



# THE GLOVES ARE OFF.

Because of activists, extremists and misinformed politicians, consumers are questioning whether the products and resources (such as water) used to care for their lawns, landscapes and other green spaces are a waste—or a harm to the environment. Yes, legislation and regulations have been throwing the green industry some rough punches. And we're about to start fighting back.

Project EverGreen is an alliance of green industry associations, companies and professionals dedicated to educate the public, protect the green industry and grow our business. It was created in response to unfavorable regulations in many parts of the United States and Canada. If the services our industry professionals offer are restricted, regulated or made illegal, everyone will lose revenue and customers.

Help Project EverGreen educate consumers on the environmental, economic and lifestyle benefits of green spaces. To make a contribution, volunteer your time or find out more information, call **1-877-758-4835** or visit **[www.projectevergreen.com](http://www.projectevergreen.com)**.



— PROJECT —  
**EverGreen**



## Pest Control Leads to April Crossroads



MARY CORCORAN

**"We start thinking about crabgrass control in the springtime."**

JEFF CORCORAN

**Successful superintendents and their staffs not only treat turf diseases such as dollar spot in a prompt fashion, they document their history.**



*Continued from page 60*

"We start thinking about crabgrass control in the springtime," Corcoran says.

Meanwhile, Bade applies his treatment in the late fall or early winter, "so that saves me one application in the spring."

Luckily for Clark, localized weeds are as bad as it gets for him in the San Diego area. His biggest worry is stunting *Poa annua* growth.

"I don't think anyone does a whole lot of complete wall-to-wall stuff other than some crabgrass prevention," he says. "And that's not uncommon out here. That's probably a February to March application of either Dimension, Barricade or any other pendimethalin product."

Merkel, who tends to courses across much of the country, says the transition zone in the north is "very concerned" about *Poa annua*. In the South and Midwest, they're focused on crabgrass, goosegrass and annual summer weeds, he adds.

### Book on bugs

Curative methods, particularly against cutworms and webworms, appear prevalent among the superintendents interviewed.

"We are pretty much a cutworm and webworm environment with a little bit of *ataenius*, but *ataenius* is becoming more widespread throughout the county," Clark says. "For most of us, we can get away with a June application of Merit and not have to apply

anything the remainder of the season."

"Our biggest one is the cutworm so far," Bade adds. "Usually I'll wait to see signs of it coming. Then I'll go out and cure the problem. Its lifecycle seems to vary a lot."

Corcoran and Merkel touted Merit and Mach II as also being successful curative agents against grubs. "But I don't think anything is the silver bullet," Corcoran notes.

Preventive measures should be taken against another insect. "The one to worry about is the Japanese beetle," Bade says. "We haven't had that problem, but it's something you need to keep an eye out for because once you get 'em, I guess they're pretty bad. Damage starts showing up later in the year, but by then it's too late. The guys who know they have trouble with it are preventing it in the spring."

As for budget concerns, Bade saw his allowance increase from \$60,000 to \$65,000 this year. "Some guys are higher, some guys are less," he says.

Corcoran, meanwhile, doesn't worry about controlling costs as much as pests. "To be real honest, our No. 1 goal is the plant and turf health. And I don't necessarily let the numbers get in the way of that," he says. "More important than the budgetary concern is the communication concern. If you're looking like you're having a tough spring from a disease or pest standpoint, just get the word out to your board or your green chairman that, 'Hey, look, we're running into these issues and they can't go untreated just because we can't spend X amount of dollars.'"

Besides the weather, record-keeping and experience are emphasized in the battle against pests. "I've been at this course 15 years, so I rely on familiarity," Bade says. "I knew dollar spot used to show up every year around Memorial Day and June 1. So now I'll fertilize and/or spray beforehand to keep it from coming in at all."

Merkel credits talented, consistent staffs that keep good records.

"I know guys that have their fairways all drawn out on pages and they mark where they've made treatments, particularly on grubs, on a given year," he says, "and then the next year those are the areas that they try to make the preventive summer treatment for grubs." ■



ASK ABOUT SAVINGS ON CURALAN® FUNGICIDE, TOO!

# fall fungicide sale!

PRE-SEASON SAVINGS ON THE BEST FROM BASF

2.4 lb package

7.2 lb package

January 7 -  
March 31, 2005

**\$296<sup>40</sup>**

**\$855<sup>00</sup>**

SAVE UP TO  
**\$45**  
PER PACKAGE

.49 lb package only

January 7 -  
March 31, 2005

**\$179<sup>21</sup>**

SAVE UP TO  
**\$9**  
PER PACKAGE



Some products not registered for use in all states.

For more information, go to [www.turffacts.com](http://www.turffacts.com). Call 1-800-545-9525 for a distributor near you.

Always read and follow label directions.  
Curalan, Emerald and Insignia are registered trademarks of BASF. ©2005 BASF Corporation. All rights reserved. APN 05-14-090-00448

How is it that players  
**blame the green** for a  
missed putt but accept  
**full responsibility for**  
**a hole-in-one?**



If you don't save now on  
**Insignia® fungicide**, you'll have  
no one but yourself to blame.

We Don't Make The Turf.  
We Make It Better.

 **BASF**  
The Chemical Company

THE FALL FUNGICIDE SALE IS ON NOW! SEE BACK FOR DETAILS.



**I**'ve got to tell you: I think one of the coolest things about being a superintendent is the experience gained from the passage of time. Year after year goes by, and if you're fortunate enough to be at the same club for a number of years, you begin to assimilate the workings of the local heartbeat of the land.

You get a feel for the local climate and can anticipate when things are going to happen on your course. For instance, when you can blend current weather situations with historical data and forecast information along with the knowledge of your own club's microclimate, then you can anticipate a pest or disease outbreak at your club that might not happen at a neighboring club just 5 miles down the road.

Being at a somewhat rural public golf course has some other certain advantages when it comes to diagnosing a pest outbreak. For example: How many of you country club people know that damaging insect larvae activity is greatest after a full moon on a Friday before the weekend of the member-guest tournament?

Or that if an insect spray isn't applied right before or right after aerification in spring or fall, the cutworms will take up residence in what Kevin Mathias, turfgrass professor at the Institute of Applied Agriculture at the University of Maryland, calls "cutworm hotels" or the aerification holes you've conveniently punched for them?

If you're armed with these kinds of time-tested facts, you can keep turf bugs at bay.

Another method that public golf course superintendents have to employ is the "tolerance elevation" method. We must use this method in place of the zero-tolerance-spray-pests-at-will method.

Let me just ask you this: How well do you tolerate what's bugging you and your golf course? I know my threshold tolerance was less than zero when I started out. If I saw one shady area in the rough begin to show signs of dollar spot, I high-tailed it to the sprayer. Same with insect activity. One little mysterious hole in a green and it was Tempo time.

But like a fine wine, I've mellowed with age. My tolerance levels have elevated while my blood pressure has dropped. Now I'm able to wait and watch, taking in all the factors of

## A Hunch and a Pest Outbreak

BY JIM BLACK



IF YOU'RE  
FORTUNATE  
ENOUGH TO BE AT  
THE SAME CLUB  
FOR A NUMBER OF  
YEARS, YOU BEGIN  
TO ASSIMILATE THE  
WORKINGS OF THE  
LOCAL HEARTBEAT  
OF THE LAND

this current pest outbreak. This way I can spray because I should, not just because I can. I've found that by waiting a little longer and accepting just a little more infestation, I get more bugs for the buck. Then I can eliminate a spray or two during the season.

And when it comes to disease outbreaks, I've learned that sometimes — if the weather is about to change for the better — diseases go away on their own.

But I'll say this: Bugs have their own agendas, and superintendents have to do what they do when they need to do it — regardless of the weather.

In my neck of the woods, we have to wait until August to find out just how effective the spring preventive application was in deterring pests. Little by little the crows will either see the ground moving or hear the sickening chewing of the roots. Regardless of how they know, they sharpen their beaks and dig in. And they tear out chunks of turf for a chance at a tasty white grub. Their destruction can be swift and widespread, causing much tension between yourself and the head pro.

So now who is the pest? The grub or the crow? But you can't spray for crows. Just imagine the public outcry.

Then there's the marshall who packs his trusty pellet gun in a blanket (for discretion, of course). He can be seen hiding behind trees and around corners, waiting for the opportunity to take a clear shot at a crow without drawing too much attention to himself.

So now who is the pest? The grub, the crow or the marshall?

Just remember, proper pest diagnosis will be key for another successful year.

---

*Jim Black, a veteran public golf course superintendent, can be reached at [greenkeeperjim@yahoo.com](mailto:greenkeeperjim@yahoo.com).*



# An Oasis in the

BY REBECCA LARSEN

**M**any Americans view travel in the Middle East as a risky option, but Troon Golf, headquartered in Scottsdale, Ariz., has plunged into that part of the world with enthusiasm.

Troon now operates one golf course in the Middle East — in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates — and has also worked on a course in Qatar. The firm is working on five other clubs either under construction or in the planning stages elsewhere in the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait.

These areas of the Middle East, generally viewed as more stable than others, often serve as a recreational playground for wealthy Northern Europeans seeking wintertime sunshine and/or vacation homes. Travelers from Europe visit Dubai and neighboring areas not just for the climate “but also for the fabulous shopping, entertainment and leisure activities available,” says Sheryl Hillman, manager of marketing communications for Troon.

To some, the development and management challenges in these locations might seem huge — from supplying water to finding trained staff to maintaining safety for workers and golfers.

“It’s easy to understand why Americans might feel that travel in the Middle East is risky,” says Jeffrey S. Spangler, senior vice president of science and agronomy at Troon. “The reality is that the Middle East is much more westernized than people realize. And Americans don’t understand what a tourist destination the Middle East has become for the rest of the world. Turkey, Egypt, Dubai are all very popular, particularly with travelers from Germany and England.”

While Americans flee the snow and ice of places like New York, Minnesota and Michigan for Arizona and Florida, Northern Europeans look for wintertime escapes to the Middle East. Northern European golfers see the deserts of the United Arab Emirates and similar locations as preferable to Portugal and Spain, golfing meccas that can still get heavy winter rains.

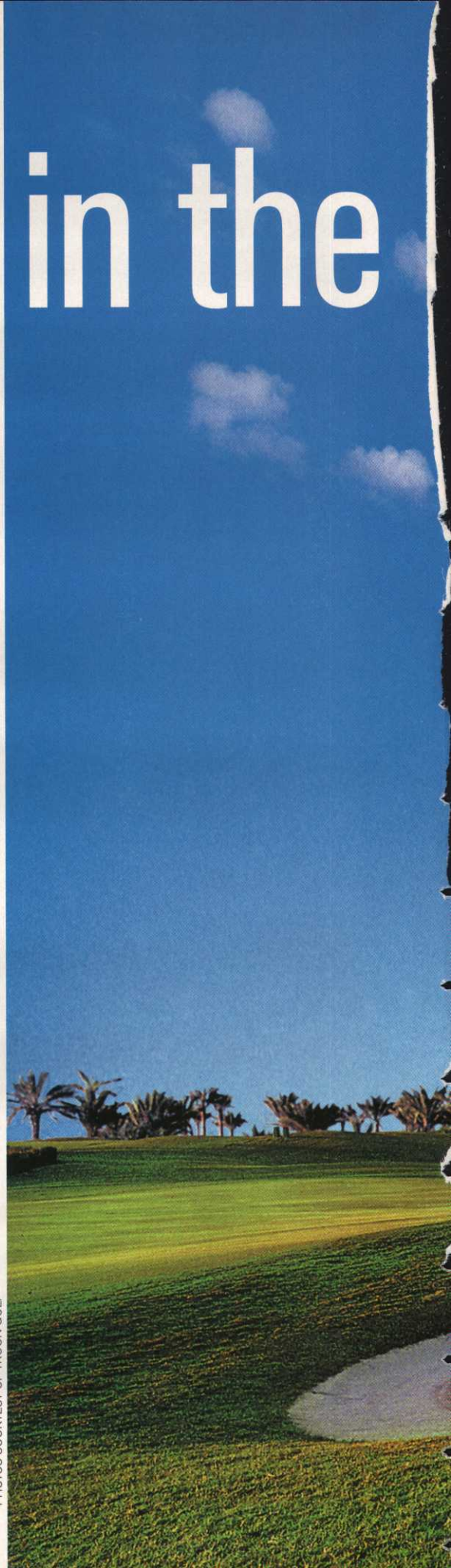
Troon’s business is exclusively third-party management of golf courses all over the world for on-site owners. The firm was hired for the Middle Eastern assignments largely because of contacts made with Troon’s Australian office, and the Middle Eastern properties are almost entirely run out of the Sydney office. As a result many Troon managers in the Middle East come from Australia. Others are from Europe. Workers in lower level jobs are often from Pakistan, Malaysia or South Africa. Some Americans do get hired, says Spangler, “but not too many of them are interested.”

In Dubai, Hillman notes, the government has been aggressive in hiring international companies for capital works programs and developments. “They

**During the winter, Northern Europeans flock to golf resorts throughout the Middle East, much like Americans travel to Florida when temperatures drop.**

*Continued on page 68*

PHOTOS COURTESY OF TROON GOLF





# Middle East

Troon Golf delighted  
to be a player in this  
'venturesome' part  
of the world





## An Oasis in the Middle East



*Continued from page 66*

have encouraged international investment, and they have set up a free zone to make it easier for foreign-owned companies like Troon Golf to undertake business," she says.

One American manager who has played a key role for Troon in the Mid-

**Troon Golf operates The Montgomerie Dubai, a 27-hole club that is host to the Dubai Desert Classic.**

dle East is Ken McIntyre, who served two years at The Montgomerie Dubai as general manager and director of golf and is now being reassigned in the United States.

The Montgomerie is a 27-hole club that is famous as the site of the Dubai Desert Classic, a tournament that has attracted such PGA stars as Tiger Woods and Mark O'Meara.

McIntyre, joined by his wife and children on his assignment, says he was

*Continued on page 70*

**golf**

**construction**

**news.com**

**"The Source for New Golf Project Information"**

**golfconstructionnews.com** (GCN) is an online report containing the most current and in-depth information on golf projects in the U.S. GCN keeps tabs on thousands of projects a year to provide the most up-to-date, comprehensive details as they become available. Reports can be ordered for up to eight regions of the U.S. to fit any-sized business.

### Features include:

- Access to project updates 24/7 via secure, password-protected access
- Project tracking from conception to completion, with its status regularly updated
- Full details for New & Proposed Projects, Remodels to Existing Courses & Recent Openings
- State-of-the-art click-through contact access with developers, course designers and construction companies (if selected), and related parties
- Sortable project database – including by state, development phase, type and opening date

Subscribe online now! It's as easy as visiting [www.golfconstructionnews.com](http://www.golfconstructionnews.com). Review regularly updated sample projects on the home page and see the power of GCN for yourself.

**For additional information, call toll-free 866-640-7170.**



BECAUSE MAINTAINING A GOLF COURSE  
IS NOT PAINT-BY-NUMBERS.



We at AGROTAIN International recognize that managing a golf course requires as much art as it does science. We are proud to be part of your palette.

We invite you to join us at the 2005 Golf Industry Show as we celebrate the art of golf course maintenance with the launch of a new series of original artwork titled "The Artistry of Golf", commissioned exclusively as a tribute to you, the golf course superintendent. Visit us at booth 2179 for the first limited edition print of this series.

**UMAXX**  
STABILIZED NITROGEN

[www.StabilizedNitrogen.com](http://www.StabilizedNitrogen.com)

UMAXX is a registered Trademark of AGROTAIN International, LLC.



## An Oasis in the Middle East

*Continued from page 68*

never afraid in Dubai, although "we were advised to be cautious at times, but you can generally do what you want when you want to."

Other U.S. management firms indicate that they don't know of anyone besides Troon involved in the Mideast. Ben Keilholtz, marketing director for Intrawest Golf in Scottsdale, says: "I can say we have no specific plans to move into management in the Middle East. This is really not due to any political or international issues; our goal is to identify new opportunities which create synergies with our existing operations, so our focus will continue to be in the Greater Phoenix area, British Columbia, the southeastern United States, and other complementary areas."

Although safety isn't a major concern, managers of the Middle Eastern courses fret often about their grass and irrigation systems. Just as in deserts of the United

States, few grasses can thrive. TifEagle and FloraDwarf are often used on greens.

"We have 419 bermuda on the fairways and the rough on these courses," Spangler says. "But we're shifting there, as in south Florida and Caribbean climates, to paspalum in cases like this where there is high sodium in the soil and water."

On bermudagrass courses, overseeding is done in November with ryegrass.

Two water sources are available in Dubai and surrounding areas. "There's treated effluent, which doesn't come close to meeting the needs at golf clubs, and large desalination plants, which are a very costly source," Spangler says. "They use 2 million gallons a day at Montgomerie, about one-third more than is used at the typical Arizona course. That's because they have very loose, sandy soils."

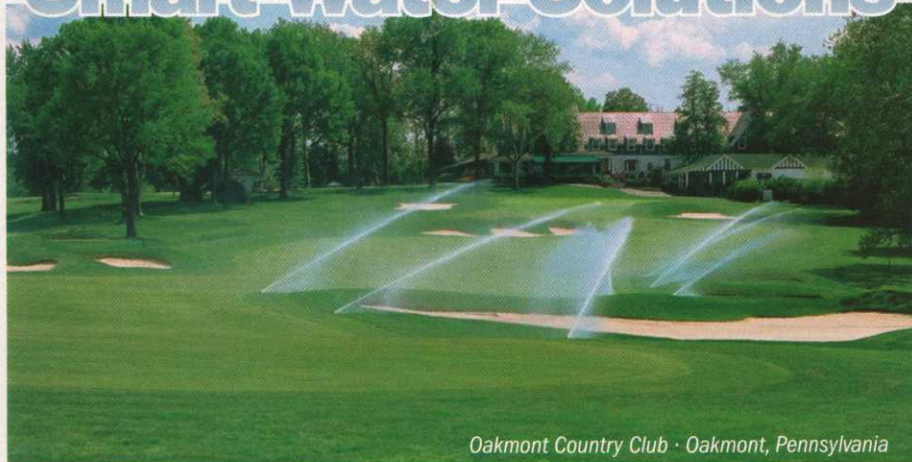
Desalination, requiring huge amounts of electricity, is done through the membrane process, which involves filtering and reverse osmosis, and thermal distil-

lation in which seawater is heated, turned into steam and then condensed into a purified form.

Troon did not supervise construction of The Montgomerie, designed by European golf star Colin Montgomerie and the late architect Desmond Muirhead. The club was built by Emaar Properties, a Dubai-based company specializing in real estate development. Among Emaar's other projects is the fantastic Burj Dubai, billed as having the tallest residential building in the world and the world's largest shopping center. At The Montgomerie, Emaar is building a new boutique clubhouse and hotel that will include 17 deluxe rooms and suites as well as a health club, brasserie-style restaurant, snooker room and cigar room.

"We took over The Montgomerie about three-and-a-half months after opening and spent December 2001 to December 2002 getting the grass to the standard that the owners wanted it to be,"

## Smart Water Solutions



Oakmont Country Club • Oakmont, Pennsylvania

*"Hiring a professional irrigation consultant is very important to the success and outcome of a major irrigation installation or restoration project. The planning and specifications, prepared by a professional consultant, lay the foundation for lasting solutions that achieve environmental and business objectives."*

**JOHN ZIMMERS**

Golf Course Superintendent • Oakmont Country Club  
Oakmont, Pennsylvania

Professional members of the American Society of Irrigation Consultants have passed an extensive peer review and qualification process.

Working with an ASIC member gives you the confidence that a highly-qualified irrigation consultant is on the job, helping to protect your interests and your investment

**Contact ASIC to find a consultant near you.**



PO Box 426  
Rochester, MA 02770  
508-763-8140  
Fax: 508-763-8102  
[www.ASIC.org](http://www.ASIC.org)