



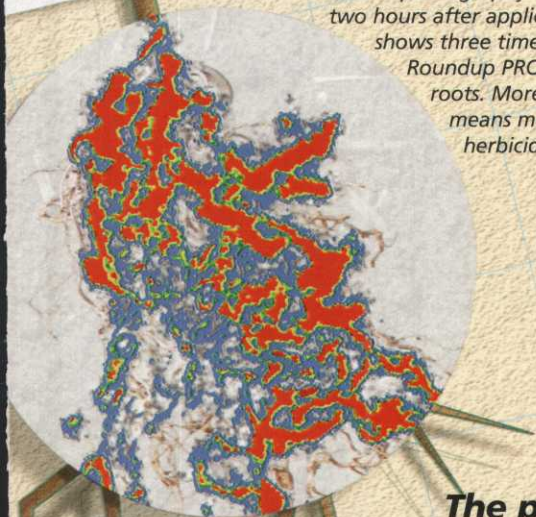
This is a cross-section of a weed leaf magnified 1000x. The yellow droplets mean Roundup PRO is already at work inside.



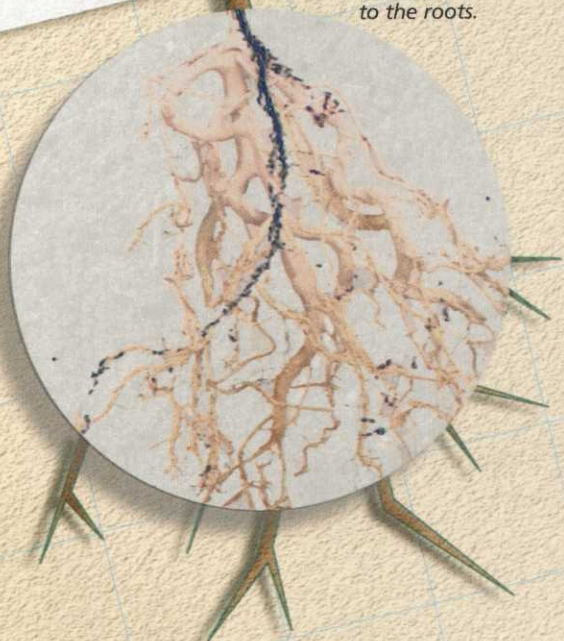
This weed, sprayed with the imitator, has almost no droplets in the leaf.

Syngenta's latest imitator product

In the first two hours, almost no imitator herbicide has moved to the roots.



Scientific photography taken two hours after application shows three times more Roundup PRO in the roots. More color means more herbicide.



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Free video shows science in action.

See PROformance technology at work in a free, five-minute video. Scientists Dr. Tracey Reynolds and Dr. Jimmy Liu demonstrate the autoradiography and cryo-SEM techniques used to compare Roundup PRO with an imitator on two identical weeds.

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Always read and follow label directions. Test conducted with MON 77360, EPA Reg #524-475 with comparison to Syngenta product carrying EPA Reg. #10182-449. 1. Test methodology: In scanning-electron microscopy, Monsanto scientists identified penetrated formulations of both Roundup PRO and Touchdown Pro in the mesophyll cell layer. These micrographs support the evidence that formulations containing Monsanto's patented PROformance technology rapidly penetrate the leaf surface. 2. Test methodology: Radiolabeled formulations were applied at equal acid-equivalent rates. Radioactivity was visualized by autoradiography following a simulated rain event two hours after application. Monsanto laboratory tests, 2001. Roundup®, Roundup PRO® and PROformance™ are trademarks of Monsanto Technology LLC. [12748 jct 10/01] ©2001 Monsanto Company RUPRO-12748

Real-Life Solutions

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pleased with the product.

FieldTurf, manufactured by the Montreal-based company of the same name, is a synthetic turf that features sand and crumb rubber. Polyethylene fibers, simulating grass blades, are woven into a backing. The sand and crumb rubber are layered between the grass blades to simulate height of cut. (The rubber crumbs are made partly of recycled Nike sneakers and recycled tires.)

The porous product, designed for indoor and outdoor use, provides maximum drainage, according to the company. It's resistant to weather, insects, rot, mildew, fungus growth and is non-toxic. It's warranted from ultraviolet degradation for at least eight years.

Several pro and college football teams have turned to FieldTurf in the past few years, including the University of Nebraska and the University of Cincinnati. The Green Bay Packers and Cleveland Browns use FieldTurf at their indoor practice facilities. Major League Baseball's Tampa Bay Devil Rays use it at their Tropicana Field.

"It's awesome. It's like actual grass," says Marco Rivera, a Green Bay Packer offensive lineman.

At the time, Lasher knew of no other golf courses that had experimented with FieldTurf, with the exception of a few driving ranges that used it for mats. "We decided to give it a try," he says.

The plan was to construct five tees, three of which would measure 20 feet by 30 feet and feature the synthetic turf — comprising a total of 1,800 square feet. Two additional tees on the other side of the wetland would be constructed using natural turf, since they were in better growing conditions.

Lasher and a few crew members built the tees and installed the FieldTurf themselves. They used logs from trees downed in the landslide to build the tee boxes.

"We installed drainage in the native soil, using 4-inch perforated drain pipe," Lasher says. "We placed sand on top of it. Then we laid the [synthetic turf] rug on top of the sand. It was just like we were building a sand-based tee with real grass growing on it."

When the rug is in place, sand and crumb rubber are layered in.

"If you want 1-inch grass, you fill it halfway with the sand and crumb rubber," Lasher says. "We filled it up so we had 1/2-inch grass, which is the same height of the grass on our other tees."

Outcome

At the time of the renovation, Lasher told The Resort's owner, Ed Hopper: "We're either being real innovative or real stupid [by installing synthetic turf.] Only time will tell."

Time has revealed a successful story. The tees, which opened in June 1999, have been "overwhelmingly suc-



cessful," Lasher says. As long as golfers can tee up their balls on a level surface, they don't mind doing it off synthetic turf. Some golfers don't even realize they're teeing off fake turf.

How does Lasher like it? Let him count the ways:

- He doesn't have to worry about the turf receiving proper air movement and sunlight.

- He doesn't have to worry about providing irrigation to the tees, which would have been a major project.

- He doesn't have to worry about mowing the tees, which would have taken someone at least an hour a day to do.

- He doesn't have to worry about applying fertilizers and pesticides on an environmentally sensitive site.

In fact, the tees require minimal labor. Two times a month during the course's busy season, a crew worker must rake the "grass" because it becomes matted down.

Lasher admits he was afraid his peers might think he "sold out" by using synthetic turf, but he says the

Golfers don't mind teeing it off the environmentally friendly synthetic turf.

opposite has occurred. Fellow superintendents are impressed with FieldTurf and how Lasher used it to solve a challenging problem.

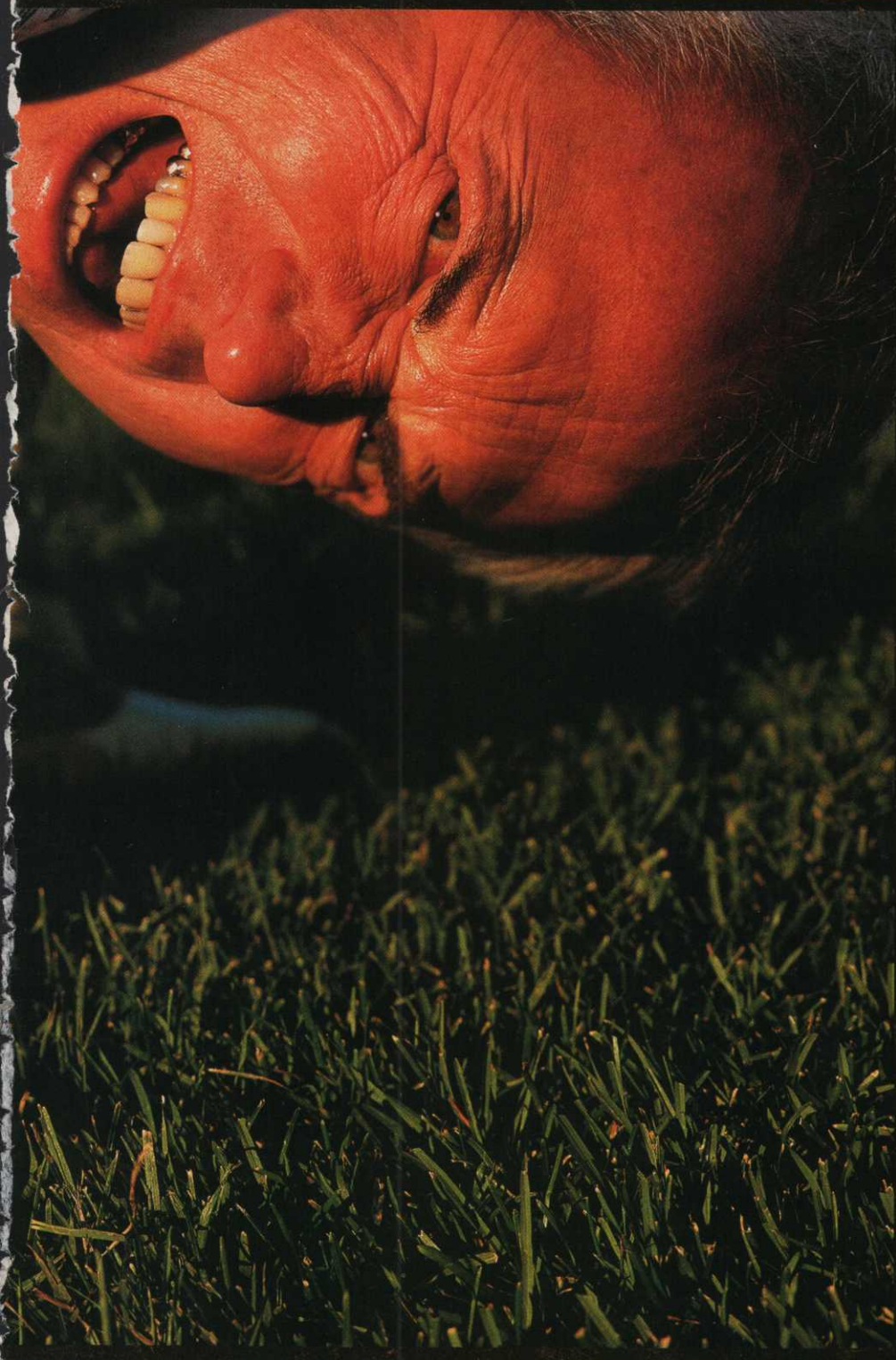
"If we wanted to expose 50,000 golfers to a unique setting and address the problems involved, this was the only solution," Lasher says of the tee renovation, which cost about \$19,000 — \$12,500 for the log work and bridges, and about \$6,500 for the FieldTurf.

It's ironic, really. Usually in such situations, a superintendent who goes the extra mile to do something right for the environment creates a lot of work for himself and his workers in the process. In contrast, FieldTurf delivered the product without the increased maintenance.

"We hope that golfers will enjoy the changes to hole, but we also hope to show people that it's possible to successfully create a partnership between great golf and Mother Nature," Lasher says. ■



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When you drop a cat, it always lands on its feet. On the other hand, when you drop toast, it inevitably lands butter-side down. That got me thinking about how we could apply those principles to managing your golf courses.

So I came up with this great new idea. It's simple: strap buttered toast to the back of a cat, with the butter facing up. The two will hover, spinning like a new style string-trimmer, about .125 inches above the ground. Buttered-Toast Cat Mowers are going to be the new thing, and I'm sure that every Turf-head is going to want at least a dozen of them to produce the best-mowed greens anyone has ever seen.

Absurd? Absolutely. Yet nearly every day, I see superintendents victimized by strange ideas because they can't look away. They may not be as sublime as my Spinning Buttered-Toast Cat Mower (I've trademarked this, so don't get any ideas of stealing it), but many of these things aren't far from being as kooky.

In a competitive business, getting ahead is part of not being eaten by the sharks. But dang it, you've gotta think just a bit before you jump.

We've survived yet another GCSAA trade show and once again there were things being offered to us that we couldn't live without. One wonders how we ever grew grass in the first place.

I'm going to consider gathering a test group of superintendents next year and giving them 100 hours of subliminal messages and mind-control videotapes where the key message is, "Just say no."

I'm certainly not saying that you shouldn't try new things. In fact, time and again, I see the innovative types always have amazing results. But some things are just plain obvious. I always follow a simple rule: If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Once, a superintendent called me and was more excited than anyone I had talked to that year. He was sure he had found his own Nirvana. It was clear to him that no

Just Say No to Outrageous Ideas

BY DAVE WILBER



I ALWAYS FOLLOW
A SIMPLE RULE:
IF SOMETHING
SOUNDS TOO GOOD
TO BE TRUE,
IT PROBABLY IS

one else in the whole world was as smart as he was. He had just had a visit from a company representative who told him that for no money at all he could have a new computer, a satellite dish, access to the world's greatest database of turfgrass information, free e-mail and a ton of other things that was sure to make him the best in the world. He still hasn't been able to get e-mail sent to that address.

Strange-but-true soil amendments seem to always make the you-can't-grow-grass-without-this-stuff list.

I'm sorry, but I just can't write a letter helping you justify adding an extra \$250,000 to the construction budget for the new product that will be sure to make your bunkers perfect, no matter what sand you use or how you rake it.

I'm pretty sure that I've seen enough in the market of new cup cutters. Hydraulic, pneumatic, bionic, anodized, blessed-by-a-pro-golfer and 100 other absurd claims have shown me clearly that cutting the cup is on way too many people's minds.

I'd like to find the marketing genius who helped one company and then seemingly many more put a pretty voice on the phone to call superintendents and convince them that her brand of yellow nylon rope is heads and tails above anyone else's. After all, the Buttered-Toast Cat Mower is definitely my idea and in need of some sexy spokesmodeling.

Now if I could just figure out how to get the Buttered-Toast Cat Mower to predict the weather and add algae from Mars to soil, I could get some serious trade-show booth space — and change the world.

Dave Wilber, a Sacramento, Calif.-based agronomist, can be reached at dave@soil.com

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NOT SURPRISINGLY,

SUPERINTENDENTS DESIRE

WALKING GREENS MOWERS

THAT SPORT THE SOUND OF SILENCE



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN DEERE

BY PETER BLAIS

Superintendents are looking to buy walking greens mowers that are quieter, smoother cutting and well-serviced, according to manufacturers and course managers.

The desire for more quiet-running machines is a response to the growing number of noise ordinances adopted in many parts of the country, particularly in the South and West, where residential developments often surround golf courses. Although they haven't hit the market, some manufacturers are researching walk-behind electric greens mowers that would complement riding electrics, like Jacobsen's E-Plex.

"We have electric riding greens mowers and

electric sand rakes, so we're constantly looking at the technology in the electric area," says Ralph Nicotera, Jacobsen's vice president of marketing and product management. "But we won't introduce an electric walking mower this year."

Experts say the "7 a.m. noise ordinance" is the major reason some manufacturers are studying the electric walk-behind technology. Palm Beach County in Florida has a 7 a.m. noise ordinance, and residents at some housing developments there have reportedly turned their own maintenance staffs in for noise violations.

John Deere recently introduced three walk-behind greens mowers designed to run quieter — 18-, 22- and 26-inch models — called the

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A Quiet Walk

Continued from page 78

180-B, 220-B and 260-B. The 18- and 26-inch models are new, says Chuck Greif, Deere's head of worldwide market development. The 22-inch is an upgrade from an older version and replaces the 220-A.

"The noise has been reduced by changing to a larger muffler; using a

smaller pitch chain and new chain adjustments on the sides of the unit to reduce chain noise; and getting rid of the metal side covers and replacing them with a composite that minimizes noise," Greif explains. "We also reduced some parts on the machine by replacing the gear reduction into the gear box with a direct drive into the gear box through the engine."

The changes are in response to superintendent reactions to prototypes displayed during John Deere's Golf & Turf Feedback Program at the company's Moline, Ill., facility, Greif says. Another design change was in response to a reported tendency on the part of operators to rest their hands on the mower handlebar, causing the front of the mower to lift off the ground slightly and change the height of cut.

"We've changed the pivot point on the handle bar," Greif said. "Now the operator has to physically push down on the handle bar to get the front part of the mower to come up."

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THE "7 A.M. NOISE ORDINANCE" IS THE MAJOR REASON SOME MANUFACTURERS ARE STUDYING THE ELECTRIC WALK- BEHIND TECHNOLOGY.

Another popular greens mower introduced in the past year is The Toro Co.'s Flex 2100. Craig Currier, superintendent in charge of the five courses at Bethpage State Park, which hosts the U.S. Open on its Black Course in June, ordered nine new "Flex 21s" in anticipation of the event.

"The head moves with the contour off the ground and reduces scalping," Currier says. "When you cut low and get close to the ridges on the edge of the green, many typical fixed-head greens mowers leave marks on mounds and slopes. The Flex 2100 is like those floating-head shavers. It moves side to side or back to front. It lets you cut down to .065 inches or even a little lower. You've got a lot of guys cutting down to .080 to .090 inches on a daily basis. It's a little crazy, but this helps."

Kevin Ross, superintendent at the Country Club of the Rockies in Edwards,

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