

Don't gamble a 'super' job for green speed

NOVI, Mich. — Getting the maximum ball speed from a putting green doesn't mean golf course superintendents have to run the risk of damaging the turf and losing their jobs.

Jacobsen product manager Bill Kinzer says that using a greens conditioning machine can provide good green speed and healthy turf without jeopardizing the super's livelihood.

"When superintendents were rolling the greens, drying them out, double-cutting, topdressing frequently, reducing nitrogen and dropping the height of cut below $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch to increase ball speed, they were literally putting their jobs on the line," says Kinzer. "Now you can reduce or eliminate a lot of those practices by going with a greens conditioner."

Kinzer notes that, in addition to reducing the frequency of these potentially

Jake's
Bill
Kinzer



stressful turf practices, one of the main advantages of greens conditioners like Jacobsen's Turf Groomer is that they allow superintendents to go to a higher cut.

"I know a number of superintendents who are cutting at $\frac{3}{16}$ of an inch and have a good root system and the same ball speed they had when they were cutting below $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch," Kinzer says. "Four or five years ago, everyone wanted to see how short they could mow their greens. The premise was: the shorter the grass, the faster the green. Everybody wanted the

thinnest bedknife possible on their greens mowers so they could get the lowest cut possible on their greens.

"Some supers lost their jobs over it, because when spring came around, there was no grass left on the green."

Kinzer says that the higher cut and the resulting increase in the amount of leaf surface on the plant means a healthier grass plant with deeper roots, and makes the turf more resistant to certain diseases.

Along with improving the turf, Kinzer says greens conditioners improve the putting surface by eliminating or reducing a number of undesirable aspects of plant growth.

"Number one, the grain is removed from the grass," he says. "That's what slows the ball down. You get a smoother surface. And number two, it helps control thatch, to a degree." □

Newman pledges high standards

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Lebo Newman, new president of the California Landscape Contractors Association, has formed an Environmental Committee to explore ways the landscaping industry can be gentler on the environment.

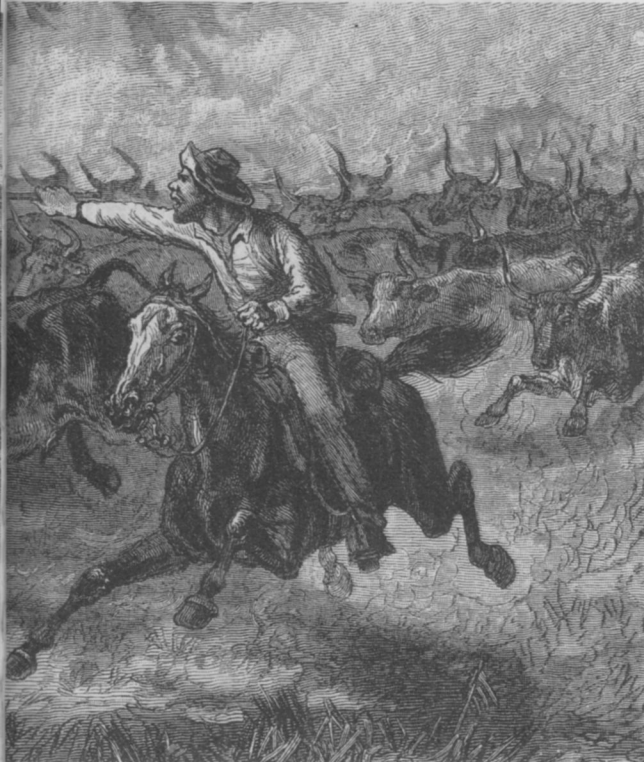
"We can educate people on better ways to apply (control products) or better ways to do our work without being a detriment," says Newman, who adds that the industry needs more ongoing management practices to prevent excessive application.

Newman, president of Redwood Landscaping in Santa Rosa, has been an active CLCA member since 1974.

"With passion, I pledge to maintain CLCA's goals and to improve the image of the landscape industry,"

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under pressure.



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