

THE CHOICE OF CHAMPIONS



I purchased the 7316 Verti-Drain about 3 years ago to replace an older model which had provided good results and reliability for over 10 years. As I write this, the 7316 is out on the course aerating greens and tees as part of the course preparations for the 2008

British Open Championship.

*Chris Whittle, Course Manager
Royal Birkdale Golf Club*

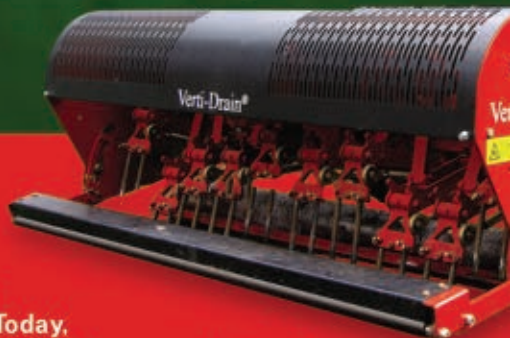
In addition to hosting this year's PGA Championship, Oakland Hills CC South Course also receives about 30,000 rounds of golf annually. The stress we experience on our fairways from this level of traffic has been reduced because of the use of the Verti-Drain 7120. Our fairway turf has improved and the disruption to our members is minimal.

*Steve Cook, CGCS
Oakland Hills CC*

Some members call me "Punch" and my crew thinks that "my cure all" is aerification. Adding oxygen to our soil is one of the most important practices we do as Turf Managers. The Verti-Drain 7120 Aerifier is helping Valhalla Golf Club prepare for the Ryder Cup.

*Mark Wilson, CGCS
Valhalla Country Club*

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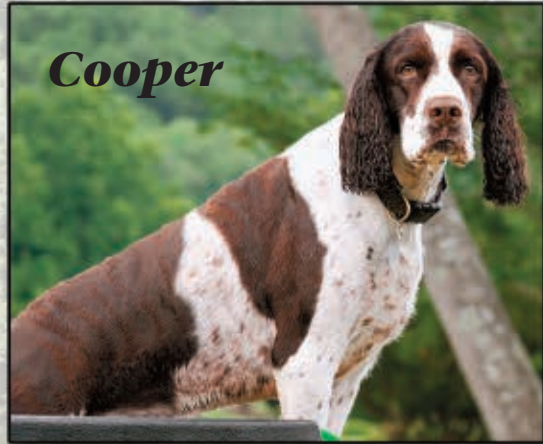
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For the seventh straight year, **LebanonTurf** will host the annual Dog of the Year contest at the Golf Industry Show in San Diego, Feb. 10 - 11, 2010. One of these precious pups will be crowned the 2010 Dog of the Year. The winning dog earns a prize of a \$3,000 donation to its superintendent's local chapter and a cash reward of \$500.00. Come to **LebanonTurf's Booth #2729** in San Diego and cast your ballot for your favorite Dog Days of Golf contestant. Photographs and a description of each dog's personality will be on display.

THE 'Wow'



UPON SEEING IT, Randy Allen and Alan Jarvis couldn't believe their eyes. Allen and Jarvis of Pine Lakes Country Club in Myrtle Beach, S.C., were downright dazzled by the carpet-like turfgrass comprising the tees, greens and fairways of Tuscany Reserve Golf Course in Naples, Fla.

"That place is so pretty, it's unbelievable," says Allen, director of golf course maintenance for Burroughs & Chapin Golf Management, which oversees Pine Lakes. "I felt like it was the first time I went to Augusta National."

"Words can't describe that golf course," adds Jarvis, Pine Lakes' certified golf course superintendent. "It's truly remarkable."

Seashore paspalum, a warm-season grass that has been around for centuries, will do that to you.

Allen and Jarvis visited Tuscany Reserve to see the seashore paspalum because the two were considering regrassing their course with the variety.

"We left there thinking we couldn't believe what we just saw," Jarvis says.

J. Bryan Unruh, Ph.D., a turfgrass pro-

fessor from the University of Florida, is not surprised Allen and Jarvis were smitten with seashore paspalum, saying the variety has become increasingly popular in the past 10 years because of its curb appeal.

"People are drawn to the look of seashore paspalum, especially in bermudagrass markets where there's difficulty in getting the greens to stripe up," Unruh says. "Seashore paspalum has really pronounced striping."

Allen and Jarvis went home from Florida and went to work lobbying the club's brass that seashore paspalum would be the perfect choice to regrass Pine Lakes, which was about to undergo a major renovation.

Planting the seed

Pine Lakes, built in 1927 as the Ocean Forest



ctor

After seeing seashore paspalum, the brass at Pine Lakes Country Club not only believed in it, they wanted it at their course

BY LARRY AYLWARD, EDITOR IN CHIEF

Golf Club, was the birthplace of golf in Myrtle Beach's Grand Strand, Allen says. The club changed its name to Pine Lakes in 1944. But as years went by, the 27-hole club fell into disrepair.

Burroughs & Chapin purchased Pine Lakes in 2001. Allen says a major renovation of the club was discussed in 2002 but was shelved when Burroughs & Chapin decided to build another Myrtle Beach golf course, The Members Club at Grande Dunes. Burroughs & Chapin returned to the Pine Lakes project in 2006.

Pine Lakes was one of a handful of courses in Myrtle Beach still using TifGreen 328 bermudagrass greens, Jarvis says. It was assumed the course would regrass with another bermudagrass variety. But one day, while Allen was playing golf at Pine Lakes with his son, Lance, the topic of seashore paspalum came up.

Lance, the superintendent at Woodfin Ridge Golf Club in Boiling Springs, S.C., had previously helped build the May

River Golf Club in Bluffton, S.C., where seashore paspalum was used. Lance was awed by it.

During the round with his dad, Lance said to him, "What kind of grass are you going to use when you renovate the course?"

"Bermudagrass, I guess," Randy replied. "That's about the only choice we have because of our poor water quality."

But when Lance began touting the benefits of seashore paspalum, the elder Allen began listening intently. One of the benefits is seashore paspalum can tolerate poorer water quality, including higher salt levels, than other warm-season grasses.

"Lance planted the seed in my head," Randy says.

Randy then asked Jarvis if he knew anything about seashore paspalum. Jarvis admitted he knew little, so the two began researching it together. Jarvis attended seminars on the subject. He also planted a few plots of seashore paspalum varieties at Pine Lakes to study them.

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The 'Wow' Factor

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Then in 2006, Allen and Jarvis took the trip to Naples to see seashore paspalum up close.

"After the visit to Tuscany Reserve, both Alan and I went from being comfortable to being excited about using seashore paspalum on our golf course," Allen says.

Others touted seashore paspalum's benefits, including Todd Lowe, an agronomist for the United States Golf Association, who told Allen he had never met a superintendent who changed his course's turfgrass to seashore paspalum from bermudagrass and wanted to go back to bermudagrass.

'Is it real?'

Allen and Jarvis picked SeaDwarf, a seashore paspalum variety from Environmental Turf Inc., to regrass the entire course. SeaDwarf is the only dwarf cultivar of seashore paspalum. Its attributes include a bright-green color, a fine texture, a tolerance to a range of mowing heights and that it can be irrigated with varied water sources, including effluent, reclaimed and brackish water.

"Another reason we chose SeaDwarf was because of its drought tolerance," Jarvis says.

Construction on the renovation began in October 2007. The Pine Lakes staff made three applications of Roundup and Fusilade as well as a Basamid application to kill the existing bermudagrass, which was viewed as a weed in the midst of wall-to-wall seashore paspalum.

Most of the course was sprigged with SeaDwarf in May 2008. The greens were sprigged in June. Jarvis says growth took off five weeks after sprigging.

"We were 90 percent grown-in after seven weeks," he says. "It went much faster than we thought."

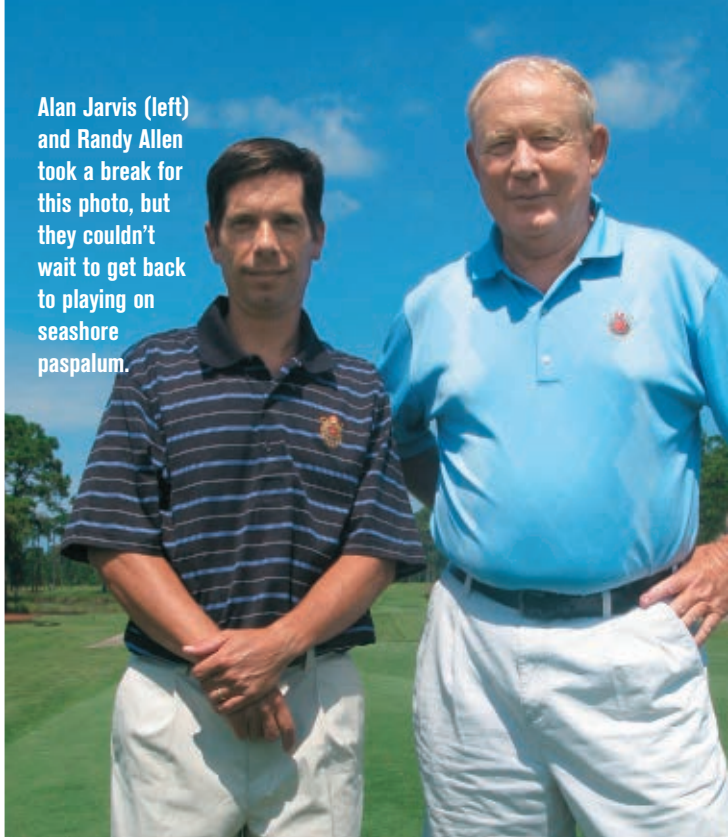
Yellow spots were detected on some fairways a few months after sprigging. Jarvis conducted a soil sample and discovered the areas were manganese deficient. They were spot-treated with manganese and the areas healed.

A benefit of seashore paspalum is it requires less fertilization annually. Through September, Jarvis says the fairways had received about 4 pounds of nitrogen (N) and 4 pounds of phosphorus (K) with some manganese mixed in. The greens required even less fertilizer — about 3 pounds of N and about 6 pounds of K.

Jarvis and Allen are also impressed with seashore paspalum's color and how it holds that color. When the course reopened in March, it hadn't been overseeded, but Jarvis says the course's color would green up in front of one's eyes on warm spring days. Jarvis is also impressed with how seashore paspalum retains its color in the fall for a longer time than bermudagrass.

The turf is also very playable. Craig Schreiner, the golf course architect of the Pine Lakes renovation, says SeaDwarf

Alan Jarvis (left) and Randy Allen took a break for this photo, but they couldn't wait to get back to playing on seashore paspalum.



provides firm but not hard conditions. "In the rough, the ball sits up beautifully," he says. "It's not penal and provides relief."

Jarvis says seashore paspalum can be tough on mowers because the turf can dull mower blades faster than other varieties. He says plant growth regulators can ameliorate this problem, but it's important to keep reels and bed knives sharp.

Jarvis, who previously worked at a course with bentgrass greens, says working with bentgrass has helped him with maintaining seashore paspalum because the varieties have similar maintenance tendencies.

"I'm spending more money to maintain the seashore paspalum," he says. "With the bermudagrass, we mowed it, which is about all we did. I maintain the seashore paspalum more like bentgrass. I use fungicides — preventively and curatively. I spoon-feed the greens."

While Jarvis says seashore paspalum is labor-intensive, it's not as labor-intensive as maintaining bentgrass. Jarvis says he'll spend about the same amount of money on fungicide as he spent for bentgrass. He won't water the seashore paspalum as much, though.


"You don't have to be out there hand-watering all the time," Jarvis says with a thankful grin.

Pine Lakes did overseed the greens this fall with *Poa trivialis*, which is said to transition well even after cold winters.

Jarvis says the word is out about Pine Lakes' renovation — and its new turfgrass. Just like Jarvis and Allen, golfers can't believe their eyes when they see it.

"They ask me, 'Is it real?'" Jarvis says. "They also say, 'It looks like plastic,' or 'It looks like freshly laid carpet.'"

Jarvis understands that seeing is believing. ■



Pesticide research could include comparing different products or one product with varying rates.

Do-It-Yourself Research

Every product used to manage a golf course is tested extensively before it ever gets to the maintenance building. But experienced golf course superintendents know that products researched in other locations with different conditions may perform slightly differently on their courses. To more completely understand a product's performance on your course, do as the university experts do. Research it.

Do-it-yourself (DIY) turf-management research doesn't need to be costly or complicated. Simple, scaled-down, yet strategic techniques can assure you you're using the best tools to meet your course's distinctive needs.

Just about any golf course man-

Simple, effective tips to improve your golf course

BY KYLE MILLER

agement technique or tool can be researched. Here's a short list of typical research subjects:

■ **Turf varieties** — What grows best on your fairways: colonial bentgrass, creeping bentgrass or perennial ryegrass? Which variety of Kentucky bluegrass should you use in your roughs? Testing grass varieties side by side will help you learn the top performers for your course.

■ **Herbicides, fungicides, insecticides and plant growth regulators** — Research can compare different products or one prod-

uct with varying timing, rates or growing conditions.

■ **Fertilizers** — What kind, when, where and how much?

■ **Cultural practices and equipment** — Testing some of the many methods of aeration, topdressing, mowing, rolling and dethatching should show you what works best for your course.

Data collection basics

Similar to turf test plots at universities, you should visibly mark trial areas. Extensive mowing schedules make it nearly impossible to come back to your on-course research area two or three days later and know where you applied a fungicide or tried a different setting on an aerator. Identifying plots with marking paint and routinely remarking them

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Do-It-Yourself Research

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so they can easily be found is crucial. It's also important to keep a written map of all trials.

Another recommendation is to replicate research. Say, for instance, you want to evaluate Insignia fungicide for summer patch control on fairway turf. Replicating the application two or three

times allows you to evaluate the average of the results for a more accurate view of performance.

Always follow label instructions and use products during the same time period you would normally do so, especially for chemical products. The goal of DIY research is to learn how products work under your real-world conditions.

Location

There are several things to consider when choosing where on your course to conduct research. First and foremost, consider what you're studying and what the worst-case scenario might be. It may not be smart to test a new herbicide on a highly visible area of your course. Would you want to risk discoloring the 18th fairway?

Choose areas representative of your course as a whole in order to fairly evaluate products. When testing fungicides or herbicides, it's better to avoid areas with high or low disease or weed pressure. Utilizing an area that's typical of your course will make positive results easier to replicate on a larger scale when you start using a product in earnest. Similarly, avoid areas that are topographically unique. If only one portion of your course is hilly, for example, you probably don't want to do your testing there.

Research partners

Don't let the term "do it yourself" limit you. DIY research doesn't have to be done without help. You have limited time and resources, and seemingly unlimited responsibilities, so consider working with others — be they university researchers, manufacturing representatives or nearby superintendents. Partnering with others is a great way to continue learning and improve management techniques without being overwhelmed.

Working with university researchers can be particularly beneficial. Collaboration provides another set of trained eyes that can monitor results, provide recommendations and give insights into the latest turf-management trends. It also gives university researchers a real-world venue to conduct studies. All the while it improves your course for golfers. Everybody wins.

Other tips

■ **Conduct research on small plots.** You don't want to tie up a lot of the course with research plots.



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- **Communicate results.** Post informal research results on your Web site or in your newsletter so members are aware of your efforts to improve the course.

- **Beg, borrow and steal research ideas from nearby courses.** Introduce yourself to other superintendents in your region and pick their brains about what they're doing on their course. Chances are they're doing something you should try.

- **Invest in and use a decent digital camera.** Before-and-after and side-by-side photos come in handy when evaluating research results. It's also a great way to show off your work to your board of directors or green committee.

Keep improving

DIY research is an excellent way to make your course the best it can be without breaking the bank. It's an efficient way to test new products, equipment and techniques so you know exactly what to expect when you incorporate them full-scale into your course management plan. ■



Miller, a senior technical specialist for BASF Professional Turf & Ornamentals, is based in Chesterfield, Va.



December THIS MONTH'S HEALTH TIP

Taking simple precautions for the upcoming holidays can ensure a happy, healthy time for you and your dog. Don't feed pets holiday treats or leftovers. Some foods such as chocolates, alcohol, uncooked bread dough, grapes and raisins can be life-threatening. Keep ribbons, tinsel, flower arrangements, electrical cords and holiday decorations away from pets. And don't forget about live trees; place them in a room away from your dog. To stop a Christmas tree from falling over, place a hook in the ceiling and use some nylon yard to attach to the tree. This will prevent it from falling over.

Trouble. His owner is Doug Richardson, superintendent at Overpeck Golf Course in Teaneck, N.J. (Photo by: Dennis Crosby Jr.)



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Featuring the proprietary active ingredient pyraclostrobin, Insignia fungicide from **BASF** is a foundational product for snow mold control. University research reports indicate that fungicide tank mixes for snow mold that include Insignia rate among the highest for control.

Teremec

Teremec Turf Fungicide from **PBI/Gordon**, available in wettable powder and flowable formulations, contains the active ingredient chloroneb. It has preventive and curative activity. As a contact fungicide, Teremec provides fast curative activity for snow mold with no known resistance.

FF III

The Andersons Golf Products offers FF III, a granular snow mold fungicide with fertilizer. FF III combines three active ingredients

— PCNB, propiconazole and chlorothalonil. PCNB uses a contact mode of action and is a historic standard against gray snow mold, according to The Andersons.

Reserve

Bayer Environmental Science offers Reserve fungicide. Reserve contains the active ingredients triticonazole and chlorothalonil, along with Bayer's StressGard formulation technology. University research trials show that Reserve controlled disease and improved turf density and quality.

Instrata

Instrata fungicide from **Syngenta Professional Products** combines the active ingredients chlorothalonil, fludioxonil and propiconazole in a proprietary formulation. The combination of active ingredients and their multiple modes of



action enable Instrata to control the numerous pathogens that cause snow mold.

Dovetail

Phoenix Environmental Care's Dovetail fungicide combines two proven active ingredients, iprodione and thiophanate-methyl, for effective control of pink snow mold and other diseases. Because Dovetail contains active ingredients with different modes of action, it provides a minimum 14-day control and helps in resistance management.

Tourney

Valent Professional Products offers Tourney. For best performance on snow mold species, make one to two applications in combination with PCNB, chlorothalonil, iprodione or other fungicides active on snow mold in late fall before snow cover and, if possible, one application during a mid-winter thaw.

Iprodione E-Pro, TM + CTN E-Pro 66.6 WDG

Nufarm Americas offers two options for snow mold control: Iprodione E-Pro and TM + CTN E-Pro 66.6 WDG fungicides. Iprodione E-Pro provides dependable control. Its contact and residual activity give Iprodione E-Pro both preventive and curative power. TM + CTN E-Pro 66.6 WDG fungicide contains thiophanate-methyl and chlorothalonil to provide long-lasting, broad-spectrum control. It offers two modes of action against the target fungus.

Ipro 2SE

Quali-Pro offers Ipro 2SE for pink and gray snow mold control as well as other diseases. A foliar-applied suspo-emulsion, Ipro 2SE fungicide provides preventive and curative iprodione disease control. It's a solid choice for tank mixing and a perfect partner when used in rotation for resistance management.

DISARM

DISARM and DISARM C fungicides from **Arysta LifeScience** provide snow mold control. The recommended use for both products is in tank-mixes with other nonstrobilurin fungicides.

Echo Ultimate

Echo Ultimate from **SipcamAdvan** turf and ornamental fungicide is packaged in an easy-to-use resealable 5-pound container.

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