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TurfVigor® for Consistent Color on Greens, Tees and Fairways

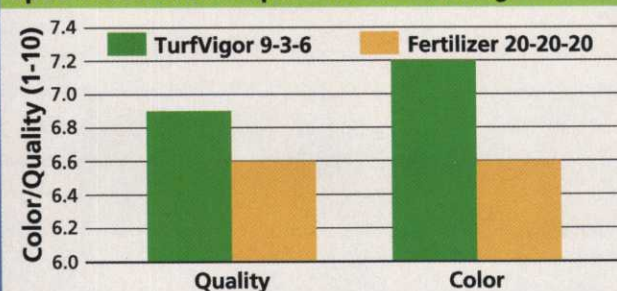
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- Accelerates physical damage recovery

University research shows the dramatic results.

Virginia Tech 2001 - Penncross bentgrass, USGA Spec Green 5/32" Equal Rates of Nitrogen



TurfVigor is part of The Roots® Challenge

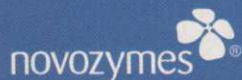


The Roots Challenge provides season-long turf management solutions using Roots products to attain the healthiest turf possible – even in the most stressful conditions.

We will work with you to select the best program, monitor the applications and gauge the program effectiveness throughout the season. Attend a local Roots Challenge Technical Conference for all the details.

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roots® ... Our Name Says It All



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Hole of the

► Hole #7 | Candlewood Country Club | Whittier, California

PHOTO BY: TOM BREWSTER

Month

Hole Stats

Distance: 555 yards from the championship tees

Par 5

The Turf

Green: *Poa annua*

Fairway: Bermudagrass/overseeded with perennial ryegrass during the winter months

Roughs: Mixed (perennial ryegrass and bluegrass)

THE SEVENTH HOLE ON THE COURSE AT Candlewood Country Club is by far the most scenic but also the most difficult. The hole is a 555-yard, par-five that superintendent Mike Caranci describes as a multiple-target engagement. You must be very accurate with long, true drives to position yourself in-between the course's signature candlewood tree on the left and a mealeuca tree on the right that overlooks the green below.

"You can make it to the green in two — if you're Tiger Woods," Caranci says. "But most people who try to bypass the approach between those two trees end up in the water hazard or one of the sand traps surrounding the green. It's really a challenging hole."

As a fourth-generation superintendent with 32 years in the business, Caranci also understands the challenges of keeping a premier course looking its best. Admittedly, Caranci says, "You can never know enough." This is insightful — and not just because it came from his father,

Thomas, who was a superintendent for more than 40 years. Thomas has also lived on Mike's course for the

past 14 years and occasionally assists him.

When rapid blight attacked the course's *Poa annua* greens, Caranci used Insignia fungicide to keep the disease in check. He then learned that his preventive fungicide program featuring Insignia also kept his fairways clear of gray leaf spot.

Multiple challenges. One engagement. One product. Insignia fungicide from BASF.

To find out more about Insignia fungicide and its broad spectrum of

disease control, contact your local distributor sales representative or BASF at www.turfacts.com



GOLFDOM'S HOLE OF THE MONTH IS MADE POSSIBLE BY:

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The Chemical Company

More superintendents are posting golf course maintenance information on club Web sites these days. This growing trend allows superintendents an opportunity to keep members posted on progress of projects, announce maintenance schedules and give general news about the course. Taking it a step further, Duffy McDuffy, superintendent at Lake Omigosh Country Club here in central Florida, hosts an "Ask the Superintendent" information link on his club's Web site. Let's hack into the site and take a lighter look at what's going on.

Dear Superintendent: *Why was the water running on Thursday morning after the Wednesday rain?* — Abigail Anderson

Dear Abby: A better question is why were your sprinklers running "during" the rain on Wednesday? We were applying an insecticide for grubs because the Wednesday rain brought them closer to the surface, and by law that chemical is supposed to be watered in after application. But good question. Keeps us on our toes to make sure we aren't just ignoring our irrigation system, like some people do.

From Fred Farkle: *Purple grackles and squirrels are eating my snacks in the golf car and a crow stole my gold watch. Can't you control the wildlife?*

Hi Fred: I'm going to ask you to log your wildlife sightings in the pro shop so we can get certified in the Audubon International (AI) Cooperative Sanctuary Program. Then AI will ask you to quit feeding junk food to the animals. P.S. We found your watch in the woods. You might call Paul Harvey and tell him that wildlife is alive and well on golf courses. Put that gold watch in your golf bag while on the course. And, by the way, Rolex is spelled with one "L."

Ollie Huffnagle: *I'm from Ohio and our golf course equipment lasted twice as long up there as the equipment does down here. Don't you guys know anything about mechanics?*

Dear Ollie: The equipment lasted twice as long up there because they used it half as much as we do down here. Perhaps you failed to no-

Just Ask the Superintendent

BY JOEL JACKSON



THAT GRAY, FURRY
THING IS JUST A
MICROPHONE
WITH A FAKE FUR
COVER TO MUFFLE
THE WIND

tice we are open all year in Florida.

Hey McDuffy: *The bunkers on our course are terrible. They are so inconsistent (soft, wet, hard, etc.) I can't get up and down out of them.*

— Charles "Sandy" Sanderson.

Dear Sandy: While I am sympathetic to your poor bunker play, I am reluctant to spend too much time and money on grooming a hazard. The operative word is hazard. You might not want to play Pine Valley in New Jersey.

Mr. McDuffy: *I saw a dead muskrat on one of the par-3 tees while watching golf on TV. What's going on?* — Mrs. Beasley

Dear Mrs. Beasley: You're not with PETA are you? Actually that gray, furry thing is just a microphone with a fake fur cover to muffle the wind. Originally they were green to blend in with the turf but golfers called in to complain that the superintendent was an idiot for allowing a clump of weeds like that on the course during a tournament.

Dear Super: *I don't think you're doing such a good job on keeping the green speed consistent on our greens. I have noticed that the uphill putts are always slower than the downhill putts. What's the problem?* — I. Newton

Dear Mr. Newton: Gravity!

Concerned: *I hear a lot on TV about grain on the greens. Do we have any grain on our course?*

Dear Concerned: Not to worry. All the grain on our course is in bottles in the 19th Hole Grille. Our greens are so short the only possible leaf blade orientation left is the slope of the ground.

Well, that's all folks. So long from Lake Omigosh where the superintendent is dedicated, the crew is hard working and the members are about par for the course.

Joel Jackson, CGCS, is director of communications for the Florida GCSA.

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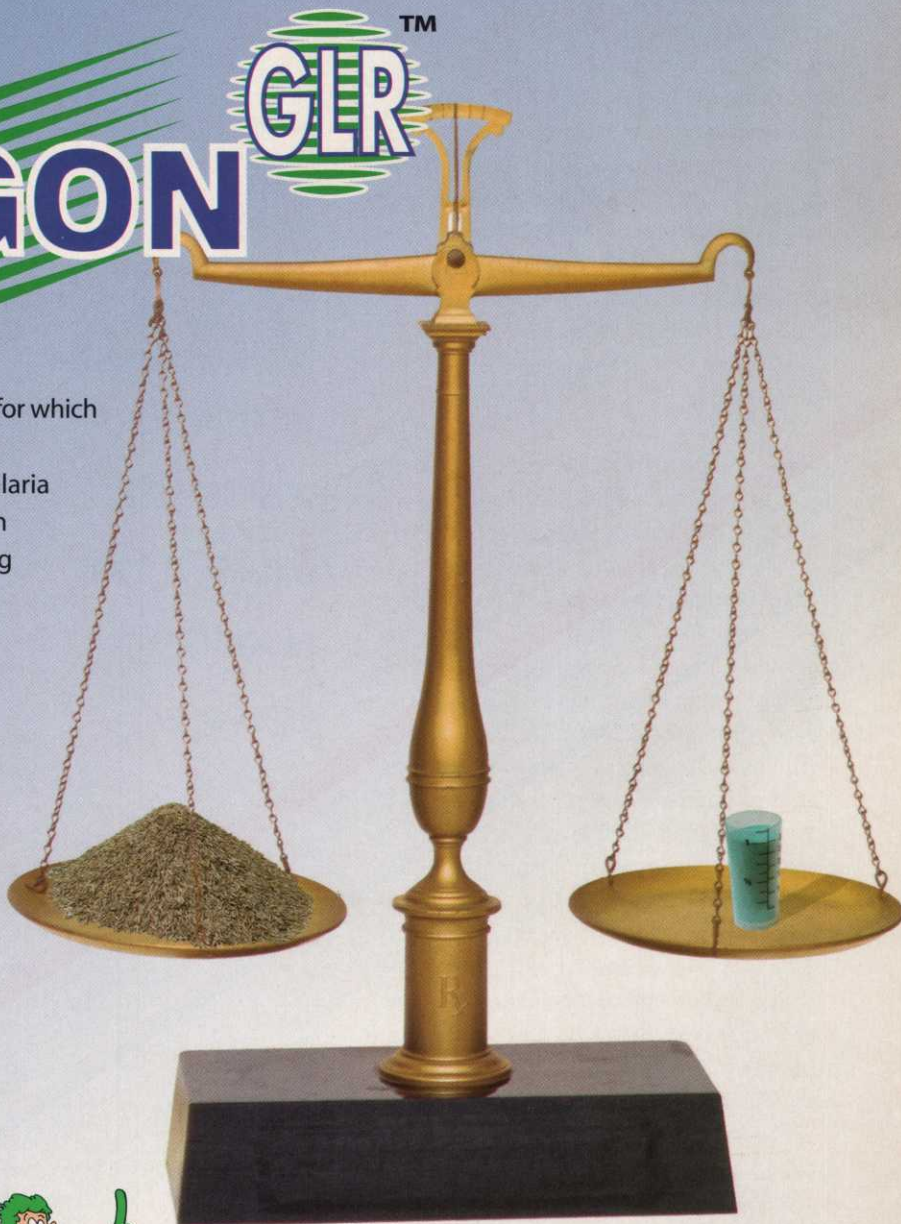
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The battle against excessive green speed is over. The so-called progressives have won. You know them. They're the types who tell us to quit our whining and accept that

equipment must go unregulated because course setup tactics have proven adept at keeping scoring in check.

Yes, in case you were wondering, it *is* a form of irony gone bad (a.k.a. hypocrisy). The progressives say there should be no rules in effect to regulate equipment, but golf courses should ratchet up green speeds — even if that means the risk of losing greens — to prevent progress in the scoring department.

I'll repeat: Low scoring must be stopped so that we can clear the way for progress.

Who let Yogi into this debate?

From Augusta National to the club invitational to the city championship, green speeds had better be pushing double digits or Old Man Par will be spinning in his grave.

This costly trend has so many ramifications for the game — not that this is a newsflash for anyone reading this. Super-fast greens were initially just a new, fun thing that came with improved agronomic practices — like a new toy.

But as better players overpower a course, thanks to improved equipment that should have been regulated, layouts look at green speed as a way to “protect” their design integrity. In other words, they want fast greens to prevent the low scores believed to be embarrassing to a course's reputation.

But based on comments in a recent story by *GolfWorld's* Nick Seitz, the prevent-scoring mentality in golf is working as well as the prevent defense works for football teams.

“The faster the greens, the more players like them because a 20-footer today is like a 10-footer in my time,” Johnny Miller said.

According to Seitz, the average putts per green hit in regulation has been tracked since 1986, when the tour average was 1.810. For 2005 it was 1.779.

That doesn't sound like a lot, but it translates to a stroke and a half improvement per tournament. Anyone following golf over that

Life in Fast Lane Not What It Seems

BY GEOFF SHACKELFORD



WE KNOW THAT
MOST COURSES
WILL RESIST GOING
BACKWARD WITH
GREEN SPEEDS.
BUT . . .

time knows that tournament greens have become smoother and more consistent but also several feet faster on the Stimpmeter.

Common sense tells you that the increased speed would negate the improved consistency, or even worsen putting stats. But Seitz reported a 1988 PGA Tour study that said players made 54.8 percent of putts from 6 feet, while in 2005 the number was an astounding 69.6 percent.

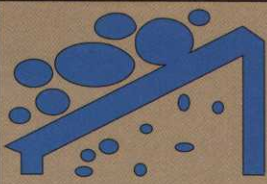
Architect and swing instructor Jim Hardy told *GolfWorld*: “My generation had to clobber the ball, the greens were so much slower and rougher. Today they're much faster and smoother, and even the worst putter can roll it. The greens have gone from 8 to 10 on the Stimpmeter in my day to 12 and higher today.”

Then there was this little ray of sunshine last fall. (You can feel free to share this one with the green chairman or your assistant pro). When asked about all of the recent changes to Augusta, Tiger Woods responded, “I can understand why they lengthen it. Also, then again, they want us to hit the same clubs that we used to hit to the holes. Then if that's the case, make the greens as slow as they used to be. The greens are running 12 and 13. They never ran 12 or 13 back in the '60s, '70s and '80s. It just wasn't that way.”

We know that most courses will resist going backward with green speeds. But if just one big-time event can show that players struggle on slower greens and scores go up, by golly, golf could be on to something.

Why, that winning combination might be just the kind of “progress” that makes everyone happy.

*Geoff Shackelford can be reached at
geoffshac@aol.com.*



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Disability *Aside*

Amputees, paraplegics and others with physical impairments want to play golf, and they say that golf courses will only benefit by making them feel more welcome



STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY LARRY AYLWARD, EDITOR IN CHIEF

The longer Mike Reeder sits in a golf car and waits for his turn to tee off on the first hole, the larger a crowd grows to watch him. By the time it's Reeder's turn to hit, the gathering has grown to about 400 people.

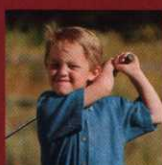
They don't want to miss this.

Reeder glances at the throng assembled around the tee box. He takes his spot on the well-manicured grass and positions himself for his shot. The crowd hushes as Reeder eyes his target. He sways his muscular arms back and takes a graceful swing.

Thwack!
Thwack!
Thwack!

Continued on page 30

[ABOUT THIS SERIES] "Growing the Game," a four-part series that will appear in *Golfdom* throughout this year, will focus on how the golf industry can attract more new players and create more rounds from four distinct groups: **disabled people; women; children; and minorities**, including African-Americans and Hispanics. *Golfdom* will speak with representatives from people representing each of these segments to get their views on what the golf industry needs to do to attract more players from their segments. Then we'll speak with golf industry representatives to see what the industry is doing and what plans it has to grow the game within these segments.



◀ Part two of the series, "Attracting More Minority Golfers," runs in May.



Kellie Valentine-Andrews hasn't let a disability stop her from teeing it up.

Continued from page 29

The golf ball glides like a soaring seagull and lands in the middle of the fairway, about 225 yards from the tee. The crowd roars its approval, as if Tiger Woods had hit the shot.

Reeder takes it all in. And then, as the crowd begins to quiet, he hears a voice from above the others shout, "Man, *he* hits it better than I do!"

Reeder, a 10 handicap, chuckles to himself. The remark doesn't bother him. In his 20 years of playing golf while sitting in a wheelchair — Reeder is an amputee who lost his legs in a booby trap during the Vietnam War — the 57-year-old has heard it all.

But it rankles Reeder that able-bodied people assume that disabled people — from amputees to paraplegics to others physically impaired by hip injuries, strokes and other afflictions — can't be

decent golfers and are bound to spray their balls all over a course while taking six hours to complete 18 holes.

It's not just the golfers who maintain these opinions, disabled people say, noting that golf course employees — from owners to general managers to pros to superintendents — haven't exactly rolled out the welcome mat for them. Golfers with disabilities say they don't feel accepted at some golf courses, despite the fact that the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 requires golf courses "to provide goods and services to people with disabilities on an equal basis with the rest of the general public."

"A lot of people might refer to us as gimps or cripples and ask what the hell we're doing out there," says Bob Wilson, a below-knee amputee and executive director of the National Amputee Golf Association.

Continued on page 32

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