more information, contact 800-207-6457, www.profileproducts.com or

CIRCLE NO. 204

Seed Guide Additions

Golfdom inadvertently omitted Seed Research of Oregon's turfgrass blends from its August 2001 Seed Pocket Guide. We apologize for any inconveniences. Here are the omitted blends:

Perennial ryegrass blends

Champion G.Q. (Golf Course) is an Oregon-certified blue tag blend of Seed Research's endophyte-enhanced SR 4000 series perennial ryegrasses. Formulated especially for use on golf courses, it has the ability to establish quickly and suppress the growth of poa annua.

Champion is an uncertified blend with excellent disease and insect resistance. It contains Seed Research's SR 4000 series.

Champion Fine is a certified mixture of Champion and Chewings fescue.

Champion Max is a quick-establishing blend of Champion and improved maximum poa trivialis.

Magnum is a fast-establishing blend formulated of improved varieties including Omni, Penguin and SR 4010.

Magnum Gold is a dense, tough turf certified blend of poa annua-free Magnum.

Magnum Fine is a certified mixture of Magnum and Chewings fescue.

Magnum Max is a quick-establishing blend of Magnum and improved Maximum poa trivialis.

Tall fescue blends

Trophy is an improved mixture of turf-type tall fescues containing Seed Research's lower growing, endophyte-enhanced SR 8000 series tall fescues.

SR 2100 or Merit Kentucky bluegrasses can be added to Trophy for improved rhizome development.

Defiance is a mixture of endophyte-enhanced tall fescue varieties — Grade, Bonanza II and Crew-Cut — that defy traditional enemies of turf.

Survivor combines the same improved endophyte-enhanced SR 8000 series tall fescues as Trophy. Additional species may be added to Survivor to give better performance in special situations.

Bentgrass blends

Dominant Creeping Bentgrass is a certified blend of two of the best creeping bentgrasses available, incorporating the aggressive growth habit of Providence (SR 1019) and the heat and drought tolerance of SR 1020.

Dominant Plus Creeping Bentgrass is the most genetically diverse creeping bentgrass blend available. The three-way blend of Providence (SR 1019), SR 1020 and SR 1119 is good for greens, tees and fairways.

Bermudagrass blends

La Prima is a scientifically formulated blend of top performing, improved, seeded turf-type bermudagrass varieties including Primavera.

Poa trivialis blends

Maximum is a three-way blend of high performing poa trivialis varieties — Sabre II, Laser and Sun-Up. It has been scientifically formulated to deliver the best southern overseeding results on greens, tees and fairways.

Turfgrass seed mixes

Champion S.T. (Sports Turf) is the next step in customizing seed mixtures for the specific needs of the sports turf manager. It contains Seed Research of Oregon's endophyte-enhanced SR 4000 series perennial ryegrasses, in addition to the customized percentages of its Kentucky bluegrasses, tall and fine fescues.

Crusader Turfgrass Mixture is designed specifically for the professional lawn manager. It combines rapid establishment and outstanding turf quality with natural resistance to insects and disease. Crusader's components include Seed Research's endophyte-enhanced varieties of SR 3100 hard fescue, SR 4200 perennial ryegrass and SR 5100 Chewings fescue.

Tradition Fine Fescue Mixture is a special combination of SR 3100 hard, SR 5100 Chewings, SR 3200 blue and SR 5200E strong creeping red fescues. It provides optimum performance under the highest turfgrass management or planted as a cover for naturalizing low-maintenance or native settings.

Champion Blue combines the qualities of the ryegrasses in Champion with the benefits of an improved Kentucky bluegrass like SR 2100 or Showcase.

FastLinks is a fine textured mix of SR 5100 Chewings fescue and SR 7100 colonial bentgrass.

Golfdom

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Fred tried to be particularly careful about his language as he played golf with his preacher. But on the 12th hole, after failing twice to hit out of a sand trap, he lost his resolve and let fly with a string of expletives.

The preacher felt obliged to respond. "I have observed," he said in a calm voice, "that the best golfers do not use foul language."

"I guess not," said Fred. "What the hell do they have to cuss about?"

Golfdom's



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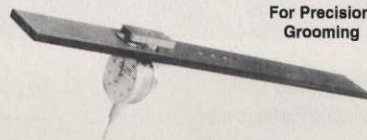
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baseball cards

I felt like hell. I lay in the top bunk shivering with a fever and battling nausea unlike anything I had experienced before. I lay there wishing I would die.

As my younger brother walked into the room, my stomach betrayed me before I could make it out of the bunk. As a result, I threw up over the side.

The former contents of my stomach splattered Jim Brown, Walter Payton, Alan Page and Terry Bradshaw. The football cards, which my brother had unwisely left in a shoe box on the floor next to our bunk beds, were ruined instantly.

Into the dumpster went Roman Gabriel, Mercury Morris and others. Luckily, my baseball cards were stashed in a different set of shoeboxes across the room. Baseball cards had a special place in my heart, and I wasn't going to put them in a place where something could force their early retirement.

For a kid, nothing beat tearing the waxy paper off a new pack of baseball cards and shuffling through them, praising the all-stars and dreading the worthless checklist card.

You'd trade with your friends and, if you were lucky, some kid who didn't know beans about baseball. That way, you could unload a handful of scrubs for a George Brett or Robin Yount. You couldn't wait until Friday when that \$5 allowance would buy you a Coke, a couple pinball games and six sealed

THE MAGIC INSIDE A BOX OF BASEBALL CARDS WITHSTANDS

THE PASSAGE OF TIME BY MARK LUCE



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packs of Topps cards down at the convenience store.

Of course, those days are over in more ways than one. First, there's no more gum inside the packages. And in the middle 1980s, the once simple joy of getting a pack of Topps became instead a puzzling experience as tons of different brands and styles in colorful foils hit the market.

Suddenly, it wasn't about the players; it was about things like value, investment and return. The simple pastime of collecting baseball cards became an exercise in economics.

Ball players cashing in on their Sharpie signatures and late-night hucksters screaming about bargains on baseball cards they claim are suitable for framing hasn't helped the hobby's image either.

So as the Fall Classic begins, you should think about that shoebox of cards your Mom threw away or sold at a garage sale. Rather than lamenting its loss, you should do one simple thing. You should fork over out \$60 and buy yourself a full set of Topps baseball cards — not the Topps Reserve, Topps Gallery Baseball, Topps Heritage, Topps Opening Day or Topps Stadium Club — just plain-old Topps Baseball Cards. Look through the cards once to check out how they've changed. Then put them away. Repeat the same program every year.

It won't feel the same as when you were younger, but before too long you'll have something of value — economic and sentimental — that you can pass on to kids or grandkids. It's history in a long, slender box. While the players will change, the magic inside of that box never will.

Mark Luce, who bats left and throws right, lives in Belmont Shore, Calif. You can e-mail him at mpace@earthlink.net.

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