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16 30 General Manager	duve																		
17 O 35 Director of Golf								173 174										293	
18 70 Green Chairman 19 45 Club President								174										294 295	
20 75 Builder/Developer								176										296	
21 0 55 Architect/Engineer		105	117	129	141	153	165	177	189	201	213	225	237	249	261	273	285	297	309
22 0 60 Research Professional								178										298	310
23 0 65 Other Titled Personnel (please speci								179										299	
3. What is your facility's annual maintenance								180										300	
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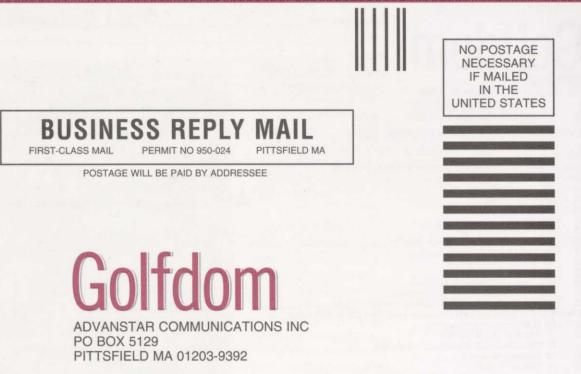


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The Company Line

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Divot repair

Par Aide offers the Divot Pro and Divot Pro Jr. to assist players in repairing divots. The recycled plastic Divot Pro and Divot Pro Jr. puts divot mix within reach of players, encouraging them to fill divots. A hinged lid keeps divot mix dry and easily accessible, and the 8-ounce scoop makes it easy for players to use.

Par Aide also offers the recycled plastic Trash Pro 10, which is constructed of recycled plastic wood slats and features a hinged lid to keep trash out of sight. It stands 33-inches tall and includes a 10-gallon trash liner. For more information, contact 888-893-2433, www.paraide.com or CIRCLE NO. 205

Creeping bentgrass Lebanon Turf Products introduces Independence Creeping bent-

grass, a bentgrass bred for improved turf quality and overall disease resistance, It's specifically

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For more information, contact 800-847-6417, www.uhsonline.com or CIRCLE NO. 207

bred to improve resistance to dollar spot. Independence is also developed with optimum density, superior traffic tolerance, improved mowing qualities and brightness of color, according to the company. It's an upright, aggressive variety that establishes rapidly and recovers quickly from ball marks and divots. For more information, contact 800-233-0628, www.lebturf.com or

CIRCLE NO. 206



For more information, contact publisher Pat Jones at 800-225-4569 • fax: 440-891-2675 • e-mail: pjones@advanstar.com

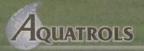
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 Potassium Special 10-20-30, which provides plant stress conditioning when applied as a water-based solution to both leaves and roots. *For more information, contact 800-552-8873, www.simplotpartners.com or* **CIRCLE NO. 208**

New Web Sites



▲ BASF Professional Turf has a launched a new a Web site, featuring an abundance of product, industry and technical information as well as professional advice, research data and contact information. The site is available at www.turffacts.com.

Turf-Seed has launched a Web site dedicated to selling turf and forage seed products direct to distributors and commercial end-users. The site's address is *www.turfsource.com*. The most current "Report of Seed Analysis" accompanies each inventoried item. For ease of the reference, the available grass seed is listed by species, then by variety name and then grouped by its quality.

Compliance Safety, a distributor of safety products for outdoor workplaces, has upgraded its Web site – *www.compliancesafety.com* – to make it more convenient for customers to order products online. Expanded features include an easily searchable, indexed database that provides category listings of hundreds of products.



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Ad Index

	IUA	
	ASIC	78
143	Advanced Geodetic Equip	86
127	Agrotain Intl	64
130	Anderson The	67
117	Aquatrols	33
141	Aquatrols	84
	Aventis/Chipco	35-38
146	BASF	3
110	Cebeco Intl Seeds Inc	15
	Dow Agrosciences	CV2-1,1
	Dow Agrosciences	44-45
	Dow Agrosciences	62-63
	Dow Agrosciences	71
114	Floratine Products	23
120	Floratine Products	60
111/112	Green Mountain Intl Inc	17-18
133	Griffin Ind Inc	79
122	Griffin LLC	
122		53
	Holland Equip	8
115	John Deere Co	25
116	John Deere Co	28
125	John Deere Co	57
105	JWB Marketing LLC	6
138	Lastec	66
126	Nu Gro Tech Inc	49
103	Nutramax Laboratories	5
106	Nutramax Laboratories	7
107	Nutramax Laboratories	9
108	Nutramax Laboratories	11
109	Nutramax Laboratories	13
121	P B I Gordon Corp	50
140	P B I Gordon Corp	85
104	Plant Food Co Inc	6
129	Plant Health Care Inc	11
102	Prosource One	CV3
119	Rain Bird Sales Inc	47
128	Redexim Charterhouse	
136	Transmission and the second se	65
	Reelcraft Ind Inc	8
113	Regal Chemical	21
135	Roots Inc	75
139	Softspikes	14
119	Syngenta	39, 54
102	Tee-2-Green	CV4
144	Terracare Inc	87
142	Terracare Products Co	86
147	Tifeagle	80
118	Toro	41
132	Tourturf	70
145	Turf Drainage Co of Amer	87
123/124	United Horticultural Supp	55-56
131	Valent USA Corp	69
134	West Coast Turf	73
TURFGRASS TREND		
151	Andersons The	T13
150	Bayer Corp	T8-9
148	Scotts Co	T3
149	Textron Golf	T5
the second s		

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wifile ball

here was the slightest pause after my brother's well-batted and gliding ball tapped against a window of an apartment building that served as a two-story

outfield wall. Two seconds later (perhaps three), the ball began to float back to the earth. The shards of glass, however, fell much quicker.

The group of us scattered, as most kids will, and hid behind trees and Dumpsters as the shattering echoed through the neighborhood.

Wiffle balls aren't supposed to break windows, my brother and I later explained to our dad. We said the same thing to the lady whose window we (well, he) broke, right after we told her we were sorry and would pay for it.

We weren't sorry at all, of course, for my younger brother had brandished that red over-sized bat like Hammerin' Hank and busted a window with a wiffle ball. That's serious second-grade power.

While we grew up on a summer diet of diamonds, dirt and leather, you can't play real baseball in the nooks and crannies of oddly shaped backyards dotted with trees and chain-link fences. With a skinny yellow bat and a wiffle ball, though, you can play anywhere.

Perhaps you've forgotten the joys

HERE'S A SUMMERTIME REFRESHER ON AMERICA'S TRUE BACKYARD PASTIME

BY MARK LUCE

of caved-in balls, cracked plastic sticks and ghost runners on first and third, so here's a summertime refresher on America's true backyard pastime.

The Bat - Kids may love the bigbarreled berthas because it's so hard to swing and miss. However, the thin, yellow bat is the preferred weapon for wiffle ball devotees because it requires deft hands and immaculate timing.

The Pitching — If you are willing to contort your fingers into far-out forms, you too can throw freaky forkballs, exploding sliders, kneebreaking benders and a knuckler that would make Charlie Hough proud. The best ball for wicked pitches is the official Wiffle ball (the one with the ovals cut from the top and a solid bottom). Wiffle balls covered with circular holes will dance plenty, while solid plastic balls will tend to undulate in accordance with how beat up the ball is.

The Field — Use your imagination and even the lamest lot can be your Wrigley Field. Smashed pop cans make good bases, but rocks don't. Make sure to establish rules beforehand to avoid arguments (over the fence is an out, under the bushes a ground-rule double, etc).

Ghost Runners — "Ghosts," for short, remain the most complex aspect of a good wiffle ball game when there are only two or three players. Normally, ghost runners advance as many bases as the batter does — a double would score a ghost on second.

More advanced players may experiment with allowing ghost runners to tag up, although this takes strenuous negotiation to get all the rules clear. If there are more than three players, ghost runners should be strictly forbidden.

The Last Word — Contrary to purist squawking, it's permissible to throw the ball at a runner for an out.

Those who say otherwise should go back inside and read George Will columns.

Mark Luce, who thinks ghost runners can always tag up, is a free-lance writer based in Kansas City, Mo. You can e-mail him at mluce@earthlink.net.

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90

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