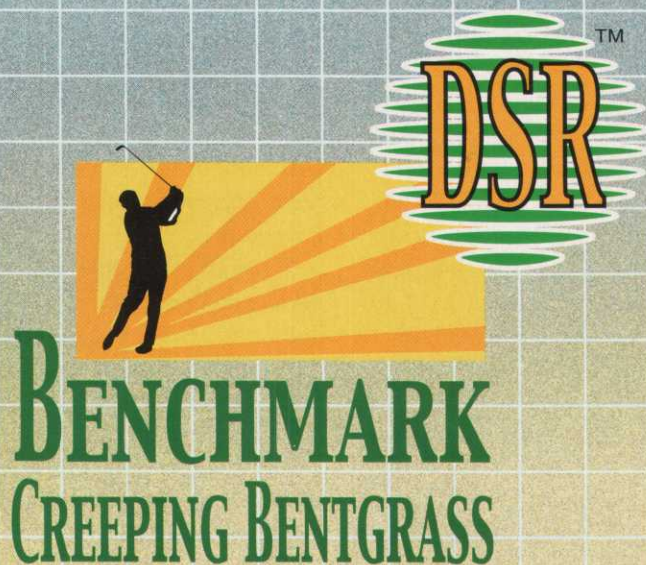


# A Breakthrough in Dollar Spot Resistance!

From New York to Nebraska to Texas ...  
Benchmark DSR is leading the way.



## TURFGRASS QUALITY

RATINGS OF BENTGRASS CULTIVARS IN THE  
2003 NATIONAL BENTGRASS (GREENS) TEST  
AT **ITHACA, NY** - 2004 DATA - 1-9; 9=BEST

NAME	MEAN
<b>Benchmark DSR</b>	<b>6.9</b>
Penn A-1	6.8
Pennlinks II	6.8
Memorial (AO3-EDI)	6.4
007 (DSB)	6.3
Vesper	6.3
LSD Value	1.5

## 2003 NATIONAL BENTGRASS (GREENS) TEST AT

**DALLAS, TX** - 2004 DATA - 1-9; 9=BEST

NAME	GENETIC COLOR	LEAF TEXTURE	DOLLAR SPOT
<b>Benchmark DSR</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>8.0</b>
T-1	7.3	6.3	7.3
Penn A-1	6.3	6.0	7.0
LS-44	6.3	6.7	6.3
Pennlinks II	6.3	4.3	7.3
Pennncross	6.3	4.3	7.0
LSD	0.8	1.6	1.1

## TURFGRASS QUALITY

RATINGS OF BENTGRASS CULTIVARS IN  
THE 2003 NATIONAL BENTGRASS  
(GREENS) TEST AT **MEAD, NE**  
2004 DATA - 1-9; 9= BEST

NAME	MEAN
<b>Benchmark DSR</b>	<b>7.6</b>
Declaration	6.6
Penn A-1	6.3
Pennlinks II	6.3
LS-44	5.7
Vesper	3.4
LSD Value	0.6

This new selection promises to set the standard for years to come. The culmination of many outcrosses, Benchmark DSR™ was selected for its resistance to the Dollar Spot Disease, which is common to all bentgrasses **AND expensive to control**. Planting BenchmarkDSR™ can save you time and money by reducing or eliminating fungicide treatments.

In addition, Benchmark DSR™ is one of the darkest green Bentgrasses available, has a very fine leaf texture and less thatch.

Benchmark DSR™ is an excellent choice for golf course greens and fairways where environmental sensitivity is tantamount.



33390 Tangent Loop / Tangent, Oregon 97389  
Phone (541) 926-8649 / Fax (541) 926-4435  
800-421-1735 / [www.turfmerchants.com](http://www.turfmerchants.com)

**Perfecting Turfgrass Performance™**



Captain Neo™  
(Natural Engineered Organism)

**Captain Neo guarantees  
that no Biotechnology  
was used in advancing  
this variety!**



## Off The Fringe

# Testing, Testing, Testing

A BEHIND-THE-SCENES LOOK  
AT HOW CLUB CAR PUTS ITS  
VEHICLES THROUGH THE RIGORS  
OF THE REAL WORLD

By Larry Aylward, Editor in Chief

**I**n a section of scenic woods, tucked behind Club Car Inc.'s headquarters in Augusta, Ga., is a test track. It's where Club Car's creations, from utility vehicles to golf cars, go to find out if they'll make it in this wicked world of bumps and pot holes.

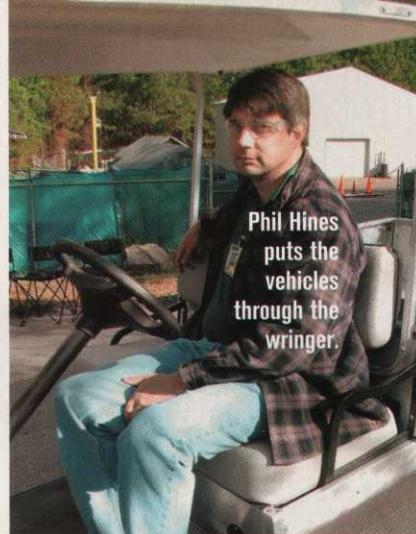
Phil Hines, a Club Car test specialist, helps with the evaluation procedures. It's Hines' job, so to speak, to put the vehicles through the wringer to make sure they can handle the rigors of the golf course under real-life conditions.

In essence, the test track is more like an obstacle course. It's marked with a variety of obstructions to see

what the vehicles are made of, literally. There are steep slopes, brutal bumps and pitiless puddles. Often, it's Hines driving the vehicles through the stumbling blocks.

Get this: Hines says he and other test specialists put the vehicles through 10 years of life in about four weeks.

"We do two types of testing to investigate the stability," says Hines, who has worked at Club Car for about 10 years. "One test is called static stability, where we put a vehicle on the table and tilt it to find the angle where it becomes unstable. The other test is called dynamic stability testing, where we actually drive the vehicle and explore the rigors of the handling. We'll drive it and put it in conditions that no customer should ever have to do. And we'll discover what will happen when we push the vehicle



further than it should be pushed."

Hines spends about half his time driving a vehicle and listening for bumps, squeaks and rattles.

"I note anything that might indicate there's an issue with the car, and then I investigate it," he says.

If the job sounds fun, it is for the most part. The best days are, no surprise here, when projects go smoothly.

"We have long hours and long days," Hines says. "But when we get to the end of a project and have a successful launch and then get rave reviews from our customers, it makes it all worthwhile."

Happy driving.

## Tales from Augusta

WHAT SOME GOLF FANS WILL DO  
TO SECURE A MEMORY OF THE MASTERS

By Larry Aylward, Editor in Chief

**T**he Masters Tournament, won by Phil Mickelson in April inside the ropes, is not without its stories outside of the ropes.

Bill Bryant, president of Bryant Marketing Communications, a golf industry communications firm in Alpharetta, Ga., says he was walking out the gate at Augusta National Golf Club after the Par-3 Contest on Wednesday of the week and he casually tossed his \$36 admittance badge in a trash bin.

"A couple of seconds later, a guy asked if he could have the badge," Bryant says. "He said he just wanted to get in for a few minutes to see the course. It didn't seem to matter to him that the big course was closed and the day's play on the par-3 course was nearly complete."

Bryant told the man he just tossed his badge in the trash but that the man could have it if he wanted to fish it out of



the trash. "As I made my way to the parking lot, I looked over my shoulder to see the guy fishing around in the trash bin," Bryant says. "That reminded me how revered Augusta National is and what a special spot it holds in the hearts and minds of so many people."

Chuck Calhoun, superintendent of John's Island Club in Vero Beach, Calif., offers this story of a

fan starstruck by PGA player John Daly. Or maybe the fan was just looking to make some money.

As Calhoun was waiting at the crosswalk in front of the No. 7 tee on Friday morning during the tournament, Daly and his group had just teed off and were walking down in front of the tee.

"Daly throws his cigarette butt down on the ground right on the edge of the crosswalk," Calhoun says. "Well, as soon as the gallery men opened the ropes, this guy runs over and snags Daly's butt and sticks it in his pocket. I haven't checked yet, but it's probably on e-bay by now."



# Unleash The Power!

## ZAP<sup>®</sup> Warm-Weather Weeds

Spurge, knotweed and clover are no match for the power of new Surge<sup>®</sup> Broadleaf Herbicide For Turf. Energized with sulfentrazone, Surge has the power and speed to knock out tough broadleaf weeds fast. And it even suppresses yellow nutsedge! **Visual results in 48 hours** – now that has a powerful effect on call-backs.

Your customers will be pleased with the speed and performance. You'll be pleased with the economy of Surge's water-based amine formulation!

**Put the power of Surge to work  
for your business this year!**

- ⚡ Energized with Sulfentrazone
- ⚡ Warm Weather Weed Control
- ⚡ Reduces Call-Backs
- ⚡ Rain-Fast in Just 6 Hours
- ⚡ Designed for Residential and Commercial Turf
- ⚡ Low Odor



**pbi / GORDON**  
**CORPORATION**

*An Employee-Owned Company*

**1-800-821-7925**  
**surge.pbigordon.com**

**From the makers of  
TRIMEC Herbicide**



# Off The Fringe

*Continued from page 10*  
didn't used to get those (phone calls)," he said.

Less toxic pesticides and changing irrigation practices have created a more favorable environment for earthworms, which is good and bad, according to Brandenburg. "It's good to know that we've kind of restored the balance in what we're doing ecologically," he says. "But the bad news is that you get a lot of earthworms on the putting green."

■ **Moles:** The plenitude of earthworms has led to an upswing in moles. "For years and years you probably heard the message, 'If you have moles, you have white grubs. You get rid of the white grubs, you get rid of the moles,'" Brandenburg said. "That's not necessarily true. If you catch one of those furry, little fellows and cut it open, you'll find that their stomachs are full of earthworms."

■ **Ants:** Fire ant products work particularly well, Brandenburg says, but they're only available where fire ants are widespread.

The dilemma in trying to eradicate ants is that many superintendents spray their putting greens, which solves the problem on a temporary basis. "The little mounds will go away for a day or two and then come right back on you," Brandenburg says. "That's primarily because most of the ant colonies are outside of the putting surface itself, and they send these scouts out that pop up (on the green)."

■ **Rove beetles:** The good news is that this insect feeds on cutworm eggs. But they still litter the course.

■ **Striped earwigs:** The tropical version of the earwig thrives on greens while feeding on cutworms and other bugs.

Striped earwigs dig a foot-long hole straight into the ground — you could slide a pencil into the opening — and push the soil up. Compounding the problem, birds arrive on the scene to eat the earwigs and wind up tearing up the greens. "I haven't figured out exactly what to do with these yet," Brandenburg says. "We've have tried treating them with everything that's labeled for cutworm control, and it doesn't seem to affect them very much."

In order to combat these insects, superintendents need to know the best time to impact a population. This revolves around knowing the life cycles of pests, Brandenburg says. For instance, he says, once grubs and mole crickets become big, they're difficult to kill.

On the bright side for South Carolina-based superintendents, Clemson University could soon boast its own professor of entomology, Brandenburg said.

Two Clemson University professors, Bruce Martin and Bert McCarty, spoke on transition issues at the Bayer seminar.

Martin, a plant pathologist, said the same diseases that affect bermudagrass in a normal scenario affect the turf variety in the transition

## Quotable

**"This year has been unbelievable. This has been the best winter that I can remember."**

— Jason Biddinger, the manager of Lafayette (Ga.) Municipal Golf Course, after recording 2,200 rounds played the first three months of the year, four times more than the same period in 2005. (*Journal and Courier*)

**"If I don't get control of my gambling, it's going to flat-out ruin me."**

— John Daly, in his new book, on his big bets.

zones. The conditions include dollar spot, yellow patch, brown patch and fairy ring. Another disease, *Rhizoctonia* leaf and sheath spot, is troublesome because its symptoms closely resemble fairy ring.

The quandary general to all transition-zone diseases is what occurs when fungicide treatment is involved.

"If we're spraying fungicides in the spring on our overseedings, what is that doing to the health of our overseedings as we're trying to transition later on?" Martin says. "Aren't we strengthening our overseedings and making it more competitive when we really want to be weakening and to get the bermudagrass [to take] off?"

McCarty, a professor of horticulture specializing in turfgrass science and management, spoke of the appropriate time to remove ryegrass during the transition process to bermudagrass. The latter requires night-time tempera-

tures of at least the mid- to upper-60s to aggressively grow laterally, he said.

"It can be 80 degrees (Fahrenheit) during the day, but if it drops into the 50s at night, it won't grow," McCarty says. "Bermudagrass will green up, but it's just going to sit there."

Hence, superintendents shouldn't apply herbicides until the temperatures reach this point. Considering bermudagrass needs 90-plus days of competitively free ryegrass-growing days, superintendents should apply their herbicides in May or early June.

"For most people in South Carolina, our bermudagrass basically shuts down the 15th of September because the days get shorter," McCarty said. "If you've still got ryegrass in your fairways June 15, I would highly recommend you pull the trigger and get rid of it chemically. Hopefully you've encouraged it to die off before then." ■



# Hydra-Hume™

**Turf & Ornamental**

## Improve Your Turf from the Ground Up!



New Hydra-Hume from Helena can do wonders for your soil. And that can do wonders for your valuable turf. The result: Stronger and healthier turf that stands up to tough usage demands.

Hydra-Hume is a unique blend of organic components that can increase the vitality of your soil. When applied to turf, Hydra-Hume has the ability to flocculate soils, create water-stable soil aggregates and improve water infiltration. In turn, this helps create a better environment for plant and microflora proliferation.

Also, research with Hydra-Hume has shown that it increases nutrient availability and reduces nutrient "tie up." Hydra-Hume also helps manage nitrogen consumption by plants. And it enhances turf color by increasing the availability and uptake of iron.

Let Hydra-Hume improve your turf—from the ground up!

For more information on how Hydra-Hume can benefit your turf, contact your Helena representative.

Hydra-Hume is safe for humans, wildlife and the environment.

# Hydra-Hume™

**Turf & Ornamental**

### Benefits

- *Increases chlorophyll density for greener grass*
- *Increases availability and uptake of iron for enhanced turf color*
- *Helps manage nitrogen consumption by plant*
- *Increases root growth*
- *Reduces thatch buildup by stimulating microbial activity*
- *Improves drought tolerance*
- *Improves soil drainage and water infiltration*

Hydra-Hume is a trademark and People...Products...Knowledge...is a registered trademark of Helena Holding Company. Always read and follow label directions © 2006 Helena Holding Company

*People...Products...Knowledge...*

Helena Chemical Company • 7664 Moore Rd. • Memphis, TN 38120 • 901-752-4414 • [www.helenachemical.com](http://www.helenachemical.com)



# Hole of the

▶ Hole #9 | North Oaks Golf Course | North Oaks, Minnesota





# Month

## Hole Stats

Distance: 503 yards

Par 5

## The Turf

Green: Annual Bluegrass  
and Bentgrass

Fairway: Annual Bluegrass

NORTH OAKS GOLF CLUB GREW FROM A desire to further the community and, at the same time, preserve the natural beauty of the land that it shares with local residents. Within one month of the North Oaks Golf Course opening in 1951, the course hosted its first tournament featuring Sam Snead, Patty Berg and other premier players of the era. That tournament

marked the beginning of more than five decades of great golf and fellowship. Today, the 6,627-yard, par-71 course has matured to offer a rare blend of scenery and play that challenges and satisfies golfers of every handicap.

The ninth hole — a 503-yard par 5 — offers a potential second shot to the green from the highest point on the course. Players should be wary of the gaping bunker carved into the hillside and the deceptive direction to the push-up green that is bunkered on either side.

North Oaks' greens staff and superintendent Jack MacKenzie are keenly aware of the high standards for appearance and play that designer Stanley Thompson originally established for the course, as well as the extreme demands set by today's golfers for pristine appearance and optimum playability. MacKenzie and his crew take great pride in meeting the daily challenge of providing the highest quality playing conditions possible for the golfers who enjoy their course. Their dedication and attention to detail doesn't allow them to settle for anything less than near perfection.

Drive® herbicide plays a key role in helping North Oaks look its best by keeping its turf weed-free all season. Its postemergent control knocks out crabgrass before it can invade a green or fairway while providing a wide spectrum of control for both broadleaf and grassy weeds throughout the season.

To find out more about Drive® herbicide and how it can help you achieve postemergent control for both broadleaf and grassy weeds in a wide variety of turf species, contact your distributor sales representative or BASF at [www.turfacts.com](http://www.turfacts.com).



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

 **BASF**

The Chemical Company



**T**he headline in your local newspaper reads something like this: "Water Quality in Local (Lake, River or Bay) Near Toxic Levels — (Humans, Fish, Birds, Shellfish or Sea Grass Beds) Could be at Risk." The story's lead sentence goes on to say:

*Ms. Jane Doe, from the Save the (Lake, River or Bay) Committee, said that record algae blooms in the local (lake, river or bay) resulted from:*

1) *dumping high nutrient wastewater from municipal and industrial treatment plants.*

2) *the high volume of natural organic debris such as leaves, blossoms, seeds, pollen, migrating waterfowl feces and feeder creeks cutting through organic rich soils.*

3) *run-off and leaching of fertilizers used on lawns and golf courses.*

Based on your experience with media coverage of environmental activists and issues, which conclusion above do you think will most likely be cited as the cause of the pollution?

If you picked No. 1, then you're probably an employee of the St. Johns River Water Management District in northeast Florida, or you read the article "Battling Algae" in the organization's December 2005 newsletter "Streamlines," which covered the huge algae blooms in the lower St. Johns River last summer. The article said, and I quote, "While staff said some nutrients might come from agriculture and lawns, the overwhelming cause of nutrient loading was from municipal and industrial water-treatment plants." The article described the poor quality of the water from the outmoded facilities along the river, but you never read that in the headlines.

If you picked No. 2, you might be from Minnesota and Wisconsin, where homeowners and golf courses took the blame for high phosphorus content in their water bodies. A phosphorus ban was initially instituted for all except agriculture (not throwing stones but guess who uses most of the 154 million tons of fertilizer annually in the United States?). Superintendents can take a one-day class and become certified phosphorus applicators, so not all is lost, but the misperception lives on.

In one nutrient-loading study done by the

## Fighting Politics and Perceptions

BY JOEL JACKSON



ONCE POLITICAL  
ACTION IS  
MOTIVATED,  
EVEN IF YOU HAVE  
A SCIENTIFICALLY  
DEFENSIBLE  
POSITION, THEY  
DON'T WANT  
TO BE TOLD  
THEY ARE WRONG

University of Minnesota, it was discovered that the nutrient loading in a local lake was reduced by 42 percent when the streets were swept once a week during the fall leaf season. Down in North Carolina, a study of a local urban lake found that the migrating waterfowl were fouling the lake with phosphorus to the tune of 27 percent.

From media accounts, you would think John Q. Public was burying his yard under tons of fertilizer. But according to a study done by the The Scotts Co.: Of the 80 million home lawns maintained by homeowners, 40 million apply no fertilizer, 18 million apply it once per year, and 10 million apply it twice per year. That leaves 1 million applying 3 times a year and another million applying 4 times a year and 10 million lawns being maintained by lawn care companies. So 85 percent of the lawns are on subsistent fertilization while 15 percent are more closely following university recommendations for healthy lawns. But you never see that in the headlines either.

A regulator recently told me that it's difficult to stop a political action once it's motivated. Regulators must take some action to satisfy the noise-makers. But since they can't stop Mother Nature from her nutrient loading, they go after the product in the bag, which is an easy target. And if they get manufacturers to sell 16-2-8 instead of 16-4-8, then they have reduced phosphorus by 50 percent by decree, even if homeowners do use less than 2 percent of the fertilizer applied each year.

If you picked No. 3, you're living in my world. Since you will be held accountable anyway, you should be politically and scientifically correct. Remember the four "Rs" of fertilizing: Right Product, Right Place, Right Time and Right Rate.

*Joel Jackson is director of communications for the Florida GCSA.*



# OREGON GROWN FINE FESCUE

## OREGON FINE FESCUE COMMISSION

1193 Royvonne Ave. S / Suite 11 / Salem, OR 97302 / 503-585-1157



*Plant the Easy-Going,  
Environmentally Friendly Fescues!*

# OREGON GROWN TALL FESCUE

## OREGON TALL FESCUE COMMISSION

1193 Royvonne Ave. S / Suite 11 / Salem, OR 97302 / 503-585-1157





**A**s if the United States Golf Association's (USGA) mad hatters and Mona Lisas haven't provided us enough course setup headaches over the years, they're adding another feather in their plume of par-preserving weapons.

Or maybe not.

Either way, this time they're making it known to the green committees who will listen: Do not try this at home.

When Winged Foot Golf Club hosts its fifth U.S. Open this month, the USGA will unveil a tiered rough concept masterminded by new course setup man Mike Davis, with assistance from USGA agronomist Tim Moraghan, cooperation from Winged Foot superintendent Eric Greytok and plenty of anxious USGA executive committee members who will monitor the setup closely from Quaker Ridge Golf Club, Fenway Golf Club and \_\_\_\_\_.

The new setup wrinkle goes something like this: fairways 21 yards to 26 yards narrow, just as they were for the 2004 U.S. Amateur. Yes, that's way too slender to allow Winged Foot's design to reward drives placed on certain fairway sides. And in fast conditions, the fairways may be too narrow to keep most balls on the short grass.

After the fairways, Davis plans to have two distinct cuts of primary rough. A 6-foot-wide area off the transition cut will be cut at one and a half inches; that's followed by 24 feet of 3- to 4-inch tall stuff, followed by 6-inch hay. And then there will be the mashed-down gallery area.

Davis believes this will provide a 48-yard-wide corridor for tee shots.

However, there's one hitch. On three short holes (translation: the birdieable ones), there will be no intermediate cut. Just the spring rye harvest.

So much for the USGA squelching that silly cliché that they are obsessed with par.

Something tells me Davis and Moraghan are not behind this decision, since both are good players who know that giving the world's best a chance to recover from rough usually gets those players into more trouble. Take away the heroic recovery option, and you usually do them a favor.

Davis concedes the concept is something that

## USGA: Don't Try This at Home

BY GEOFF SHACKELFORD



FEEL FREE TO POST  
THIS COLUMN ON  
THE LOCKER ROOM  
BULLETIN BOARD  
(BUT DON'T LET  
THEM BLACK OUT  
MY TEETH)

looks good "on paper," but is largely untested and one big experiment. More importantly and most refreshingly, he makes it clear this is not for everyday golf.

"The whole concept is really trying to give the guys who just miss the fairway a better opportunity than in the past," Davis says. "The fact is, if you throw aside competition at the highest level, most people I know don't like to play with a lot of rough. That said, the Open is the hardest week of the year for the best in the world, but that doesn't mean it should be emulated across the country.

"If clubs try to grow rough and narrow fairways, they're not doing anyone a favor," Davis continues. "It's a bit of a trademark for the U.S. Open, but you almost want to do a public address announcement saying, 'This is not to be emulated.'"

While the tiered rough concept is a far cry from the perspective of strategy-loving architects like A.W. Tillinghast and Alister MacKenzie, it does serve to eliminate one absurdity of growing so much grass: the severe penalty for the slight miss. And if all goes well, you'll see players make strategic mistakes by getting greedy out of the tall stuff.

Still, no matter how much the USGA says you should not try tiered roughs at home, one can already imagine the Monday-morning arm-chair superintendents asking when you plan to turn the holes into big dart boards, with prescribed penalties proportionate to misses.

So feel free to post this column on the locker room bulletin board (but don't let them black out my teeth). Remind Steve McChairman that the mastermind behind tiered rough would not recommend it for your layout.

Unless you're hosting the U.S. Open.

Contact Geoff Shackelford at [geoffshac@aol.com](mailto:geoffshac@aol.com).