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MAIN EVENTS

16 VALHALLA GOLF CLUB: MANAGING BENTGRASS IN THE OHIO VALLEY

When the Gahm family of Louisville, KY, wanted to build a "world class" golf course in the Ohio Valley, they commissioned Jack Nicklaus to design it and selected bentgrass for the greens, tees and fairways. The summer heat and humidity of the area was challenge enough for Superintendent Jon Scott to keep the bentgrass healthy, but two droughts in a row made it even more difficult. Fortunately, Scott's previous experience in the transition zone and the Deep South, in addition to his familiarity with Nicklaus courses, helped him escape near disaster as water ran short and a late July storm sent humidity through the roof. Scott and his crew worked 70 hour weeks for months to preserve the integrity of the course through precise fertilization, disease control and even hand watering where necessary.

28 OVERSEEDING WITHOUT WASTE

Even though nature was kind to seed producers in the Pacific Northwest this year, drought in other parts of the country and the growing popularity of perennial ryegrass for overseeding may cause shortages of some varieties this fall and next spring. Overseeding methods need to be evaluated to cut down on waste and increase germination. Not only does this impact seeding methods, it also requires greater uniformity and efficiency in irrigation systems, use of preventative fungicides, and careful maintenance after seeding.

35 MICROFERTIGATION: GREENER, HEALTHIER TURF A DROP AT A TIME

Grounds managers can control the growth rate of turf if they control the amount of nitrogen applied. Professor Tom Lubin shows that very small amounts of nitrogen can be applied to turf through irrigation systems by a process called microfertilization. This method prevents wide nitrogen swings which are caused by occasional, large granular applications. Light, consistent nitrogen feeding can also help soils that are not buffered and make phosphorous and micronutrients more available. Lubin suggests that microfertilization may conserve water, reduce salt buildup and lower the threat of nutrients contaminating ground water supplies.

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COVER: The 18th hole at Valhalla Golf Club in Eastwood, KY.