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# Hole of the Month

HOLE NO.

**8**

OLD MEMORIAL GOLF CLUB  
▶ TAMPA, FLA.

On a map, Old Memorial Golf Club may only be minutes from the hustle and bustle of Tampa. On the course, however, a golfer feels a million miles away. That's just the way Steve Smyers intended it. The critically acclaimed architect has created 18 holes of golfing sanctuary – a sub-tropic departure from the every day – that pays tribute to classics like St. Andrews and the Sandbelt courses of Australia.

The course is a golfing purist's dream and in true traditional style, a caddy is mandatory. It's a good thing, too, as each shot requires a strategic, careful approach. Take the 8th hole, for example. Designed with two greens and an abundance of beautifully sculpted bunkers, it can present a completely different challenge from day to day.

Then again, all 7,389 yards of Old Memorial can be challenging for Certified Golf Course Superintendent Trent Inman. Golfers love the sandy subsurface that allows for firm play, but it also diminishes the longevity of herbicides, causing significant sedge breakthrough. So two years ago, Inman switched to Echelon® herbicide on a fertilizer carrier for his preemergence application. "Prior to using Echelon, we would need to have at least one person spot spraying sedges daily," Inman recalls. "We've now reduced that spraying by at least 50%."

Trent's crew has also had great postemergence success with Solitare® herbicide, a recent product introduction from FMC. Inman discovered that Solitare not only achieved impressive results against torpedograss, it was ideal for controlling multiple weeds on sensitive turf. "Solitare was one of our only options to kill nut-sedge, Poa annua and volunteer ryegrass in Seashore Paspalum," says Inman. "It performed very well with almost no discoloration." This is great news for Inman, because while Old Memorial's intricate bunkers can cause nightmares for golfers, there's no room for weeds on this dream course.







**HOLE STATS**

Distance: 352 yards, Par 4



**THE TURF**

Green: TifEagle Bermudagrass

Fairway: 419 Bermudagrass

To learn more about Echelon® and Solitare® herbicides visit [www.fmcprosolutions.com](http://www.fmcprosolutions.com).

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





# The Industry's First Virtual Trade Show!

May 11-13, 2010



**Attention: Superintendents, Assistants, Maintenance Technicians**

## Top Reasons to Attend:

- 1 Participate in the comfort of your own office or home.** All you need to enter the trade show is your Internet-enabled computer.
- 2 There is no charge to attend.** Yes, its true. Entering the trade show is completely FREE! All you have to do is register.
- 3 Access to leading suppliers in one place.** Leading suppliers like Toro, Jacobsen and John Deere Golf among others will be showcasing their equipment, products and services for golf courses.
- 4 Educational opportunity like no other.** The Virtual Trade Show features 3D booths where supplier distribute product information, display videos, offer demonstrations, conduct meetings and engage in discussions via email and chat tools.
- 5 Event is live for 3 days and archived for 90 days.** We recommend attending May 11-13 to take advantage of live chat and other interactive features. But if your schedule doesn't permit, you have a full 90 days to attend as often as you'd like.

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**PART THREE** OF A THREE-PART SPECIAL SERIES

# Plant Health Report

They are two of the golf course maintenance industry's biggest buzz words: plant and health. And, yes, they go together like spaghetti and meatballs.

That's why *Golfdom*, in partnership with BASF Professional Turf & Ornamentals, has embarked on this plant health series.

**PART THREE** of the series, by Contributing Editor John Walsh, is entitled, "Tending Tomorrow's Turfgrass." The story, featuring interviews with various turfgrass experts, looks into the future and examines how golf course superintendents will manage turf in 2025.

**PART TWO** of the series, which appeared in April, focused on fungicide management. The story featured interviews with superintendents and other experts on how to get the best out of fungicide programs as they relate to plant health.

**PART ONE**, which ran in March, covered the modern concept of plant health and turf-disease management — from cultural practices to fungicide use — and what superintendents should do to achieve the highest success rate to control diseases such as dollar spot and anthracnose, among others.

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# 2010 And Forward

**So you've heard from** superintendents and leading experts on plant health and you've read where the BASF research originated and where it has led us in professional turfgrass use.



BY  
THAVY  
STAAL

But what's next? Well, more evidence that improves long-term turfgrass playability is a start.

In the April issue, we talked about drought-tolerance research and how pyraclostrobin-based products provide turf with deeper roots and more roots compared to turf that is untreated when water is reduced compared to normal irrigation.

Because water restrictions are a major concern, especially for the areas in the south and western United States, BASF will also conduct research demonstrations later this summer with its new liquid-pyraclostrobin formulation to look at water-usage cost savings with a pyraclostrobin product application.

In addition, you can look at the challenge of managing weak turf caused by heavy levels of organic matter on pushup greens. Stress like that can lead to year-round disease pressure.

Aerifying up to four times a



**BASF takes disease control and plant health seriously. It means something to both us – the innovators of the chemistry – and to you the end-user.**

year can help remedy that condition but that approach interferes with play. In response, BASF is testing its products to see if greens can bounce back after aerification within seven to 10 days.

The idea is to try to cut recovery time in half and restore health to the turfgrass.

Solving these issues and others led us to develop a demo program for Honor and a liquid formulation of pyraclostrobin for this season. "From Science to Superintendents" is the next phase of our plant health research. Leading influential superintendents across the United States will conduct more real-world research on greens and fairways at golf courses known for varying microclimates, steady play from members, regular tournament

use and disease pressure.

And even the execution of this program will be innovative as we will connect these turf pros with our experts and each other via Facebook to track results with photos and in-depth reporting in real time. It's another way BASF is leading the industry.

BASF takes disease control and plant health seriously. It means something to both us — the innovators of the chemistry — and to you the end-user.

And that's what's in store for us and you in 2010. Follow us on [basfturftalk.com](http://basfturftalk.com) and Twitter at [http://twitter.com/BASFTurf\\_us](http://twitter.com/BASFTurf_us) this summer and fall to learn more. ■

*Thavy Staal is marketing manager for BASF Professional Turf & Ornamentals.*





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1. **Honor** works on greens and these
4. Combines boscalid and pyraclostrobin for superior control
5. Top dollar spot fungicide, shares active ingredient with **Honor**
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### DOWN

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You have enough things to worry about. But with **Honor**<sup>™</sup> fungicide, spelling success for your greens isn't one of them. **Honor** combines boscalid and pyraclostrobin to control the toughest diseases, including patch diseases (brown, large, summer) — improving the playability of your greens and enabling you to focus on other things. So what's a five-letter word for "better control without tank-mixing"? **Honor!**

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# TENDING Tomorrow's Turf







# grass

What will disease management be like in 2025? Insiders offer their views

BY JOHN WALSH,  
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

PHOTOS BY: MARY CORCORAN (TOP); MIKE KLEMM (FAR LEFT); STUART BUCK

It's as crystal clear a picture as a clean, freshwater stream: The environment will have the biggest impact on how golf course superintendents manage turfgrass disease in the future.

In an evolving industry, superintendents can expect a different market in 15 years compared to the one they're operating in now. Environmental restrictions, product availability and type, water use, disease pressures, resistance and funding will be the main drivers of change.

"We'll be experiencing warmer climates in the United States, which will contribute to water shortages and increased pressure on cool-season turfgrass species," says Tom Rufty, Ph.D., a plant physiologist and distinguished professor of environmental plant biology at North Carolina State University. "Diseases and insects will respond to higher temperatures, so pest pressures will become more volatile."

While climate is an aspect of the environment, regulations and restrictions are a result of it changing. Bruce Clarke, Ph.D., a professor and vice chair in the department of plant biology and pathology at Rutgers' School of Environmental

and Biological Sciences, says there will be a continuation of increased restrictiveness on pesticide use

"The writing is on the wall if you look at Canada, New York and California," he says. "I doubt you'll have complete bans, but there will be more requirements for documenting why turf managers spray pesticides. You won't be able to apply pesticides just because you want to. Asking people to justify why they're using pesticides [will be] justified."

California and New York, as well as places such as Cape Cod, Mass., and New York's Long Island that have sandy soils and a high potential for leaching, are on the fast track for scrutinizing what superintendents apply to turf. Control of pesticide use will become much tighter.

"Golf is the big, bad guy, but we're educated about chemistries, whereas some in the landscape industry, for example, aren't as aware of those things," says Bryan Barrington, golf course superintendent and general manager at The Golf Club at Oxford Greens in New Haven, Conn. "We'll have more checks and balances throughout the year."

Legislators are under a lot of pressure from the public, which

*Continued on page 20*



*Continued from page 19*

reacts to its concerns and what it sees in the media.

“The public isn’t dumb; people just don’t have the time to investigate issues and then make decisions without all the facts,” Clarke says. “Many people seem to have a general mistrust of science, and that’s a shame because sound science should be the basis for making decisions.”

That reaction often results

in piecemeal regulations from town to town. Currently, the landscape industry is having trouble with that scenario.

“When it starts to get out of hand, as it is now in New Jersey with local fertilizer regulations, the state needs to step in to make sense of it,” Clarke says. “It makes more sense to have a state-wide standard.”

If the stricter-regulation trend continues, superin-

tendents’ jobs will be more difficult. To help counter the trend, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America is researching what and how much inputs superintendents are applying to golf courses. When the research is complete, it will deliver a positive environmental message to the public.

Researchers aren’t entirely sure if there will be fewer pesticide products to choose from in 2025. There were similar thoughts in the 1980s, and the industry ended up using more products. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency removed the older, more toxic materials from the market. They were replaced by lower-risk products, such as the strobilurins and other materials with lower-use rates.

“Products that have less environmental impact and low-use rates are the keys,” Clarke says. “With fungi-

cides, we’re seeing new broad-spectrum and very targeted products that are less toxic than their predecessors.”

More-targeted pesticides will challenge superintendents. For example, if the products don’t last as long as their predecessors, superintendents will have to know more about the strengths and weaknesses of the products they apply.

“Mercury fungicides killed a lot of turf pathogens and beneficial organisms in the soil, so you didn’t have to be as good a turfgrass manager/diagnostician,” Clarke says about the days when more toxic pesticides were used. “It was a shotgun approach to turf disease management.”

The industry is moving down a path of using fewer contact fungicides and more systemics, says Mike Boehm, Ph.D., professor and chair of the plant pathology department at Ohio State University.

“Broad-spectrum fungicides — going back to mercury compounds — yes, they were great, but they were biocides and, rightfully so, their use was regulated and eliminated,” Boehm says. “Now chlorothalonil and others are being scrutinized.”

The Food Quality Protection Act, economics and the court of public opinion are the three main drivers limiting conventional fungicides, Boehm says. Those three drivers will propel change of pesticide use on turf and new products. Driven by human and animal health, the FQPA,



**Will diseases such as spring dead spot (above), which affects bermudagrass, and brown patch (below), which affects cool-season and warm-season turf, run more rampant in the future. Or will they be less of a threat?**





# DISEASES

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