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in course irrigation.
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JOHN DEERE
GOLF IRRIGATION

To see how some remarkable technology is helping
John Deere evolve the world of irrigation, turn the page.



Fresh Ideas From a Name You Can Trust.

John Deere Golf Irrigation has created a state-of-the-art collection of sprinklers, controllers, and central management systems. Featuring the same common-sense expertise and quality you've come to expect from John Deere, and only John Deere.

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Our controllers and heads are about putting everything at your fingertips—and your mind at ease.

Each is sculpted from *your* needs and expectations. That's why you can choose from the web-based desktop central control of **eAurora™** or the stand-alone satellite capabilities of our **Aurora®** and **LT-Plus** controllers. The latter features the ingenious access of our **Intracontrol**, patented technology allowing controllers to communicate with one another across your course without the need for a desktop computer. But these are just a sample of the spectrum of controllers available in our irrigation line.

Other controller features include water optimization tools, weather station monitoring, ET adjustment and the mobility of a PDA.

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In the past, irrigating roughs and fairways with the same rotor was nearly impossible. Say goodbye to the past.

Based on years of research, our remarkable **X-Series** rotors not only do this—they make it easy. The science hinges on a unique dual part circle application. The effect is consistent water coverage without breaking a sweat.

No one else offers this, but that's usually the case with fresh ideas.

More Than Just Great Products. Great Support.

Want to know how confident we are in our new irrigation line? Check out our **industry exclusive standard three-year warranty** on heads AND controllers. And our lightning protection that's simply the best in the business. In addition, you can count on the same certified service, tremendous parts inventories and fast turnaround that defines John Deere support, including a 24-hour tech-help hotline.

A new era of innovation, convenience and control. It's all waiting for you. So give your local John Deere Golf & Turf Distributor a call, or call 1-800-537-8233 for the distributor nearest you.



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You already know that Audubon International programs help wildlife and lead to a cleaner, healthier environment, which is good for nature. But as our members will tell you, it's good for business too.

Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program and Audubon Signature Program... naturally good for golf! Find out how to take action and join the growing number of members benefiting from Audubon International programs. Call or visit us today.

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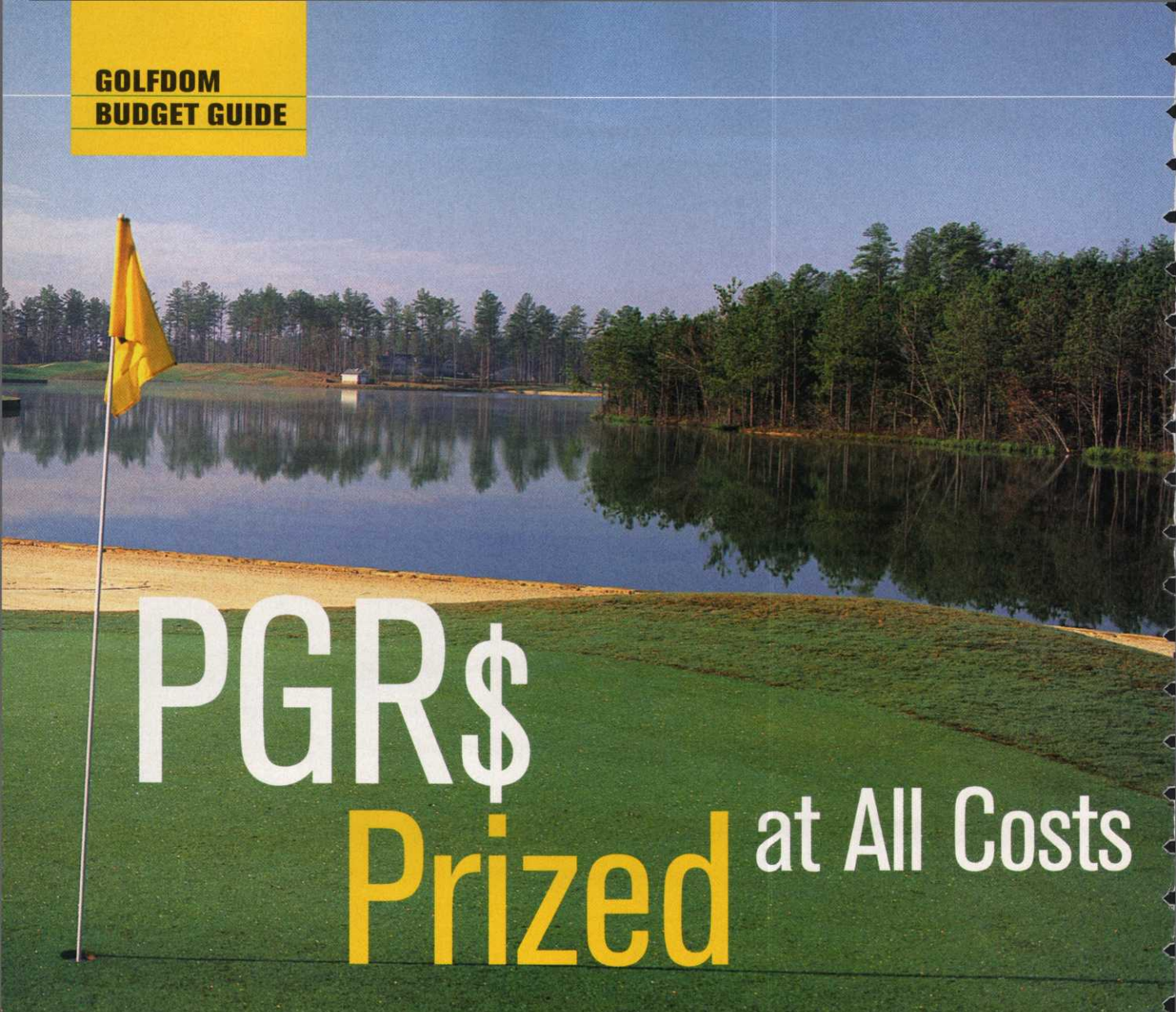


Conditions worthy of devotion.

How do you measure playability? By the lush appearance, the smooth play, or a golfer's commitment to forsake all others for one more round. A Primo MAXX® treated course has that kind of effect on golfers. This premier plant growth regulator makes turf thicker and stronger for the ultimate in play. Not only that, it preconditions turf and strengthens the root system. Both greens and fairways require fewer mowings, saving fuel and maintenance costs — it's practically liquid labor.



Turf that's consistent and provides crisper play, that's a golfer's dream. At Syngenta we help make that dream a reality.



PGR\$ Prized at All Costs

It doesn't hurt that the turf-regulating chemicals can help reduce mowing-related expenses, but that's not what has superintendents raving

BY THOMAS SKERNIVITZ

Superintendents have at least nine good reasons to use plant growth regulators (PGRs), says a leading PGR researcher. Some of the incentives are turf-specific, says Dr. Dennis Shepard of Syngenta Professional Products. Others benefit the bottom line.

More often than not, though, it's the improved quality of turf, superintendents say, that fuels their appetite for PGRs. Balancing the budget is important, they add, especially with gas prices continually rising, but the product's ability to reduce mowing-related costs is secondary to the course looking like a million bucks.

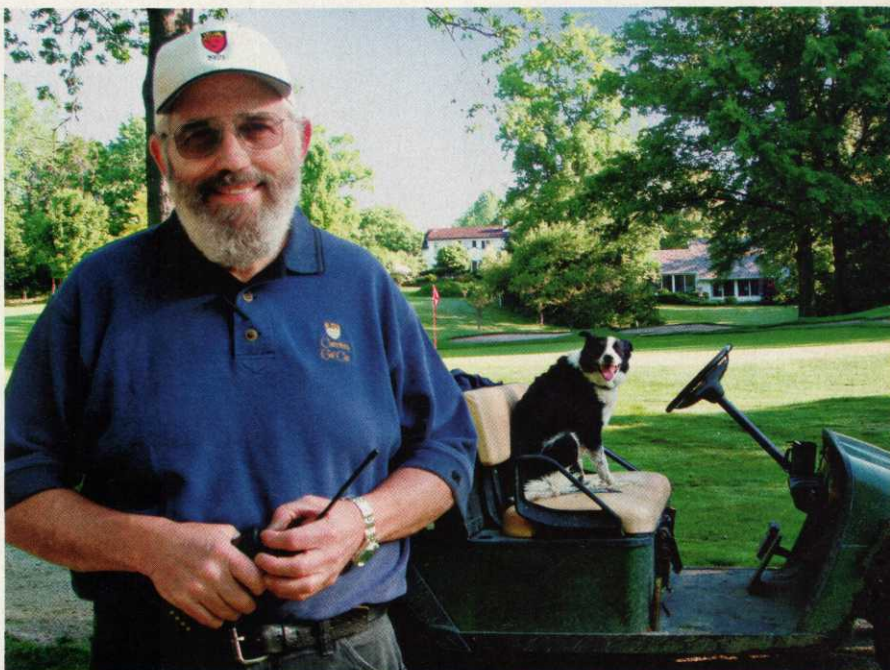
"Certainly with fuel and labor reduced, PGRs help to justify cost, but really the bottom line is the overall healthier plant and qual-

ity of cut," says Jerry Coldiron, the certified superintendent of Boone Links/Lassing Pointe in Florence, Ky. "That equals a happy customer or member, which is our No. 1 priority. ... Fuel savings, truthfully, are most likely an intangible."

Terry Bonar, the certified superintendent of Canterbury Golf Club in Beachwood, Ohio, considers PGRs one of the top three innovations during the last decade, along with soft spikes and aeration equipment. His crew uses the product virtually everywhere — greens, fairways, roughs — to limit turf growth. But as is the case with many Northern courses that collect clippings, the objective isn't to reduce gas consumption through less mowing.

"We still mow every day," Bonar says. "But you can do it faster because there's not as many clippings. When you cut a whole fairway and you dump once, you're not getting many clippings."

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Terry Bonar, certified superintendent of Canterbury Golf Club, says plant growth regulators are one of the top innovations of the last decade. "If I had to cut my budget, (PGRs) would not be one of the things I would cut," he says.



Spikers – 11x8 points to a depth of 30mm (1.25")



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The RS48-11C is designed to roll your greens in any direction without line creasing. With a rolling swath of 1200mm (48") (the only one in this class), a split

smoothing head, finger-light steering, and the patented triple offset smoothing rollers, it is the only roller that produces the desired quality of surface finish, without compacting the green.

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PGRs

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Better yet, the result is a double-cut look in half the amount of time and effort.

"We used to double-cut fairways (during tournaments), and I'm telling you those were the smoothest fairways I had ever seen," Bonar says. "I said, 'Man, if I could do this for the members, it would be great.' But there was no way you can stripe fairways when there's play."

Bonar's wish came true when PGRs arrived in the mid-1990s. The product stunts the vertical growth of the blade but allows the plant to become thicker hor-

“Certainly PGRs can help hold the fuel costs for mowing, but the real benefit is from labor savings.”

LAYLAH VANBIBBER

MARKETING MANAGER
PBI/GORDON

izontally because of boosted root growth.

"It was really a monumental shift when this product came out," says Shepard, a field technical representative for Syngenta. "Suddenly we could manage the way grass grows instead of it managing us."

As for managing the budget, Bonar doesn't worry about saving money with PGR use. In fact, he has become increasingly liberal in using the costly product. This isn't atypical, he says, noting that some superintendents have graduated from using the recommended rate of 0.25 per thousand square feet per month to using the same rate per week.

"We're not up to that high yet, but we're getting there. And I don't care," Bonar says. "(PGRs) are worth every penny."

Bonar, who lists PGRs as an herbicide in his budget ("even though they're not," he notes), pays more than \$11,000 per year for at least 30 gallons.

"If I had to cut my budget, (PGRs) would not be one of the things I would cut," Bonar says. "I would probably pay whatever they cost. I would complain about it, but I would still probably do it."

Ross O'Fee, the superintendent at The Country Club in Salt Lake City, and Eric

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PHOTO COURTESY: PBI/GORDON

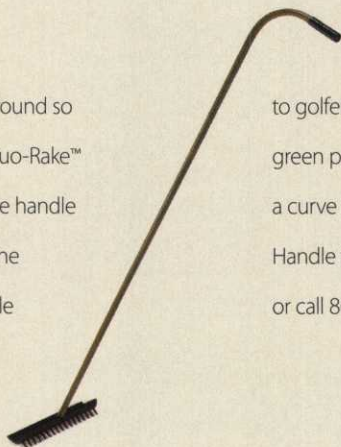


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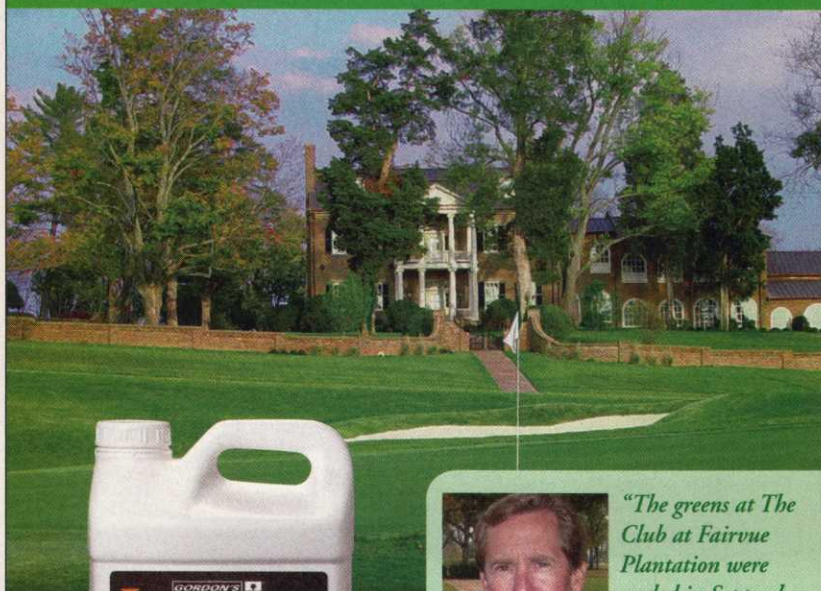
Reiter, the superintendent at Duran Golf Club in Viera, Fla., pay about \$350 and \$380 per gallon, respectively, and each documents PGRs as a chemical cost.

Because he's located in the South, where it's almost senseless to mow during the unoccupied summer months, Reiter can better appreciate the fuel-saving capabilities of PGRs.

"If you can skip one mowing per week with three fairway mowers, that has the potential to save 30 gallons of diesel for the week at nearly \$3 a gallon," Reiter says. "That's nearly \$400 per month. I can't say that we have increased our use of Primo in direct relationship to saving fuel, but the benefit of it certainly is nice."

Continued on page 52

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"The greens at The Club at Fairvue Plantation were seeded in September of 2003. Launch was tried on No. 18 which was filling in

the slowest. In 5 or 6 days it caught up and passed other greens seeded the same day. In 10 days, it passed up greens seeded a week prior convincing us to spray all our greens with Launch."

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Why Use PGRs? Count the Ways

Dr. Denis Shepard, a field technical adviser for Syngenta Professional Products, the maker of Primo Maxx and Trimmit plant growth regulators, lists his top reasons a superintendent should use PGRs:

Fewer clippings — The quantity of clippings can be cut by 50 percent; in turn, mowing time can be reduced by the same percentage.

Improved turf quality and playability — As the turf becomes denser, the ball's lie improves.

Fuel savings — If the average annual cost for an 18-hole course is \$20,000, with \$15,000 of that dedicated to fairways, a 30 percent reduction in mowing could save \$4,500.

Equipment conservation — Less mowing means less wear and tear on reels, bed knives and other equipment.

Minimized scalping — Slowed turf growth helps prevent the scalping of extended periods of growth.

Worker safety — Dangerous mowing areas need be mowed less often.

Healthier greens — Fewer mowings relieve the stress on greens. The root system is also strengthened.

Suppress *Poa annua* seedheads — Two applications in the spring, four to five weeks apart, overpower *Poa*.

Pre-stress conditioning — Advance treatment prepares turf for extreme conditions during the summer months.