

Tony Kalina, First Assistant Superintendent, appraises the 12th Hole seven days after seeding at McChesney Golf Club, West Chicago, Illinois.

# PennLinks Greens, Tees and Fairways Add Excitement to Excellence at McChesney Golf Club in Chicagoland

"This twenty-one hole public course is destined to be a Chicagoland showpiece when it opens in August, 1993. Nothing about this Robert Trent Jones, Jr. designed course is halfway" says Tony Kalina, Assistant Superintendent at McChesney



Left to Right: Assistant Matt Springer, Scott Nissley, CGCS, and First Assistant Tony Kalina

Golf Club in West Chicago. "The clubhouse focuses around a 2½ story brick structure moved three miles to the center of the 240 acre site."

Selecting the right creeping bentgrass for greens, fairways and tees was not left to chance, either. Superintendent Scott Nissley says, "I specified PennLinks because of its predictable germination and outstanding heat and moisture stress tolerance. I've found PennLinks to be more aggressive in cool soil temperatures than other bent varieties, and the best Poa annua competitor."

Tony Kalina, responsible for seeding and establishment, finds PennLinks germinates rapidly and establishes uniformly, with seedling emergence as early as four days. Tony says, "We were mowing our fairways with lightweight mowers twenty days after seeding. After 50 days we're maintaining putting greens height at 0.2 inch."

Superintendent Scott Nissley sums it up: "The ball rolls truely on our greens and our fairway lies are excellent. I think Chicagoland golfers will enjoy this course as much as any course they play, and one reason will be PennLinks."

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During the 1980 Republican National Convention, a noted broadcast commentator made a startling observation:

"The line between politics and show biz is so thin that it's sometimes hard to find," said David Brinkley, then of NBC-TV.

As November 3rd fast approaches, the campaigns don't seem to have changed much over the past 12 years.

The typical landscaper or golf course superintendent should feel right at home. After all, for the past decade or so, we've watched the likes of Jay Feldman and Meryl Streep, with their unfounded attacks on agricultural pesticides, develop media manipulation into an exact science.

Hopefully, we've learned that, as responsible voters, we cannot afford to make judgments about the candidates based strictly on the information we glean from the all-powerful television box.

There are more accurate measures of the presidential candidates, like national newsmagazines and newspapers. With the exception of Sunday morning's excellent news commentaries, television seems to place more entertainment value than news value on its shows, emphasizing "sound bites" over the heart of the issues.

Thank goodness for the print media, which can dedicate more time and space to the actual issues. They can take a twominute broadcast story, amplify and clarify it, and write a story that takes a reader 7 to 8 minutes (newspapers) or even 15 to 20 minutes (magazines) to digest.

With all that in mind, we're going to put the green-oriented issues in black and white, right here, for the record. Thanks to DowElanco's publication "The Bottom Line," here is how the two presidential candidates shape up:

#### George Bush:

"I am an environmentalist; always have been.

"If we can probe the depths of space and engineer the genetic building blocks of life, we can surely protect the quality of our environment."

• Proposed a redefinition of "wetlands" that would allow protected areas to decrease from 100 million acres to 60 to 80 million acres.

• Supports expansion of biotechnology into agriculture, which could lead to the development of pest-resistant crops.

• Opposes legislation that would close the "circle of poison," whereby chemicals banned in the U.S. are used in other countries and then shipped here after being used on foods such as coffee or bananas.

#### **Bill Clinton:**

"As president, I will work to ensure that we have strict regulation of pesticides so that our food supply is as safe as possible for our families.

"The wetlands policy of a Clinton Administration will be based on science, not politics."

• As governor, implemented an environmental reform program in Arkansas that gives the state attorney general authority to enforce environmental law and prosecute violators.

• Supports an international climatechange treaty that would require the U.S. to stabilize carbon dioxide levels.

• Supports a national wetlands restoration and protection program.

The "bottom line," as DowElanco would say, is this:

Before heading to the polling place next month, be sure to form good objective opinions. Read a lot. Talk to friends. And yes—if you must—watch TV, too.

Remember, though: voters (not presidents and senators and congressmen) are ultimately responsible for our country's well-being. It's thus more patriotic to completely avoid voting than to vote as a misinformed or uninformed citizen.

Kerry Roche.





# It takes precision to master these Pete Dye designs

Recognized in 1988 as *Golf Digest's* best new public golf course, Blackwolf Run in Kohler, Wisconsin, has made quite a name for itself in a short period of time. Now 36 holes, these two demanding Pete Dye designs play host to nearly 50,000 rounds of golf a year.

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excellent and the striping they leave on our large greens looks great.

"Our operators definitely prefer the John Deere 22s over the other mowers we have. In fact, the other mowers normally go to the employees who are last in line because everyone picks the John Deere's first."

For the name of your nearest distributor or free literature on all John Deere Golf and Turf Equipment, call 1-800-544-2122 toll-free or write John Deere, Dept. 956, Moline, IL 61265. Like Marc Davison, we're sure you're going to like what you see.





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Proper spill clean-up

#### 40 Proper spill clean-up protects the pro applicator

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#### **Declining privet hedges**

Problem: We are finding some old privet hedges that are in various stages of decline producing a lot of surface roots, making them weak and easy to pull out. Could this be due to annual shearing of hedges? (*Pennsylvania*)

**Solution:** I do not believe that annual pruning is the cause of your problem. In general, hedge plants such as privet are very tolerant of shearing. However, if you remove too much top growth, particularly into the "dead zone" of the hedge, this might put a stress on the plant. Due to the lack of an active growing region and a less photosynthetic surface, plants may gradually decline.

"Dead zone" is commonly used to indicate the interior, nonfoliated portion of the plant. It is about 2/3 of the plant height from the ground. It is not a good horticultural practice to prune the "dead zone."

Also consider the possibility of exposure to extremes in moisture and/or temperature during the past several years—particularly the droughts of 1988 and 1992—contributing to the overall decline.

As far as surface rooting and weak root anchoring, the problem most likely is related to poor site conditions. The site may be poorly drained, the soil may be too heavy, or both. Installing a drainage system is the best solution for managing poor drainage. If the soil is heavy clay, consider amending to improve soil structure. If the soil is compacted, aerifying will help promote deeper rooting.

Also consider applying mulch to protect the roots from winter freeze and a thawing problem. This mulch can also help as an insulating layer to protect the root system from heaving.

Providing subsurface fertilization and watering as needed will improve deeper rooting.

#### PGRs for home lawns

Problem: We are thinking of using Cutless plant growth regulator (sprayable formulation) on home lawns. How will this product work? What should we do when dealing with newly-seeded lawns? (*Michigan*)

**Solution:** The sprayable formulation of Cutless is labelled for home lawn turfgrass. This plant growth regulator can be used on warm- and cool-season turfgrass.

To obtain better results, reports suggest mowing the turfgrass first and then applying. As a general guideline, the first application should be made in the spring after two mowings. Water the treated areas within 24 to 36 hours to enhance product efficacy.

According to a DowElanco representative, the treatment response will last for three to three-and-a-half months. The company is researching the feasibility of getting season-long control. Like other plant growth regulators, one of the problems with Cutless has variable turfgrass growth inhibition response when you are using it on turfgrass containing mixtures of different species or cultivars. Therefore, expect to find some turfgrass taller than others in treated areas.

Cutless interrupts the function of gibberellic acid, thus reducing internode and leaf elongation without causing injury to plant roots.

If you've never tried the product, it might be a good idea to make applications on a smaller scale to learn more about how it would work in your operation.

Read and follow label specifications for better results.

#### Wild violets on the loose

Problem: Is there an effective remedy for wild violet infestation? (Illinois)

**Solution:** Violets are considered to be very difficult-to-manage weeds. Richard Rathjens, Davey Tree's senior staff agronomist, mentions that application of herbicides such as Turflon 2 Amine or Confront containing triclopyr would help selectively manage the violets.

Both Confront and Turflon 2 Amine can be applied at any time during the season, as long as weeds are actively growing.

Consider two applications of the preferred herbicide, applying the second application one month after the first.

#### **Raining on fungicides**

Problem: If it rains after an application of fungicides, will the treatment still be effective? (*Pennsylvania*)

**Solution:** I am not familiar with any research in this regard. As a general rule, if the treatment material can dry on the foliage prior to rain, the treatment response will not be altered. Many of the fungicides on the market do contain some spreader-sticker type of materials which should help the material adhere to the foliage.

Our experience with fungicide treatments suggests that a couple of hours of drying time before the onset of rain usually helps maintain product efficacy. The efficacy of different fungicides may vary from product to product. Also remember that disease management may require repeat application of treatments at 10- to 14-day intervals to deal with new infections.

If light rain occurs before the treatment has a chance to dry, it may not be necessary to re-treat before the scheduled application. Reapply only if rain washes off the treatment.

Dr. Balakrishna Rao is Manager of Research and Technical Development for the Davey Tree Co., Kent, Ohio.

Mail questions to "Ask the Expert," LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT, 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44130. Please allow two to three months for an answer to appear in the magazine.