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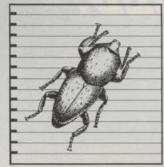
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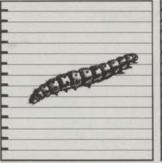
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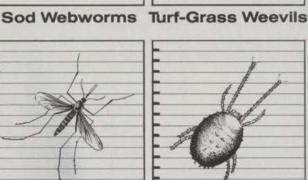


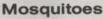


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Army-Worms









Ants



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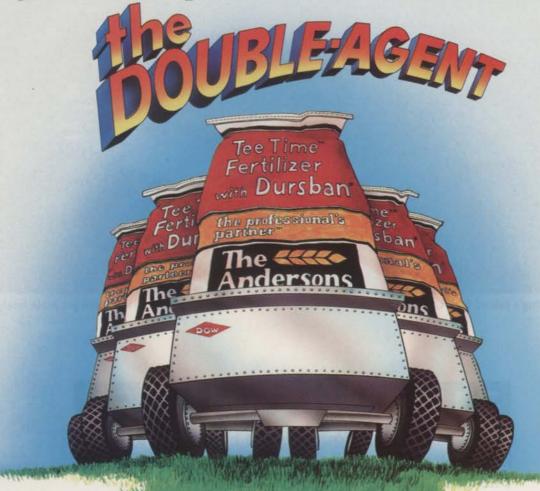
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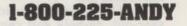
weeding and insect control. And Tee Time Dursban 2.5G. You can even specify your own custom mix Double Agent with Dursban.

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Fairways at King's Island Golf Course have recently been converted from bluegrass to the more playable bentgrass.

FIT FOR A QUEEN

King's Island Golf Course is the home of the Ladies Professional Golf Association championship. The queens of golf treat the superintendent like a king—and vice versa.

t's a superintendent's dream, right? Just situate a golf course between a popular amusement park, the College Football Hall of Fame, and the center-court home of a Grand Prix tennis tournament. Then, as an added touch, arrange to have the LPGA stage its championship there each year.

Initially, practically everybody associated with the King's Island Amusement Park and the Jack Nicklaus Sports Center near Cincinnati, Ohio, thought it was time to sit back and watch the tee-off line wind down to the Ohio River. Superintendent John Hamilton admits it seemed logical to him, too.

On the contrary, however: the 14year-old, 36-hole golf center has thrived in spite of the surrounding attractions, not because of them.

"We foresaw the scenario as dad

drops off mom and the kids at the amusement park and heads to the course for 18 holes," says Hamilton, whose 40-person staff maintains the grounds for all of the complex's facilities. "But we've observed the situation, and that's just not the case. We have our clientele and they have theirs."

In 1972, Kings Island owner Taft Broadcasting decided that a golf course would make a nice addition to the complex. Jack Nicklaus was just becoming intrigued by golf course design and management, and he teamed with community planner and golf course architect Desmond Muirhead in the design of two courses: the 18hole Grizzley, a challenging tournament course; and the 18-hole Bruin, a shorter, recreational course.

Muirhead's influence manifests itself in long, multi-curved fairways with large trees retained as natural hazards. Nicklaus' now-famous design style—sloping bunkers and rolling terrain—was already evident. Originally, the tees and greens were bentgrass, and the fairways were bluegrass. The fairways have now been converted to a more manageable, better-playing bentgrass.

The women come 'home'

In 1978, the Sports Center became home to the LPGA championship. Winners since then have included Nancy Lopez (1978 and 1985), Patty Sheehan (1983 and 1984), and Pat Bradley (1966). From the very beginning, the relationship between the LPGA and Hamilton has been based on mutual admiration.

"I think they're wonderful people," Hamilton says. "The organization and



















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The 7,500-seat stadium where the ATP championship has been played every year since 1979.

the golfers have been great to work with. We bend over backwards to accommodate them, but we do it because we want to."

And the LPGA has noticed. "They look forward to coming here," Hamilton says. "They've made comments to me that this is one of the best maintained courses and best organized tournaments on the tour."

A photo in Hamilton's office of an LPGA golfer giving him a peck on the cheek serves to underscore his description of the working relationship. The good feelings help to soothe Hamilton when he realizes how much money the course loses every year at tournament time. "We close the course for six days before the tournament," he says. "At \$15,000 a day, we really don't recoup our losses through the publicity the tournament generates. It really is a privilege to have the championship here, but it's not a free privilege."

Enter the netters

In 1979, a 7,500-seat tennis stadium was added to the Sports Center for the Association of Tennis Professionals Championship. The winners list since



Circle No. 163 on Reader Inquiry Card

then includes John McEnroe and Mats Wilander, and attendance has been outstanding. But it's been far from a boon to the golf course.

"You could fire a cannon down the middle of a fairway during the tournament," Hamilton said. "Parking is tough, for one thing, but the biggest problem is the perception that the golf course is closed. We have to buck up our advertising to get some people on the course."

But Hamilton, his staff, and the rest of the management of the Sports Center have managed to get plenty of people on the course throughout its history. He cites two reasons: courses that can be everything to everyone; and the green, green grass that warms a golfers heart.

The flexibility of the golf center begins with the two contrasting courses. The Grizzley challenges even the pros, and the Bruin offers an easier alternative for families, novices or people with little time to spare. In addition, an extraordinary selection of tee and pin placements allows the courses to take on vastly different looks.

Flexibility is a necessity, Hamilton says, because 25 percent of the golf center's business is corporate outings, which bring along golfers of vastly diverse talents. "Grizzley has to be tough for the tournament and a little easier for outings," he explains.

Dumping the water

Hamilton attributes the quality of his turf to an extensive irrigation program and a tank-mix of two fungicides, a systemic and a contact. During the season, Hamilton has 750,000 gallons of water pumped onto the course each night, seven nights a week.

"I see it as preventive medicine," he says. "Keeping the microclimate (the six to 12 inches just above the turf) reasonably cool during the hot season can prevent a lot of grief with disease."

Hamilton's other preventive medicine is a tank mix of Bayleton and Daconil turf fungicides. Bayleton is a systemic fungicide and Daconil is a contact turf fungicide, which, combined, prevent "just about everything," he says. "Particularly dollar spot in this hot, humid environment."

The chemicals are applied every four weeks, but Hamilton suspects they would last longer. "I'm not going to take the chance on the courses, but I'd love to do a test plot on it," he says.

So what Hamilton doesn't see means the golfers are happy with what they do see—green, green grass. Happy enough, in fact, to play more than 40,000 rounds per year.

In spite of all the surrounding distractions. **WT&T**

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80 AND GOING STRONG

The Illini Country Club may be 80 years old, but this 'Mike Royko' keeps the spirit of the course going strong.



Vogt will tell you he came into a job where pride of workmanship has been a longstanding tradition. In the Illini Club's 80 years, he is only the sixth superintendent.

Worker lov-

alty is also a plus. Vogt has good

things to say about the 16 workers who maintain the course.

In launching his program of renewal, Vogt supervised the planting of 626 trees in tasteful vists over the 110-acre golf course. He has relied heavily on willow, ash, honey locust, white pine and oak. Mike has his favorite method of fertilizing, too.

Charcoal fertilizer?

"I like Woodace Briquettes. We will just drop three Briquettes into a hole by a newly-planted tree, and cover them up," Mike says. "We have made some comparisons between fertilized trees and non-fertilized. You can see the results by the end of the first season. Fertilized trees will be bigger, have greener leaves, and will just be further ahead.

The future looks good for Illini Country Club, too, Vogt says. "When this place got started in 1906, it really was a "country" club. It was converted farmland well out from the city of Springfield. Now it is surrounded by homes and shopping centers.

"Still our membership stands at 465 golfers, and there is a year and a half waiting list," Vogt notes. This is in a city of just over 100,000 residents and which has eight golf courses. "The first step to qualify for the U.S. Open starts here. Illini has hosted the qualifying round for the last 25 years." Vogt points out.

For those players, a nicer 110 acres will be hard to find. WT&T

he grounds of the Illini Country Club in Springfield, Ill., possess that extra "something" that tells you someone is working awfully hard.

Even though the Illini Country Club is observing its 80th birthday

this year, much of its attraction comes from newer changes blending with its dignified charm.

tree fertilizer.

This current renewal, in no small measure, results from the interests, the guidance, and the imagination of talented superintendent Mike Vogt. He has been the Illini superintendent for five years-long enough to have left an imprint on the landscape's appearance.

Say cheese

Someone has written, "Fortunate is the man who can make his hobby his work.'

Vogt has been able to do that. Yet, there is more to it than making a hobby his work

He is a skilled writer and photographer who has applied these skills to golf course management. The result has been national recognition in the Golf Course Superintendents' Association of America.

Last February "The Ballmark," official publication of the Central Illinois Golf Course Superintendents' Association, won first place in the GCSAA's national competition. Vogt edits it. "The Ballmark" has more the look of a magazine than a conventional newsletter. It measures 81/2 inches by 51/2 inches in size and features a full color cover.

An average issue runs 34 to 36 pages, including advertising pages. Typographically, it is the equal of any first-line publication.



Superintendent Mike Vogt shows off his award for best newsletter.

Editorials represent an avantgarde development in the newsletter field-a Vogt innovation.

"I'm sort of the Mike Rovko of the superintendents' association." Mike says. "I'll take on controversial topics just to get some conversation started.'

Vogt says editing the newsletter has made him a better superintendent. "In order to get good material for the newsletter, I have to read a lot. That is a learning experience, and a lot of what I learn I can put to immediate use at the Illini Country Club."

100 WEEDS TREES & TURF/MARCH 1987