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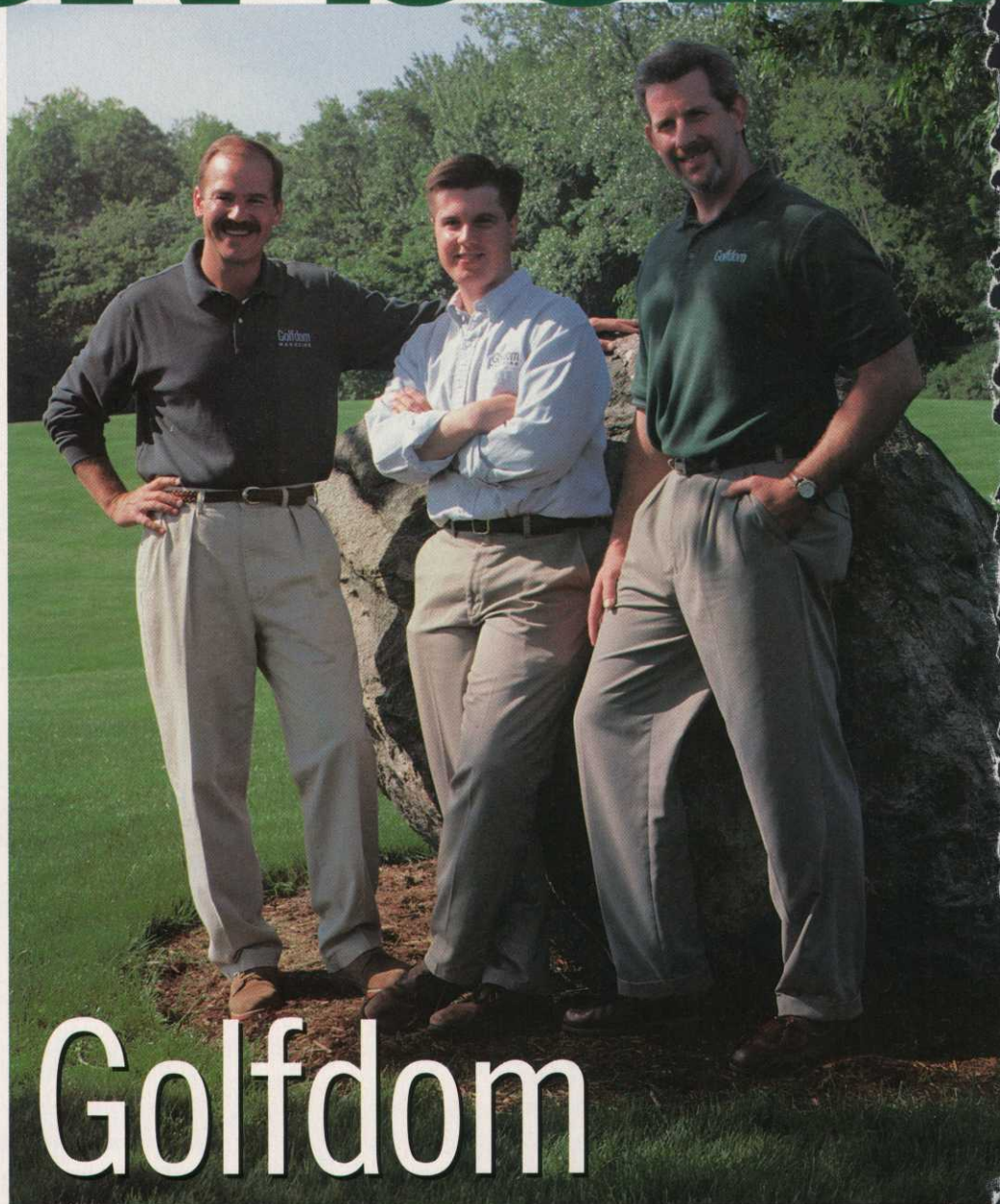
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## Know Your Turfgrass Terminology... ...when it comes to managing turfgrass stress

BY KARL DANNEBERGER

**S**uperintendents earn their keep by managing turf under severe environmental stresses caused by temperature, moisture and light. The first step in managing turf under severe stress is to understand the terminology that comes with the territory.

For instance, “stress tolerance” is not the same as “stress resistance,” and knowing the difference is important in turfgrass selection and management programs. Resistance is the umbrella term for describing a plant’s ability to withstand stress, while tolerance is one of three components that comprises resistance. Stress resistance is comprised of escape, tolerance and avoidance.

Escape, although a component in resistance, is not one that many superintendents would want their turf to experience.



news is a mechanism of resistance. But it’s not a mechanism that we would like to see in our cool- and warm-season turfgrasses.

The major components of turfgrass resistance are tolerance and avoidance. Tolerance is the internal ability of the plant to prevent or reduce injury when exposed to stress. For example, the reported cold temperature that a turfgrass can survive is an example of tolerance. The plant’s tolerance is its ability to prevent, minimize or repair the injury caused by the stress, in this case suboptimal temperatures. Another example would be the ability to prevent an external drought situation through internal osmotic adjustments.

Avoidance is the ability to prevent or reduce the exposure to the stress. Avoidance mechanisms are probably the easiest for superintendents to relate. Tall fescue avoids drought stress by producing a deep root system relative to other cool-season turfgrasses, which allows it to absorb water deeper in the soil profile.

Cool-season turfgrasses can better avoid high temperature stress by being planted on north-facing slopes rather than south-facing slopes. Planting a cool-season turfgrass in shade enables it to avoid high summertime temperatures.

Bermudagrass avoids suboptimal temperatures through rhizomes, which are located within the soil profile and are able to avoid the low temperature stress better than crowns.

Management practices often influence the stress resistance of turfgrass. Improper fertilization that promotes excessive or succulent growth at the wrong time, improper watering and mowing heights often influence the stress resistance of a plant.

There are several environmental turfgrass stresses that nearly every superintendent will experience at his or her golf course. A clear understanding of the components is the start to proper turfgrass selection and management programs that will favor turfgrass survival.

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*Danneberger is a professor of turfgrass science at The Ohio State University and Golfdom’s chief science editor*



***Poa annua* is a classic example of a plant that uses escape as a means of resistance.**

Plants that use escape as a means of resistance generally die before the onset of the stress and then regenerate from seed. The classic example of a turfgrass plant that uses this mechanism is *Poa annua*. It produces seed prior to the onset of summer stresses, including both high temperature and moisture stress. After producing seed and prior to the arrival of these summer stresses, *Poa annua* dies. Once the summer stress period passes, it regenerates from seed.

Obviously, shutting down and dying prior to the bad

# Seed Availability at a Glance

**T**here's good news for golf courses that use bentgrass and bermudagrass. Prices of cultivars are stable and equal to last season.

The news is better for bentgrass in the availability department, where many cultivars are at an expected surplus, and several have an adequate supply. Most bermudagrass cultivars have an adequate supply.

Overall, the turf seed industry is making headway in matching supply with demand. This is especially true with perennial ryegrass.

Overproduction of perennial ryegrass in Oregon's Willamette Valley led to bargain prices in recent years, but growers reduced the number of acres planted in 2001 to 164,000 and chopped it again this year to 130,000. What's this mean? Expect the price of most varieties to rise.

Meanwhile, prices of many varieties of turf-type tall fescue seed could actually be lower because of a large crop of K-31.

Growing conditions in the prime Kentucky bluegrass seed-producing regions of the Inland Northwest were

pretty good this season, so there should be adequate supplies of most Kentucky bluegrass varieties.

For performance results on each variety in your area, review National Turfgrass Evaluation data at [www.ntep.org](http://www.ntep.org).

#### KEY (AVAILABILITY):

- A = expected surplus;
- B = adequate supply;
- C = limited supply.

#### KEY (PRICE):

- H = higher price than last season
- S = stable, equal to last season
- L = lower prices than last season

CULTIVAR	MARKETER	AVAILABILITY PRICE		CULTIVAR	MARKETER	AVAILABILITY PRICE	
<b>Bentgrass</b>				America	Pickseed West	B	S
Bardot Colonial	Barenbrug USA	B	S	Apollo	Scotts/Proseed/Landmark	A-	S
Backspin	Turf Merchants	A	S	Arcadia	SR Oregon	C	S
Cato	Pickseed West	B	S	Barcelona	Barenbrug USA	B	S
Century	Proseed	A	S	Baron	Barenbrug USA	B	S
Cobra	Cebeco	B	S	Bartitia	Barenbrug USA	B	S
Crenshaw	Proseed	A	S	Blackstone	Scotts	B	S
Dominant X-treme	SR Oregon	A	S	Blue Ridge	Pennington	C	S
Grand Prix	LESCO	A	S	Bedazzled	Turf Merchants	C	new
Imperial	Proseed	A	S	Blue Knight	DLF-Jenks	B	L
Independence	Lebanon Seaboard	C	S	Bordeaux	Lebanon Seaboard	B	S
L-93	Jacklin	B	S	Boutique	Merchants	C	S
Penn-G6	Pennington	A	S	Broadway	DLF-Jenks	B	S
Pin-High	Barenbrug USA	B	S	Brooklawn	Turf Merchants	C	S
Putter	Jacklin	B	S	Cabernet	Lebanon Seaboard	B	S
Princeville	LESCO	A	S	Champagne	Lebanon Seaboard	B	S
Regent	Barenbrug USA	B	S	Chateau	ULTRATurf	B	S
Southshore	Jacklin	B	S	Chicago II	Jacklin	B	S
SR 1119	SR Oregon	A	S	Coventry	Scotts	B	S
SR 1020	SR Oregon	A	S	DEEPBLUE	Jonathan Green	B	S
Tiger II	Cebeco	C	new	Dragon	Proseed	A	S
Trueline	Turf Merchants	A	S	Fortuna	Cebeco	C-	S
Vesper	Pickseed West	B	S	Julius	Cebeco	C	S
Viper	Cebeco	B	S	Hallmark	LESCO	A	S
<b>Bermudagrass</b>				Jefferson	Jonathan Green	B	S
Jackpot	Jacklin	C	S	Quantum Leap	Roberts Seed	A	S
LaPrima	SR Oregon	A	S	Langara	Pickseed West	B	S
Mirage	Cebeco	B	S	Limousine	Roberts Seed	A	S
Pyramid	Cebeco	B	S	Mallard	Pennington	C	S
Riviera	Johnston Seed	B	new	Monte Carlo	Pennington	C	S
Southern Star	Jacklin	B	S	Moonshadow	Pickseed West	B	S
SR 9554	SR Oregon	B	S	NuGlide	Jacklin	B	S
Sundevil	Jacklin	B	S	P-105	Proseed	C	S
Sunstar	LESCO	B	S	Rugby II	Roberts Seed	A	S
Yukon	Johnston/Seed Research OR	C	S	Shamrock	LESCO/DLF-Jenks	A-	S
<b>Kentucky Bluegrass</b>				Showcase	SR Oregon	B	S
Adams	Jonathan Green	C	S	SR 2284	SR Oregon	C	new
Allure	Cebeco	B	S	Tsunami	Jacklin	B	S
				Wildwood	LESCO	A	S

CULTIVAR	MARKETER	AVAILABILITY	PRICE
<b>Fine Fescue</b>			
Ambassador Chewings	Lebanon Seaboard	B	S
Aruba Creeping Red	Jacklin	B	L
Azay	Pickseed West	B	S
Badger Creeper	Scotts	A	S
Bardur Hard	Barenbrug USA	B	S
Berkshire Hard	Scotts	A	S
Bridgeport Chewings	Barenbrug USA	B	S
Brittany Chewings	LESCO	A	L
Carmen Chewing	Jonathan Green	B+	S
Celestial	Turf Merchants	C	new
Cindy	Cebeco	B	H
Columbia Chewings	Proseed	A	H
Defiant Hard	LESCO	A	L
Ecostar	Jacklin	B	L
Eureka	Cebeco	B	S
Hardtop Hard	Barenbrug USA	B	S
Hood Chewing	Jonathan Green	B+	S
Intrigue	Turf Merchants	A	S
Jasper II	Pickseed West	B	S
Longfellow II	Cebeco	B	H
Minotaur	Turf Merchants	A	L
Osprey Hard	SR Oregon	A	S
Oxford	Lebanon Seaboard	B	S
Pathfinder	Lebanon Seaboard	B	S
Reliant II	Proseed	A	H
Rescue 911	Jacklin	B	L
Ridu Hard	DLF-Jenks	B	H
Rose Chewings	DLF-Jenks	B	H
Salem Creeping	Proseed	A	H
Sandpiper Chewings	SR Oregon	A	S
Shademark	LESCO	A	L
Creeping Red			
Silhouette Chewings	Roberts Seed	A	S
SR 3200 Blue	SR Oregon	A	S
Treazure Chewings	Scotts	A	S
Victory 2	Pickseed West	B	S
Weston Creeping Red	Jonathan Green	B+	S
Wrigley Chewings	DLF-Jenks	B	H
<b>Tall Fescue</b>			
Admiral	Burlingham	A	L
Arid 3	Jacklin	B	L
Barlexas II	Barenbrug USA	B	S
Biltmore	LESCO	A	S
Bingo	Cebeco	B	L
Black Magic	Jonathan Green	C	S
Bravo	LESCO	A	S
Chieftain II	Roberts Seed	A	L
Coyote	Scotts	C	H
Crew-Cut II	SR Oregon	A	L
Crossfire II	Pickseed West	B	L
Daytona	Burlingham	A	L
Defiance	SR Oregon	A	S
Dominion	Scotts	A	L
Dynasty	Pickseed West	B	L
Empress	Roberts Seed	A	L
Focus	Turf Merchants	C	S
Gazelle	Roberts Seed	A	L
Grande	SR Oregon	A	L
Houndog	Cebeco	B	L
Jaguar 3	Jacklin	B	L
Laramie	LESCO	A	S
Masterpiece	Lebanon Seaboard	B	S
Millennium	Turf Merchants	A	L

CULTIVAR	MARKETER	AVAILABILITY	PRICE
Mustang 3	Pickseed West	B	L
Obsidian	Jonathan Green	C	S
Onyx	Jonathan Green	C	S
Picasso	Lebanon Seaboard	B	S
Pixie	Jacklin	B	L
Plantation	Pennington	A	L
Rebel Exeda	Pennington	A	L
Rembrandt	Lebanon Seaboard	B	S
Reserve	DLF-Jenks	B	L
2nd Millennium	Turf Merchants	C	new
Signia	Pennington	A	L
Southern Comfort	DLF-Jenks	B	L
Tempest	Burlingham	A	L
Tomcat	Cebeco	C-	S
Tracer	Barenbrug USA	B	S
Vegas	Barenbrug USA	B	S
Wildfire	DLF-Jenks	B	L
Wyatt	Scotts	C	H
<b>Perennial Ryegrass</b>			
Accent	Jacklin	B	S
Affirmed	Lebanon Seaboard	B	H
Allsport	LESCO	B+	S
AllStar2	Cebeco	C-	H
Applaud	Pennington	C	S
Barlennium	Barenbrug USA	B	S
Caddyshack	Jacklin	B	S
Calypso II	Roberts Seed	A	H
Champion GC	SR Oregon	A	S
Churchill	Lebanon Seaboard	B	H
Cutter	Pickseed West	C	H
Dogstar	Jonathan Green	A	S
Elfkid	DLF-Jenks	B	H
Esquire	DLF-Jenks	B	H
Exacta	Lebanon Seaboard	B	H
Fiesta 3	Pickseed West	C	H
Gallery	Scotts	C	H
Gator 3	Cebeco	C	H
Hawkeye	SR Oregon	B	new
Icon	Burlingham	A	H
Inspire	Scotts	C	H
Integra	Pennington	C	H
Jet	Pennington	A	S
Jockey	Jonathan Green	A	S
Keystone	DLF-Jenks	C	H
Line Drive	LESCO	B+	S
Mach I	Roberts Seed	C	H
Majesty	Scotts	B	H
Manhattan 3	Turf Merchants	A	S
Pacesetter	LESCO	B+	S
Palmer III	Proseed	A	H
Paragon	Turf Merchants	C	S
Pennant II	Proseed	A	H
Pinnacle II	Barenbrug USA	B	S
Pizzazz	Turf Merchants	A	H
Plymouth	Jonathan Green	A	S
Prelude III	Proseed	A	H
Premiere II	Barenbrug USA	B	S
Racer II	Roberts Seed	A	H
Seville II	Pickseed West	C	H
SR 4220	SR Oregon	C	new
Stallion Supreme	ULTRA Turf	B	H
TopGun	Jacklin	B	S
Top Hat	Cebeco	B	H
Vixen	Burlingham	A	H

## The Natural Look

**Colbert Hills features an array of prairie grasses and wildflowers, but managing the native areas is like a judo match with Mother Nature**

BY CURT HARLER

**I**t's the constant interplay between weed and wildflower that makes Colbert Hills GC a key part of the distinctive prairie environment in and around Manhattan, Kan.

Colbert Hills, a track owned by Kansas State University's Golf Course Management and Research Foundation, was designed in part and named after KSU alumnus and current Senior PGA Tour pro Jim Colbert. The course, which opened in 2000, is a living



PHOTOS BY CURT HARLER

laboratory for KSU researchers. That's because more than 800 acres of the course are maintained in native prairie grasses and wildflowers.

At first glance, the course, while one of the more stunning looking in the Heartland, is typical: L93 bentgrass comprises the greens, fairways are Meyer zoysia, and the perimeter rough is a combination of Kentucky Bluegrass varieties.

However, most holes feel isolated from each other, thanks to the sharply rolling topography and wide expanses of native grasses surrounding them, which iso-

lates one fairway from the next. Players can easily believe they are the only ones on the course.

"The original idea was to minimize the environmental impact and soil erosion at the site," says certified superintendent David Gourlay, Colbert Hills' director of golf operations and general manager. "It cost us a little more money in the beginning, but it made a big difference environmentally."

The course is not without its challenges, however, that are directly related to the native grasses and indigenous plants.

**More than 800 acres of Colbert Hills GC are maintained in native prairie grasses and wildflowers.**

### The problem

When the decision was made to go natural with native and indigenous plants, species like Johnsongrass, nutsedge and a host of woody invaders didn't get the message they would not be welcome at Colbert Hills.

Managing native grasses is like a judo match with Mother Nature. One parlays Her strengths and moves to meet the needs of a premier golf course while trying not to get

### Problem

Can a golf course commit to extensive use of native grasses without inviting a full-scale weed invasion?

### Solution

A combination of controlled burning and selective herbicide use can keep weeds to a minimum.

tossed for a loss by an unexpected twist of fate.

The natural areas begin just 10 yards beyond the rough. While the near-in areas are mainly turf-type tall fescue for perhaps 10 yards, there's a full array of native species beyond that.

"We had Kansas State come up with a blend of native grasses: fescues, little and big bluestem, Maximilian sunflowers, other sunflower species and native plants," Gourlay says. A seed supplier provided for the blending, but species not in the original mix are thriving, too, Gourlay adds.

The native grasses received a boost of fertilizer when they were planted, since they can take up to two years to mature. However, Gourlay says the native grasses don't need a lot of supplemental assistance. "We found if we overfertilize native areas, the grasses tend to become too dense and over the

winter lay down from snow and are smothered," Gourlay says.

After more than two years, the native grasses are mature and prospering. But around tee boxes, native species gulp the irrigation water that drifts to the wild areas. This doesn't help Gourlay's management program because the native grasses are getting denser all the time. Hence, golfers are losing more balls.

In a way, Gourlay works against himself. He wants to increase native areas in nonplaying locations, but not lost golf balls. Native species are allowed to creep in closer in areas not in play.

A good example is the "Little Amen Turn" at Nos. 10, 11 and 12. No. 12 is a 434 yarder and trends a bit uphill. Nobody hits a ball 350 yards from the tee. So in that area, Gourlay is allowing native grasses to move in behind the fairway bunkers. "It re-

duces maintenance costs, irrigation costs and gives a better backdrop for the tee shot," he feels. "The wildlife sure likes it."

But while turf-type fescue does its job along the margins, Gourlay stresses that it's not impervious to invaders. Johnsongrass, nutsedge, and other grassy species are constantly on the move. So something has to be done.

### The solution

The best way to assure continuity of native grasses is to burn the prairie, and that's what they do at Colbert Hills. The City of Manhattan Fire Department does a controlled burn of the course in late March or early April. The burn serves as a learning lab for firefighters and helps control the sumac and evergreen woody plants.

*Continued on page 58*

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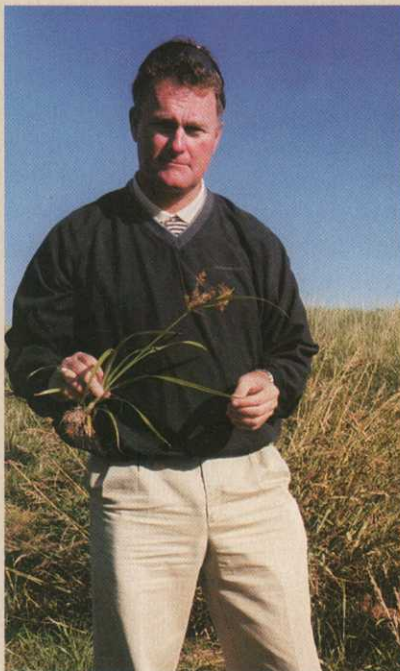
*Continued from page 57*

The fire department burns 450 acres in three to four days. Yet even fire does not seem to slow down some species. Red sumac, for example, is aggressive. "It's a good soil stabilizer, especially in shallow soils, but it's tough to eradicate," Gourlay says.

The burning strategy is to hit the more visible areas hard and eliminate invading perennials and annuals.

Noting that Colbert Hills is a laboratory, Gourlay says he will experiment with both mechanical and chemical control of noxious and woody invaders. Some areas will be mowed, and some areas may be treated with pre-emergent and post-emergent herbicides.

"Our biggest concern is to make [the course] more uniform and not too weedy-looking," Gourlay says.



**David Gourlay says he wants to make the course more uniform but not too weedy-looking.**

## Outlook

In addition to staying on top of the many native species of native vegetation and plants, the program run by KSU at Colbert Hills monitors water and soil quality, aquatic ecosystems, wildlife and insects. The course has plenty of room for coyote, deer, birds, snakes and other indigenous species.

It's the natural areas that give Colbert Hills the unmistakable look and feel of playing on the great prairies of the Midwest. Colbert Hills is one of a handful of Audubon's Silver Signature courses in the world, boasting everything from lark sparrows and Eastern meadowlarks to hawks.

Like a partner in any good marriage, Gourlay knows Colbert Hills and Mother Nature are in a long-term, give-and-take relationship. ■

*Harler is a free-lance writer from Cleveland.*



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October 2002  
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  - 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  115 Distributor/Manufacturer/Consultant
  - 12  100 Others Allied to the Field (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

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

- 13  10 Golf Course Superintendent
- 14  15 Assistant Superintendent
- 15  25 Owner/Management Company Executive
- 16  30 General Manager
- 17  35 Director of Golf
- 18  70 Green Chairman
- 19  45 Club President
- 20  75 Builder/Developer
- 21  55 Architect/Engineer
- 22  60 Research Professional
- 23  65 Other Titled Personnel (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*Is this your home address?  Yes  No  
 PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ FAX (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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  115 Distributor/Manufacturer/Consultant  
 12  100 Others Allied to the Field (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Which of the following best describes your title? (fill in ONE only)**  
 13  10 Golf Course Superintendent  
 14  15 Assistant Superintendent  
 15  25 Owner/Management Company Executive  
 16  30 General Manager  
 17  35 Director of Golf  
 18  70 Green Chairman  
 19  45 Club President  
 20  75 Builder/Developer  
 21  55 Architect/Engineer  
 22  60 Research Professional  
 23  65 Other Titled Personnel (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. What is your facility's annual maintenance budget?**  
 24  A More than \$2 Million  
 25  B \$1,000,001-\$2 Million  
 26  C \$750,001-\$1 Million  
 27  D \$500,001-\$750,000  
 28  E \$300,001-\$500,000  
 29  F \$150,001-\$300,000  
 30  G Less than \$150,000

- 4. If you work for a golf course, how many holes are on your course?**  
 31  A 9  
 32  B 18  
 33  C 27  
 34  D 36+  
 35  E Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send Golfdom to the following people at my organization:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title \_\_\_\_\_

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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	316