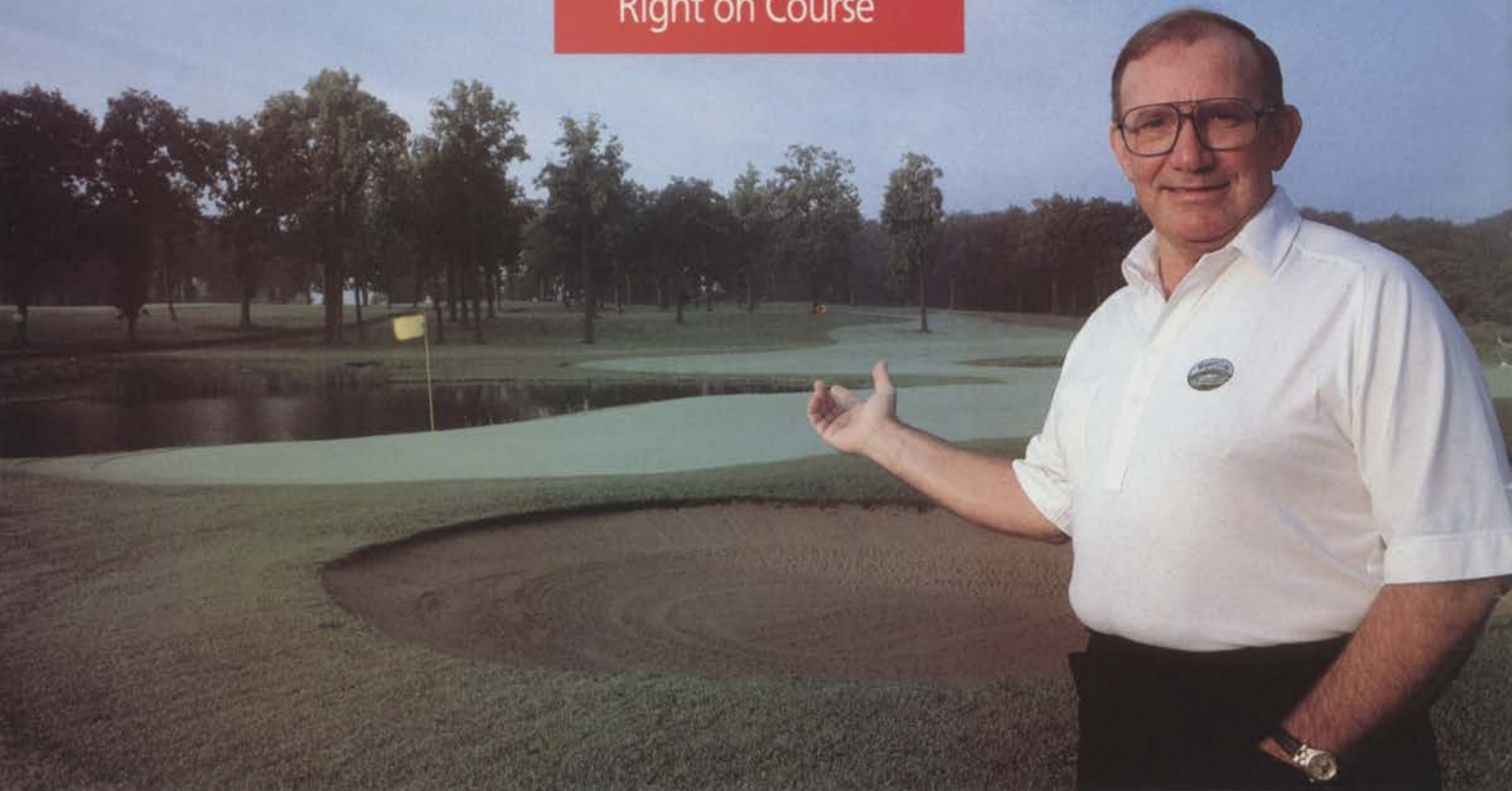


The Penn Pals:
Right on Course



Oscar Miles, CGCS, overlooks the 6th hole at the Merit Club, Libertyville, Illinois.

PennLinks Greens. Penneagle Fairways. Penncross Tees. The 'Penn Pals' Are Picture Perfect At The Merit Club.

Superintendent Oscar Miles, with Club President Ed Oldfield's affirmation, specified all the grassing of this Robert M. Lohmann designed club. With a clean canvas and open palette, Oscar began with PennLinks greens, Penneagle fairways and Penncross tees, framing them with bluegrass/fine fescue/wildflower and prairiegrass roughs. You couldn't paint a more attractive picture.

Oscar chose PennLinks greens for its rapid establishment, marvelous root system, a crown and stolons that take topdressing, upright, grainless qualities and good, consistent color ... the best putting surface available.

He selected Penncross for tees because they recover from divot scars more quickly.

And the Penneagle fairways? Oscar chose Penneagle for its upright growth, reduced thatch development, low nitrogen requirement and good drought and dollar spot resistance. He seeded at 80 lbs. per acre for immediate turf development and

erosion control. The fairways were playable in 8 weeks. Oscar's crew usually mows fairways in the evening and leaves the clippings; recycling nutrients while reducing removal and fertilizer costs.

Oscar articulates it best: "The unique coloring of the 'Penn Pals' contrasts beautifully with the grassing around them, defining the target areas. And with the dew on the bents early in the morning, they're a marvelous work of art."

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International Turfgrass Society, Crop & Soil Environmental Sciences, VPI-SU, Blacksburg, VA 24061-0403; (703) 231-9796.

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AS WE SEE IT

RON HALL, SENIOR EDITOR



Is the struggle for 2,4-D finally nearing a climax?

Now, almost 12 years after the initial data call-in for the popular herbicide 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D), a frightening prospect looms for all of us.

That prospect is that we'll lose, one by one, chemical compounds that contribute to the well-being and happiness of just about everyone in the United States.

We'll lose these compounds not because anybody can conclusively prove that their proper use poses any real health risk to any of us. But because of the astronomical expense of proving—over and over again—that they don't pose *any* risk.

We'll lose them for a very wrong reason: money.

That's why the battle over 2,4-D has been so protracted. Industry has been willing to put up the money to prove that the compound deserves to remain on the market. Otherwise, 2,4-D would have been long gone. You can bet on that.

Sales of 2,4-D are substantial, so substantial that manufacturers and suppliers feel they can afford to defend it. The compound, available since 1948, is the most widely used herbicide in the world.

The Industry Task Force on 2,4-D Research Data, now known as Task Force I, spent \$4 million to develop data required by the U.S. EPA's 1981 data call-in on the acid form of the compound. Originally there were 13 manufacturers or formulators in that group.

In 1988 when the EPA issued a data call-in on the acid, ester and amine salt forms, Task Force II—now only six members strong—figured to shell out an additional \$10 million.

Today, the remaining four members on the 2,4-D Task Force expect to spend \$21 to \$22 million (over the \$4 million spent by Task Force One) defending the herbicide and meeting EPA's study requirements. Even, so the herbicide's survival is hardly assured.

Obviously, other compounds with

much smaller uses will never survive the reregistration process, with or without challenges to their safe use.

The next step in the 2,4-D saga: the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says it will convene a review panel in 1993 to consider several National Cancer Institute (NCI) farm worker studies that suggest a link between herbicide use and a rare form of cancer, non-Hodgkins lymphoma. The results of these epidemiological studies have come under increasing skepticism as newer studies raise serious questions about the validity and reliability of the methodology used in the NCI work.

Indeed, 2,4-D is being scrutinized from every possible angle.

There have been over 800 major 2,4-D studies published the past four years, and the number of epidemiological studies pertinent to 2,4-D now exceeds 90.

Obviously, the EPA review panel, to get a complete health risk picture of 2,4-D, must review all pertinent data and not just the suspect NCI studies.

Meanwhile, 2,4-D's defenders, in yet another compromise with the EPA, recently agreed to fund a \$1 million 2,4-D user education effort.

The EPA, like the proverbial butcher with his thumb on the scale, has tipped the balance away from the benefits side of the risk/benefit equation.

That's scary enough, but the enormously expensive, repetitive and unnecessary research studies required for reregistration will likely spell the doom of many less-used chemical products.

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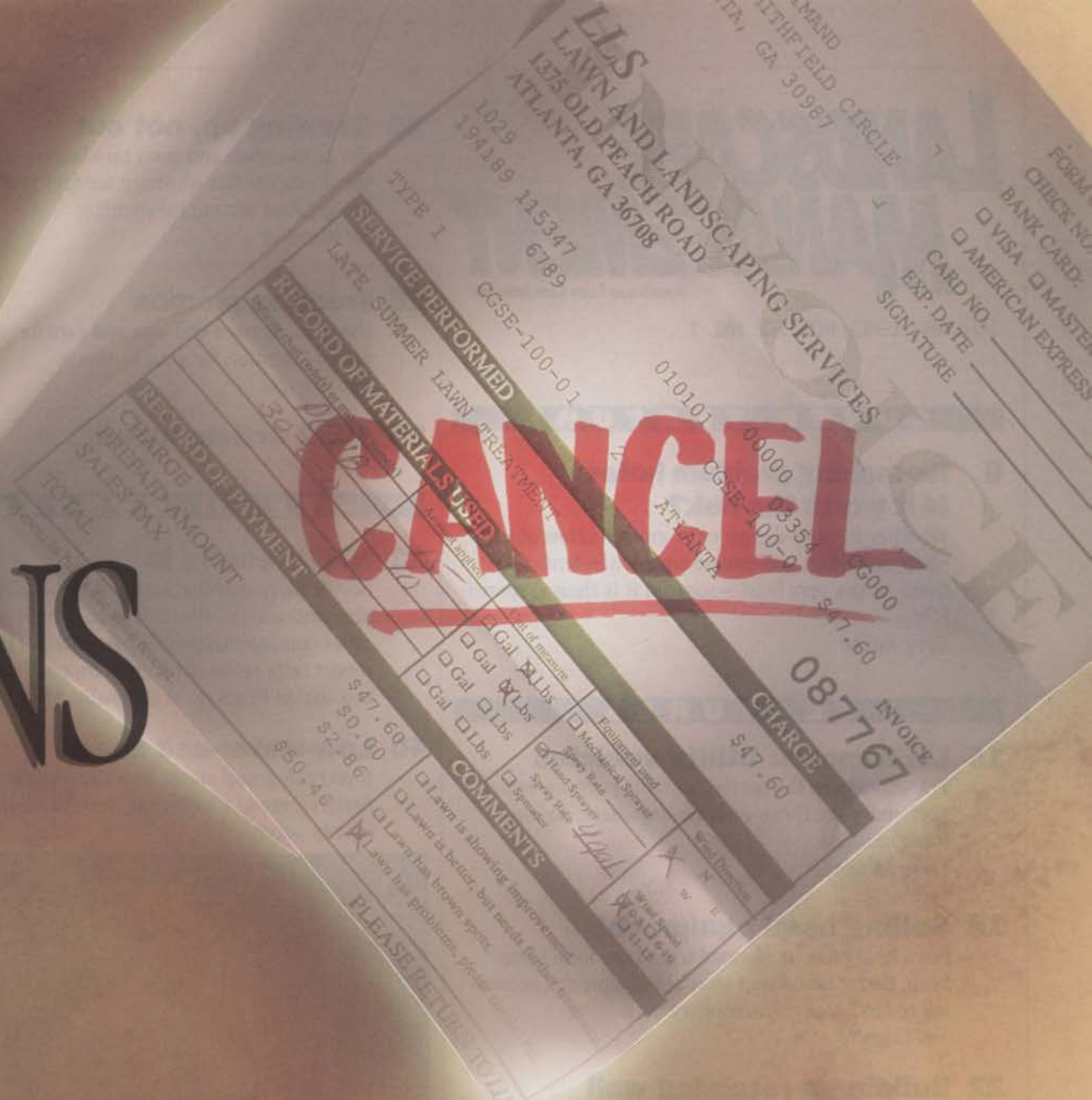
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INCORPORATING LAWN CARE INDUSTRY

JANUARY 1993 VOL. 32, NO. 1

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On the cover: Oregon fine fescue bunkers and Pennncross greens adorn The Wolf Run Golf Club, Zionsville, Ind.; Joe Kosoglov, superintendent. (Photo by Larry Kassell)

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ADVANSTAR Communications, Inc.,
7500 Old Oak Blvd. Cleveland, OH 44130
(216) 243-8100 or (216) 891-2718
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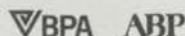
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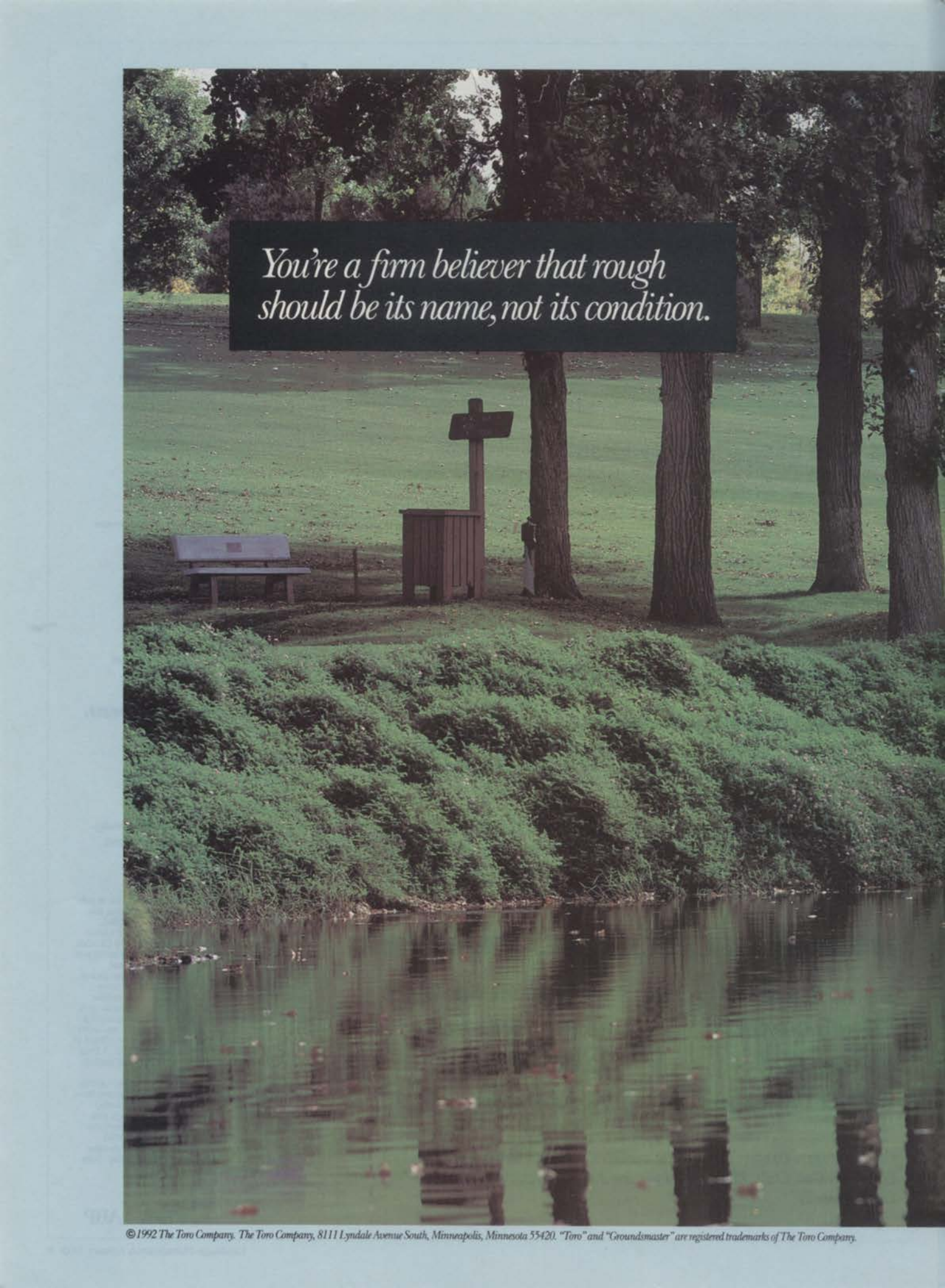
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A photograph of a park scene. In the foreground, a calm pond reflects the surrounding greenery. A dense line of bushes runs along the edge of the water. In the middle ground, a wooden bench sits on a grassy area. To the right of the bench is a wooden signpost with a cross-shaped top. Several large, mature trees stand in the background, their trunks and leaves creating a dappled light effect on the grass. A dark, semi-transparent rectangular box is overlaid on the upper part of the image, containing white text.

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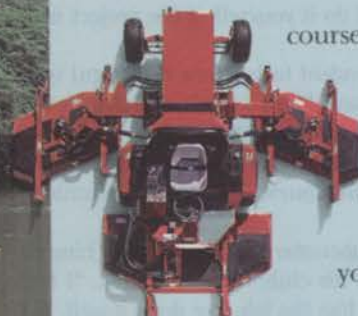
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INCORPORATING LAWN CARE INDUSTRY

Re-making problem holes: Is it worth the risk?

Whether it's a re-design or re-construction or just plain tinkering, superintendents feel that—at the very least—some of it is their responsibility.

■ You—the golf course superintendent—have a problem hole. It may be a bunker that won't hold sand, or one that holds too much water. It may be a tee that is often pummelled with balls from an adjacent green. It may be a green that is infested with weedy grasses.

Whatever the problem, you have to make a decision: try to change the hole by yourself, with existing staff; hire additional staff; or hire specialists like a golf course architect and/or landscape construction company.

The temptation is to try and do it yourself, if the project isn't an overly large one.

"Every golf course superintendent feels (some re-design) is in his realm of responsibility," says Mark Jarrell of Palm Beach National Golf & Country Club in Lake Worth, Fla.

Architects sometimes disagree with that concept. Like Dr. Mike Hurdzan of Hurdzan Golf Course Design in Columbus, Ohio.

Taking a risk—"Does the superintendent want to put himself in the middle of the politics of his club?" Hurdzan asks. "I feel that if 51 percent of the people like the job, I've done it well. If I were a superintendent, I would not want to take that risk.

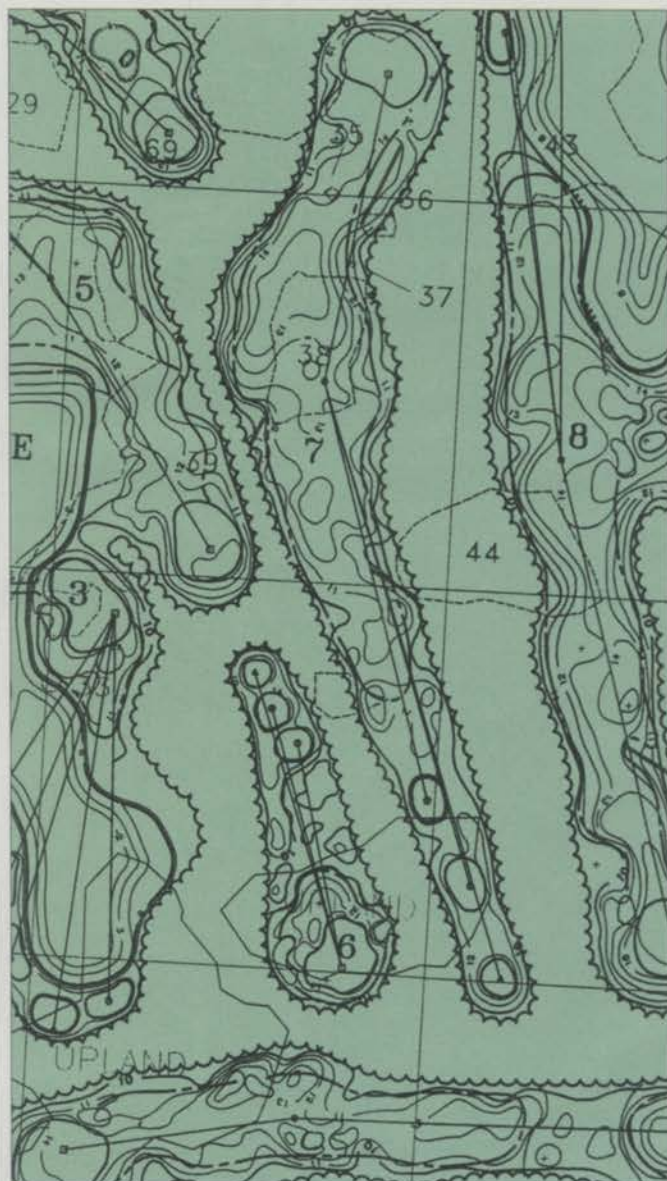
"Rarely have I seen a superintendent who can maintain his course to golfers' expectations while doing significant golf course re-construction." (The key word in that statement: "*significant*."

Tim Nugent, vice president of Dick Nugent Associates in Long Grove, Ill., believes the answers to problem holes must be solved in the best, cheapest, least disruptive manner.

"Usually, the superintendent is up to his eyeballs trying to maintain the course," Nugent says. "What it boils down to is this: Is it something you think you can deal with? And you have to remember that golf course architects deal with these kinds of problems every day."

Answer these—When addressing design concerns, Hurdzan believes the following questions must be answered first:

1) Is it worth the risk? What if problems arise that prevent



The seventh hole and surrounding environs at Naples National Golf Club, Naples, Fla. Drawing by Mark Hardy, Hurdzan Golf Course Design.

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