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Wanted to buy **HYDRO SEEDER**. Please send photo. Johnson Hydro Seeding Corp., 13751 Travilah Road, Rockville, MD 20850, 301/340-0805. TF

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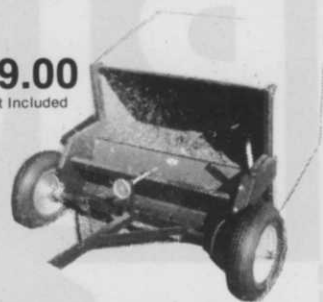
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EVENTS

JUNE

Fertilizer Institute Marketing Conference, June 9-12, White Sulfur Springs, WV. TFI members only. Contact Pamela Lucas, The Fertilizer Institute, 1015 18th St. NW, Washington D.C. 20036. (202) 861-4900.

Minnesota Green Industry Expo '85, June 19, Anoka, MN. Contact Bob Lund, 5500 International Parkway, New Hope, MN 55428, (612) 533-4823.

University of Massachusetts Turf Field Day, June 26 (rain date June 27), Turfgrass Research Station. Contact Dr. Joseph Troll, Plant & Soil Sciences, Stockbridge Hall Room 10, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003. (413) 545-2353.

International Turfgrass Research Conference, June 30-July 5, Avignon, France. Contact International Turfgrass Society, Department of Agronomy, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061.

JULY

Hazard Communication Workshop, July 9-10, Hyatt-Regency, Kansas City. Contact Brenda Dawson, The Fertilizer Institute, 1015 18th St. NW, Washington D.C. 20036. (202) 861-4900.



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Circle No. 120 on Reader Inquiry Card

The roar of the Golden Bear on the quiet island of Cayman

The Golden Bear is making headlines again, not so much with his play but with his ideas on golf course design and golf balls.

His latest is a 20th century application of a not-so-new idea, a lightweight, reduced-distance golf ball. Jack Nicklaus' MacGregor Golf Company poured \$100,000 in research and development into a ball that goes half the distance of its traditional counterpart.

The reason for the short ball's celebrity status is Grand Cayman, an island country with limited space for anything, let alone a golf course. Nicklaus was commissioned to design a resort golf course on 38 acres of land. Voila! The short ball made perfect sense.

Nicklaus has maintained from the outset that he's not trying to change the traditional game of golf, only to offer an alternative where land may be at a premium. Side benefits of the game could include an alternative for seniors who find regular courses too strenuous, beginners learning the game, municipalities, schools, office parks, and hotel chains with limited space. The short course could also open up night golf, allow courses to sell a few acres for needed funds, and reduce property taxes.

Detractors contend the Golden Bear is just trying to add more lustre to his coat; all hale and hearty sentiments about "for the good of golf" conveniently taking a back seat to healthy design fees.

Regardless, it takes guts to be the "first" at anything. Nicklaus' celebrity status, while catapulting whatever he does into the limelight a little quicker, also catapults his mistakes into public scrutiny just as quickly—the bigger they are, the harder they fall.

Where does the superintendent figure into all this? Supposedly, the short course is not as maintenance-intensive as traditional courses. With the ball being lighter, some claim fewer divots will plague the superintendent. With the course being smaller, less equipment will be needed to care for it, less chemicals to keep it green and weed-free.

Other tradeoffs, if the Cayman claims are true, would be increased hordes trampling the same small piece of land and no cart rental fees.

The golfer will decide if what's right for Cayman is right for the rest of Goldom, or whether the Cayman concept and ball will find the same fate as the Pet Rock.



Maureen Hrehocik

Maureen Hrehocik, managing editor

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