



The Green Sheet

Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association

Volume 32 Issue 2

Founded ~ April 11, 1939

May 2025

May Meeting

Conestoga Country Club

1950 Stone Mill Road
Lancaster, PA 17601
www.conestogacc.com

Host:
Matt Turner

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Registration begins - 10:15 AM
Golf/Boxed Lunch - 11:00AM Shotgun
Appetizers - following golf

Superintendent Profile:

Matthew Turner has been a superintendent at Conestoga Country Club for 20 years. Prior to Conestoga, he was a superintendent at Devils Knob Golf Course at Wintergreen Resort for 6 years. Matt has been in the golf industry for 35 years.

Matt graduated from Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) in 1996 with a bachelor's degree in Business Management. He also graduated from Rutgers in 1999 with a two year certificate in Turfgrass Management.

He has been married for 28 years to Michele, and they have 3 children: Gabriela (24) and the twins Matthew (19) and Makenzie (19). All three children are attending college right now, two at Millersville and one at Shippensburg.

Course Profile:

Conestoga Country Club was built in 1948 by the membership. This club was formed by a group of members who played at Overlook Golf Course. After purchasing the land from the proceeds of a bowling alley, this group hired William Gordon as the architect for this course. He guided the membership on how to build the golf course with their own time and equipment. They formed a private club, whose original name was Overlook Country Club. But after six months, they changed it to Conestoga Country Club, named after a creek running one mile through the property. Little Conestoga Creek winds through both front 9 and back 9, coming into play on 6 holes.

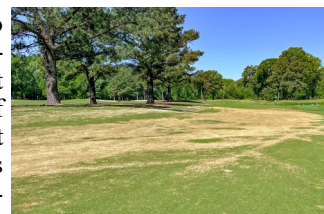
~USGA Northeast Regional Update~

Dealing With Winter Injury

May 16, 2025

Brian Gietka, agronomist, East Region

As temperatures increased from south to north through the mid-Atlantic states, bermudagrass greenup showed the scars of this past winter's weather. Not all warm-season turf tolerated the unusually "normal" winter that had extended durations of cold temperatures and snow cover lasting weeks. In recent winters, snow cover has lasted days or hours. Throughout my travels, most winter injury coincided with areas of shade, wet swales and north-facing slopes where snow cover lasted longer. When snow melts during warm temperatures, the crowns become active, take in excess water and then are susceptible to freezing and crown hydration injury. The most-injured turf was in concentrated traffic areas. Restricting cart traffic and redistributing golfer foot traffic makes a significant difference in winter survival, but not all winter injury can be prevented regardless of the management strategy – you can only reduce the risk.



The Northeast endured a long, cold winter and not all warm-season turf has greened up or will green up.

Unsurprisingly, spring dead spot disease broke through preventative fungicide applications. More interestingly, several golf courses in Virginia confirmed both spring dead spot and take-all root rot pathogens in fairway samples. While take-all root rot is less common, if your course has large areas of injured bermudagrass that seem excessive for spring dead spot, have a sample sent to a [university-based plant diagnostic lab](#) for [accurate diagnosis](#). For enhanced disease control, extend fungicide applications to fully cover the potential infection periods and incorporate wetting agents to help move the active ingredients to the crown and rootzone. Most (not all) fungicides for spring dead spot control require watering-in, so be diligent with ample irrigation immediately after application before the product has time to dry on the leaf blades. After fungicides dry, trying to move the active ingredients to the potential infection areas with irrigation will yield poor results.

The beauty of bermudagrass is that each week in the spring when daylight and temperatures increase brings surprising amounts of recovery. Areas that look to require regrassing through sprigging can quickly change to needing just a few pallets of sod or even just some plugs. Exercising patience is not easy, but many areas will recover with time, nitrogen and water. Growing temperatures have not been consistent, so pump the brakes on any major regrassing plans to allow for growth and truly evaluate the need closer to the end of May, which is a better time for regrassing anyway. Reach out to your [regional USGA agronomist](#) to evaluate any suspected winter injury or disease at your course and discuss recovery options.

Northeast Region Agronomists:

Darin Bevard, senior director, Championship Agronomy –
dbevard@usga.org

Elliott L. Dowling, regional director, East Region – edowling@usga.org
Brian Gietka, agronomist – bgietka@usga.org

Presidents Message

CPGCSA Members-

I hope everyone is off to a great start to 2025. We have had some good rain this past month, and the rough is starting to blow out of ground. The golf boom seems to be continuing, as recent play continues to be higher than pre - Covid.

I hope many of you will come out to the meeting at Conestoga Country Club this month, Matt always has the course in great shape, and it should be great day. Conestoga will look much different than it did in 2019 when we were last there, as a couple of hundred trees have been removed. I always was bloody, literally, after playing there and crawling under those trees to find my Top Flite. I always said they needed Band- Aid dispensers at the base of those miserable trees. If you haven't been to a golf meeting in recent years, try to make it out to one this year. It is always good to see others from the industry and catch up with people you haven't seen recently, and it is a very informal and fun day.

We are at Conestoga in May, Country Club of Harrisburg in June, and at Regents Glen Country Club in October, so hopefully we will see you at meeting this year.

Hope to see you at a meeting this year,

Chris Martin
Crossgates Golf Club

Golf Industry Unites in Washington, D.C. for 2025 National Golf Day

by Katrin Wolfe | May 05, 2025

The American Golf Industry Coalition brought together leaders from across the sport April 30–May 2 in Washington, D.C., for the 2025 National Golf Day. The annual event showcases golf's wide-reaching economic, charitable and environmental impact, while giving industry advocates the chance to engage directly with lawmakers.

Now in its latest edition, National Golf Day highlights golf's \$101.7 billion economic contribution, its support of nearly 2 million jobs and an impressive \$6 billion in annual charitable giving. Participants from across the industry, including members of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), met with Members of Congress, federal agencies and Executive Branch officials to share the positive story of the game.

May 1 marked the official day on Capitol Hill. I had the privilege of joining a delegation from Pennsylvania for four meetings with senators and representatives from our state. A standout moment came when a Congressman agreed to join the Congressional Golf Caucus — a strong step forward for our efforts.

The event concluded with a morning of community service on May 2 at Old Soldiers' Home Golf Course and the East Potomac Golf Course. I spent the morning at Old Soldiers', working alongside peers on flower beds and mulch projects. The most inspiring moment came when several veterans who help maintain the facility were named honorary GCSAA members — a fitting tribute to their dedication.

Katrin is the Mid-Atlantic GCSAA Regional Representative covering Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia.



President
Chris Martin
Crossgates Golf Club
717-872-7415
ckmartin@crossgatesgolf.com

Vice President
George Manos
Overlook Golf Course
717-393-3886
gmanos86@comcast.net

Secretary/Treasurer
Corey Barnes
Chambersburg Country Club
717-263-8296
cbarnes@chambersburgcountryclub.org

Past President
Pete Ramsey
Range End Golf Club
717-577-5401
pete@rangeendgolfclub.com

Directors
Jamie Dennison
Carroll Valley Golf Resort
717-642-8282
James.c.dennison@vailresorts.com

Bob Gomboc
Sunset Golf Course
717-512-0796
bobbyg920@icloud.com

Jeff Green
Carlisle Barracks Golf Course
717-243-3262
jeffreygreen2011@yahoo.com

Kevin Mark
Carlisle Country Club
717-243-7569
kem5031@gmail.com

Kyle Woodfield
Foxchase Golf Club
814-897-5894
kyle@foxchasegolf.com

Affiliates
Don Dodson
ddodson392@aol.com

Andrew Harrison
andrewpoconoturf@gmail.com

John Erickson
John.Erickson@Brandt.Co

Executive Director/Newsletter Editor
Wanda S. Fry
717- 279-0368
cpgcsa@hotmail.com

PAST PRESIDENTS
George Morris
Ed Tabor
Riley E. Heckert
Richard T. Funk
Harry L. Latshaw
Daniel L. Snowberger
Charles A. Barley
Richard Wilt
Fred N. Baker
Richard J. Suttles
John J. Boyd
Y. Lewis Payson
C. William Black, CGCS
Dwight H. Brubaker
Byron F. Knoll
Michael Wilt
Charles H. Cadiz, CGCS
Kenneth R. Dietrich, CGCS
Michael C. Hair
Cameron G. Henderson
James N. MacLaren
David P. Portz, CGCS
John P. McCormick
David C. Weitzel, CGCS
Fred Heinlen
Terry L. Wueschinski, CGCS
Greg Borzok
Gregory C. Fantuzzi, CGCS
James W. Jones
William G. Wall
Robert Beyer, CGCS
Jeffrey L. Fry, CGCS
John A. Chassard
David M. Rafferty
Anthony P. Goodley, CGCS
Samuel R. Snyder, CGCS
John Dougherty
H. Jim Loke, CGCS
John L. Gehman
Theodore S. Zabrenski
Thomas C. Ocepke, CGCS
Daniel W. Achenbach
William E. Brooks
William P. Ramsey
Faron J. Stoops
John M. Colo
Daniel Brickley
Matthew W. Strader
Stephen J. Ludwig, CGCS
Barry Bollinger
Rebecca Matis Clark
Alan FitzGerald
Chad Oxenreider
Brian Ahrens
Jeff Green
Kevin Mark

~Fore The Golfer~

Ticks on the Course: Answers to Common Golfer Questions

Volume 63, Issue 08, May 02, 2025

John Petrovsky, manager, USGA Green Section Education

Every golfer misses their target from time to time and finds themselves looking for a ball in the tall grass or woods far from the fairway. In many parts of the U.S., these areas are home to ticks – tiny creatures that can transmit various diseases to humans through their bite.

Golfers often ask superintendents whether anything can be done to control ticks on the golf course and how they can avoid getting bitten. While there are some things courses can do to reduce the risk of contact between ticks and golfers, there is no way to completely eliminate the issue. Golfers can help protect themselves by knowing where ticks are likely to be found on the course and when they're most active, and by taking various preventive measures that either deter ticks from latching on or make them easier to spot.



Where Are Ticks Found on the Golf Course?

Ticks are most often found in tall grass, woods and naturalized areas – the kinds of places where golfers might end up looking for an errant shot. While these locations are the most common habitat, ticks aren't limited to the woods and deep rough. They can also be present in shorter turf near tree lines, next to landscape beds, on benches, and even around the clubhouse. In many cases, ticks are also found on walking trails, outdoor seating areas, or around pools.

It may not be possible to completely avoid ticks on the golf course, but there are things you can do to help protect yourself and reduce the risk of crossing paths with them.
(Penn State Extension)

Essentially, any space with vegetation and/or regular wildlife activity can be a potential habitat. Because of this, it's important to stay aware and take precautions anytime you're outside or on the course – not just when you're off in the woods hunting for a ball.

When Are Ticks Active?

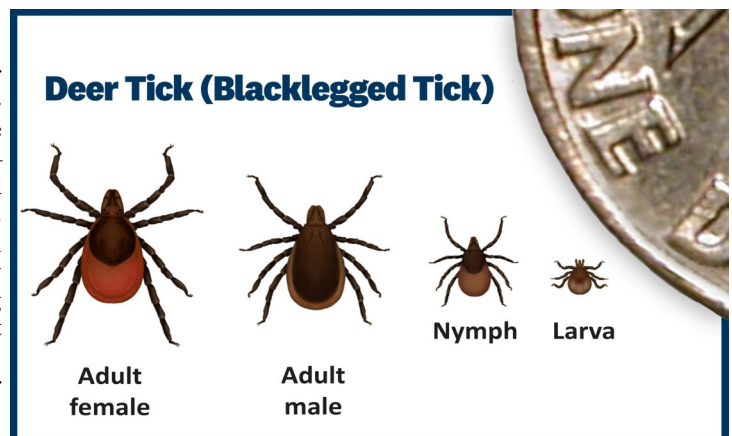
According to the CDC, tick activity is closely tied to temperature, humidity and the tick's life stage. While you might encounter ticks almost any time the weather is mild, there are certain times of year when the risk is higher. In much of the country, late spring through early summer is a time to be extra careful because immature nymph ticks are active, and they are very small and can easily go unnoticed. Adult ticks can be active from early spring through fall, and in warmer regions, some tick species may remain active pretty much all year. Ticks tend to be more active following periods of rain or high humidity, since wet conditions help them survive longer while they wander around or wait to latch onto a passing host. Ticks passively sit on a branch or other vegetation with their front legs extended waiting for a meal to brush past them, they do not "jump" onto you (Arsnoe et al., 2015).

Once daytime temperatures are consistently above 45 F, golfers should assume ticks are active on the course, though some can be active at temperatures around or just below freezing. If it's warm enough to be out playing golf, it's a good bet that ticks are active on your golf course too.

The three life stages of the deer tick (also called the blacklegged tick) compared to a dime. Nymphs are very small and often go unnoticed until after they have been attached to you for a while. (CDC)

How Can Golfers Protect Themselves From Ticks?

There are steps you can take before, during and after your round to reduce the risk of tick bites and disease transmission. Applying EPA-approved tick repellents, such as those containing DEET, can help deter ticks. Treating clothing – especially shoes, socks or pants – with repellents designed for garments or gear will add an extra layer of protection, as many of these products not only repel but can kill ticks on contact. Always follow the label directions when using any insect repellent, whether it's for skin or clothing. Wearing light-colored clothes also makes it easier to spot ticks that may hitch a ride, and while it might look a little strange, tucking your pants into your socks creates a physical barrier to keep them from crawling up your legs.



During play, it's a good idea to minimize the time you spend in tall grass or wooded areas where ticks are commonly found. If

you don't need to enter those areas to find and play a shot, try to avoid them. Minimize the amount of time you spend sitting directly on the ground, especially in shaded or naturalized areas where ticks are more likely to be hiding. While you're on the course, regularly inspect yourself to make sure no ticks are crawling on you, especially around your legs, waistline and arms.

Taking a shower after your round can help wash off ticks that haven't yet attached and gives you an opportunity to check for any that might have latched on. For an extra measure of safety, placing clothing in a dryer on high heat for about 10 minutes is an effective way to kill any ticks that may be present (Nelson et al., 2016). Having a tick removal tool in your golf bag can make it easier to take care of any ticks that may become attached to you during a round. [According to the CDC](#), removing a deer tick within 24 hours of attachment reduces the chances of it transmitting the Lyme disease bacteria to you.

"According to the CDC, removing a deer tick within 24 hours of attachment reduces the chances of it transmitting the Lyme disease bacteria to you."

Can Golf Courses Do Anything to Manage Ticks?

While it's impossible for golf courses to eliminate ticks entirely or treat the whole property with tick repellent, there are some steps they can take to help minimize golfer exposure.

Keeping naturalized areas away from places where shots are likely to end up is a good idea for pace of play and reducing the risk of tick encounters. Clearing low-hanging branches and brush from the edge of the woods can make areas where golfers may look for balls less hospitable to ticks. Additionally, posting signage in areas where tick activity is likely can raise awareness and encourage preventive measures among golfers.

While treating the entire golf course property with insecticides or tick repellent is not possible for many reasons, targeted spot treatments can be effective. "Band" treatments can be used to treat a small swath of area around known tick habitats to reduce the chance of them wandering out into high-traffic areas. Targeted applications, combined with a little tick habitat management, can reduce the risks.

Beyond habitat management or chemical controls, courses can also support safety through golfer awareness and education. Hosting informational sessions, distributing materials on social media, and sharing email reminders during peak tick season can help golfers better understand the risks and how to protect themselves. There are experts on ticks in many regions that are willing to come and speak at a facility to provide information and answer questions.

Be Vigilant

A golf course is a vast natural area and it is impossible to prevent ticks and golfers from crossing paths. Knowing where ticks live, when they are active and how to protect yourself will help you avoid them. Using repellents, wearing the right kind of clothing, and performing regular tick checks is also important. Staying alert and taking some basic precautions will put you in a much better position to enjoy your round and stay tick-free.

References

Arsnoe, I.M., Hickling, G.J., Ginsberg, H.S., McElreath, R., & Tsao, J.I. (2015). Different populations of blacklegged tick nymphs exhibit differences in questing behavior that have implications for human Lyme disease risk. *PloS one*, 10(5), e0127450.
Nelson, C.A., Hayes, C.M., Markowitz, M.A., Flynn, J.J., Graham, A.C., Delorey, M.J., Mead, P.S., & Dolan, M.C. (2016). The heat is on: Killing blacklegged ticks in residential washers and dryers to prevent tickborne diseases. *Ticks and tick-borne diseases*, 7(5), 958-963.

Membership News

We would like to welcome the following individuals into our association.

C. J. Buck, Territory Manager
Harrell's..... Class AF

Mike Johnson, Sales Representative
Turf Equipment & Supply Class AF

Casey Post, Assistant Superintendent
Conestoga Country Club Class C

Max Wertman, Assistant Superintendent
Royal Manchester Golf LinksClass C

Kenneth Willis, Superintendent
Rich Valley GolfClass B

If you know of anyone who is interested in membership into the association, please have them contact Wanda at 717-279-0368 or cpgcsa@hotmail.com.

Membership information is also available on the Central Penn website at: www.cpgcsa.org

OUR RESEARCH GUARANTEES YOUR CONTROL

Supported by leading products and 10+ years of research, WeevilTrakSM now guarantees control of annual bluegrass weevils, white grubs and turf caterpillars.



92% of WeevilTrak subscribers said they **time their applications** closely to WeevilTrak recommendations.

88% were satisfied with their **level of control** in 2021.*

ABW ASSURANCE IN 3 STEPS

- 1 Register at WeevilTrak.com
- 2 Follow course(s) near you
- 3 Download and follow the ABW assurance program sheet



syngenta.

[f](#) [t](#) [v](#) @SyngentaTurf #WeevilTrak

*Survey of 255 golf course superintendents conducted via TechTall data in Sept. 2021.

© 2022 Syngenta. Important: Always read and follow label instructions. Some products may not be registered for sale or use in all states or countries. Please check with your state or local Extension Service to ensure registration status. Scimitar[®] GC is a Restricted Use Pesticide. Acelepryn[®], Ference[®], Provaunt[®], Scimitar[®], WeevilTrak[®], the Alliance frame, the Purpose Icon and the Syngenta logo are trademarks or service marks of a Syngenta Group Company. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

The Power of Nontraditional Turfgrass Professionals

An assistant superintendent shares why employees with non-turf backgrounds can be an unexpected asset.
May 6, 2025 | Blake Mann

Hiring an assistant golf course superintendent who comes from a non-turf background isn't always viewed as an asset. However, nontraditional employees can offer a big advantage. People with experience in areas like environmental science, business, tech, or engineering can bring fresh ideas and new ways of looking at things that can help a course evolve.

My background is in industrial technology, and I've found it gives me a solid base for improving equipment efficiency, dialing in systems like irrigation, and tackling problems from a different angle. My education taught me how to think through issues in a more structured, solution-focused way, which comes in handy when things inevitably go wrong on the course.

That solutions-based mindset is especially valuable in day-to-day maintenance, where troubleshooting is a constant necessity. As golf courses continue evolving toward a focus on sustainability and efficiency, these outside-the-box skills can really help move efforts forward. Blending real-world, hands-on experience with a broader knowledge base can lead to some creative solutions, not just for the problems we're facing today, but also for long-term goals.

Nontraditional professionals can help contribute in ways that set them apart from traditionally trained turf management staff. Individuals with business degrees are skilled at managing budgets, resources and strategic planning. Those skills can help golf courses streamline their operations, save money and reduce waste. Professionals with a focus on environmental science can introduce environmentally sustainable practices, such as water conservation and sustainable turf treatments. That knowledge base is a must when it comes to meeting the growing demand for environmentally conscious operations.



Mann studied industrial technology at Iowa State University before switching to a career in turfgrass.

Furthermore, non-traditional professionals often bring valuable leadership and communication skills that enhance team dynamics and operational success. With backgrounds in management or other industries, these individuals are adept at overseeing maintenance teams, managing complex

projects, and communicating effectively with course stakeholders. Their ability to think creatively and problem-solve from new angles fosters innovation and continuous improvement.

As the golf course management industry continues to evolve, the contributions of those with diverse educational backgrounds will be key to shaping its future, offering fresh approaches to both day-to-day challenges and long-term goals using complementary disciplines. So next time you are considering hiring, consider someone from a nontraditional background!

Blake Mann is an assistant superintendent at Elmcrest Country Club in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.



Blake Mann is an assistant superintendent at Elmcrest country Club in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and a one-year GCSAA member. Photos courtesy of Blake Mann

Pocono Turf

Your professional turf solutions partner for over 50 years.

Matt Paulina
610-883-6108

Andrew Harrison
443-547-0252

Office
215-582-5545

www.poconoturf.com



"THE HAULER® 1200 WAS ABOVE AND BEYOND EVERYTHING ELSE."

"We tested every utility cart on the market at great length last season and the Cushman® Hauler 1200 was above and beyond everything else on the market. The entire UCC team felt like the cart was specifically made for golf course maintenance work. We bought two last fall and are purchasing an additional three in 2021."

Scott White, Golf Course Superintendent, Urbana Country Club



For more information contact:

Golf Cart Services / 8-2-60 / Cushman

Chris Grassick

cgrassick@golfcartservices.com

717-752-0135

4296 York Road, New Oxford, PA 17350

www.cushman.com

© 2021 Textron Specialized Vehicles Inc.

It's Legal Again Now in Pennsylvania to Fertilize the Lawn

Published: Mar. 06, 2025, 5:25 a.m.
George Weigel | Special to PennLive

Did you know Pennsylvania has some fairly new rules on when and how you can fertilize your lawn?

The rules, passed in 2022, apply to both homeowners and companies caring for home lawns.

One of the provisions is that it's illegal in Pennsylvania to apply any fertilizer to the lawn between Dec. 15 and March 1 – or any time the ground is snow-covered or frozen to a depth of at least two inches.

That means the coast is clear now – time-wise at least – to put down the season's first fertilizer application.

Although you or a hired company can legally do that, this early isn't an ideal time, according to Penn State Extension recommendations.

Penn State professor of turfgrass science Dr. Peter Landschoot says that an optimal fertilizer game plan for most Pennsylvania lawns involves three applications – once in mid to late spring, once in late summer, and once in late fall.

Mid-March through April is a good time window to seed new lawns or overseed thin ones, however.

The timing ban is just one of the rules in the lawn-fertilizer legislation, which aims to prevent unnecessary lawn fertilizer from



Although it's still too early to fertilize lawns, at least it's now legal under Pennsylvania's recent lawn-fertilizing rules. Susan Weigel

From *START* to *FINISH*
Pre-emergent fertilizer with
MESOTRIONE

Two bags of Lebanon ProScape fertilizer are shown side-by-side on a green lawn. The bag on the left is labeled '21-22-4' and the bag on the right is labeled '20-0-4'. Both bags have a green and white design. A 'NEW EXCLUSIVE!' sticker is on the right bag.

ProScape®

LebanonTurf now offers two unique fertilizer combination products featuring **.08% Mesotrione** herbicide.. Our brand new, exclusive, ProScape 20-0-4 Fertilizer with no phosphorus is the perfect complement to our ProScape 21-22-4. Control weeds from the start and maintain superior, weed-free turf for the perfect finish... available only from LebanonTurf. For more information, visit LebanonTurf.com or call 1-800-233-0628.



Rooted in Tradition, Growing through Innovation™

polluting waterways.

The rules also:

- Stipulate how much nitrogen can be applied per application. Exceptions are included for enhanced-efficiency or "slow-release" nitrogen fertilizers, including organic ones. There's also an exemption in cases where the applicator can show via a soil test that more nitrogen is necessary.
- Prohibit the application of phosphorus, unless a soil test shows that the lawn needs it. Exceptions include when a new lawn is being established, when a lawn is being repaired, and when the phosphorus is in an "enhanced-efficiency" product or in a natural organic or organic-based fertilizer.
- Bans the use of non-aquatic fertilizers within 15 feet of a lake, pond, wetland, stream, creek, or river.
- Requires that any fertilizer that spills onto an impervious surface (i.e. a sidewalk, driveway, patio, or street) must be removed immediately following the application.



Superior Strategic Stress Management

Ocean Organics, The Industry Leader
45 Years in the Golf Industry
Best Seaweed Processor — *The Mother Ship*
All products manufactured in Waldoboro, ME

Superior Surfactants:
Mariner®, Privateer®, Nautilus®, Windjammer®


Superior Liquids:
XP Extra Protection®, Stress Rx®, Guarantee®

Superior Granular Fertility:
SeaBlend®

Call your distributor or contact Kevin Collins
(914) 621-1151 • kevin@oceanorganics.com

Ocean Organics®
www.oceanorganics.com

Baltimore Country Club, Maryland • Photo: © L.C. Lambrecht, All Rights Reserved.



BRANDT®

High Performance Nutrition

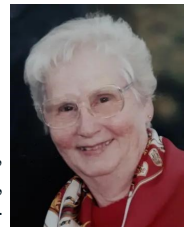
From premier foliar nutrition for greens to effective, economical fertilizers for fairways, BRANDT offers a range of solutions for every course and budget. Featuring chemistry from:

BRANDT | **GRIGG** | **BRANDT Hammer**

For more information, contact John Erickson, Territory Manager at john.erickson@brandt.co or 717-818-9984

Brandt Consolidated, Inc.
www.brandt.co

In Memory of Patricia Sanders



Patricia Louise Sanders, 94, died March 12, 2025, at Schreffler Manor, Pleasant Gap, where she spent her final days in the company of her close friends.

The daughter of Virginia and Guy O'Connor of Keyser, West Virginia, she was born October 7, 1930. Pat is survived by her daughter Betsy Sanders of Corning, California and her son, Mark Sanders and his wife, Derilene, of State College. In addition, she leaves two grandchildren, Chelsea and James Sanders.

She enjoyed a long career at the Pennsylvania State University as a professor of plant pathology, with hundreds of publications of her research to her credit. Her passion in life was travel and she visited nearly every destination on her life list. When she was not traveling, she was planning trips, meticulously researching sites and routes while savoring and anticipating her plans.

She will be missed.

High-Impact Ornamental Plants

Containers, patio planters and well-placed flower beds often require lots of work, but they can pack a punch.

March 2025 | John C. Fech

Trees and shrubs do the heavy lifting on the golf course and are considered to be the meat and potatoes of the golfscape. Depending on the species and placement, non-woody plants can require moderate to high maintenance but also deliver high impact and amenity. To that end, containers, patio planters and flower beds are often used intentionally, but sparingly. Fortunately, there are many techniques to utilize that will deliver great results without breaking the budget.

Identify the theme

Thinking back to the course master plan is a great way to characterize the original intent of how containers and flower beds will be used. If it describes the use of these plants, then utilize it as a guide for selecting, installing and maintaining them. If not, then identify some “guardrails” or principles for how many the course will have and what they will look like.

Master plans usually go into great detail about establishing guidelines for consistency, improving the playing experience, and regular hole-by-hole analysis of the physical conditions of the course. Included with the tee, fairway, bunker, water hazard, irrigation system and greens review is a consideration of the woody and non-woody course plant material. Naturally, based on local input from the green committee, owner, professional, club manager and superintendent, varying degrees of emphasis are placed on softscape amenities. (Reference: Master Planning for Golf Courses, American Society of Golf Course Architects, 2006.)



Well placed, high impact containers and flower beds are worth the investment for clubhouses.
Photos by John Fech



Flexible and practical pops of color are often appropriate for accenting practice greens.

Priority locations

Containers and flower beds can be used to meet needs — the need for color, accenting, softening harsh architectural lines and attracting attention to certain objects or views. To meet those needs, placing them in the right spot on the course is critical. If placed poorly, the identified needs are not met, and a lot of resources will be put into non-effective elements. If placed well, the opposite will occur, resulting in a positive return on investment. As such, it pays to identify high priority locations for containers and flower beds long before a shovel goes into the soil or a pot is filled with growing media.

Typical locations for effective usage

Generally, it's wise to place containers and beds in high visibility locations where lots of members/golfers can see them to maximize their benefits. If you're going to spend the money on their installation and maintenance, at least they should be seen and viewed often.

Clubhouses — In terms of prominence and frequency of views, the clubhouse is probably the most common interaction that golfers have with containers and flower beds. With all of the activity in this space, it makes good sense to focus a high degree of attention on plantings in this area. In addition to beauty, clubhouse plants can serve to solve architectural problems such as filling small spaces with suitable plant material, directing traffic to the appropriate hardcape paths, softening harsh lines, screening and separating large spaces into smaller ones when needed. If the budget is severely limited, the one logical location for investing resources is the clubhouse.

Practice greens — Next to the clubhouse, the practice green is a logical spot for non-woody plants. One key to success with practice green plantings is to keep them flexible in terms of making changes when needed. Permanent, difficult to alter installations can limit their effectiveness, while beds and planter placements that offer space definition and amenity with relative ease of changeouts are viable enhancements.

Tee boxes — While tee boxes are another prominent location, beds and planters should be designed to enhance, not distract from a golfer's first shot on the hole. This can easily be done by strategically placing them such that they can be viewed but not located closely enough to divert attention from focusing on swinging the golf club and striking the ball. Common examples include installing plants along a walkway to the tee and hanging baskets behind or adjacent to the tee.



Plantings that highlight without distraction are valuable assets for tee boxes. **Photo courtesy of Kim Erusha**

Entrance markers — Depending on the desired emphasis, an entrance marker to a golf property can be an important location for enhancement. Well-placed and highly visible planters or beds can serve to beautify the space and highlight the direction of vehicle traffic to the parking lot, which is especially important for golfers who are new to the club and not familiar with the flow of traffic. Like other locations, entrance marker plants can be elaborate or simple but effective.

Refreshment stands — Like entrance marker plantings, refreshment stands and on-course restroom facilities can be planted without the concern of distracting golfers. An advantage of these locations is that water for plant hydration is usually available via tapping into the plumbing of the functional course feature.

Living signs — In some cases, a living sign — usually comprised of the initials of the course — can be strategically located for visual interest. During installation, it's important to design these plantings with ease of watering and weed control in mind. Utilization of drip irrigation, preemergence herbicides and organic mulch goes a long way toward this goal.

Cart paths — Flower beds along cart paths are often prioritized lower on the list of needed items than others mentioned above, however, can be quite effective at directing traffic and defining golfscape spaces. Allowing adequate room for cart traffic is a must for these plantings.

Other — A site-specific category of containers, patio planters and other beds can feature the effective use of plant materials. For these plantings, it's wise to rely heavily on the combined input of all golf stakeholders to ensure effective use. Bridges, passageways, maintenance sheds and pump houses often can be turned from eyesores into assets through the judicious use of containers and flower beds.



Highlighting the entrance to a golf course with color and texture is well worth the effort.

OPERATIONS CENTER | PRO Golf

UNLOCK THE NEXT LEVEL OF COURSE MANAGEMENT.

Data that drives you.

Golf course management never stops and often requires you to handle multiple tasks at once. John Deere PRO Golf is an all-in-one solution that provides real-time work orders and updates, diagnostics, and reporting, all while tracking your equipment's location, service records, and hours. With John Deere PRO Golf, you can make data-driven decisions to manage your entire operation like never before.

Contact your local dealer to learn more.

Ask us for a demo of the PRO Golf platform today!



FINCH TURF



JOHN DEERE

www.finchturf.com

Lawn and Golf
Everything Turf supply co., inc.

Kress



No hydraulic oil,
battery maintenance
or exhaust fumes.

ROBOTIC MOWERS
Add a fleet to the course!

www.lawn-golf.com 610.933.5801 sales@lawn-golf.com

Methods for lessening maintenance requirements

In the overall scheme of golf course maintenance, utilizing pots and beds is most effective when best management practices for these plants are followed. The top 10 techniques follow:

KISS: Keep It Simple Sweetheart — Elaborate plantings are great if the budget and available staff allow for it, but many courses would be well served with a judicious number of simple, easy to maintain, effective ones. Like many things in life, the beauty of an effective ornamental feature is its simplicity.



A few well-sited ornamentals near refreshment stands underscore the intent of the space.

Choose well — When designing or picking plants, the tried-and-true principle of “Right Plant, Right Place” (RPRP) applies. Perhaps the most important tenet of RPRP is sunlight exposure. As such, selecting all sun or all shade requiring species based on the sunlight exposure is paramount. Other important elements of RPRP are wind, soil moisture preference, slope and disease resistance.

Easy design formula — Again, there’s beauty in simplicity. One of the best is the original, the Thriller, Chiller, Spiller design (thank you Steve Silk) for containers, and the Front, Middle, Back approach for beds. A sweet spot of spacing applies to this technique as well, not too close, not too far apart for maximum appeal.

Keep it moist — For the vast majority of these types of plantings, moist, not soggy or dry roots will produce healthy, vibrant plants. When either extreme is the norm in terms of periodic watering, withered or rotten roots result. Regular monitoring of the root system moisture with a screwdriver is a simple but effective routine. Adjustable drip irrigation equipment can further ensure proper soil moisture.






GOLF COURSE SOLUTIONS WITH LOCAL SUPPORT

Count on Ventrac and Turf Equipment and Supply Company for innovative products, services, and local support to keep your golf course operation running smoothly.

TURF EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLY
www.turf-equipment.com
 800-827-3711

Judicious fertilization — As with soil moisture, the not too much, not too little, just right approach is a good target to shoot for. The goal is to keep the plants vigorous but not produce excessive foliage at the expense of flowers. For most plants such as geraniums, pentas, petunias, coleus, periwinkle and impatiens, when too much nitrogen is applied, plentiful leaves are produced without much in the way of a floral display.

Separation of turf and ornamentals — In the design phase as well as during the maintenance season, keeping turf separated from beds is crucial to success. Avoiding “ornamental creep,” enlarging or reducing bed size only as an intentional change prevents damage from overwatering, mower damage and herbicide drift.

Mulching — Mulching serves three purposes in flower beds: to conserve water, to suppress weeds and, over time, to incorporate organic matter into the soil for future plantings. In some cases, mulches add desirable color and texture as well. To a lesser degree, mulches can be used in large containers for the same benefits. Pine needles, arborist wood chips and cocoa bean hulls are good options.

Container soils — Containers and patio planters perform best when a non-native soil media is utilized. Adequate drainage in pots is extremely important; in fact, the most common killer of a container plant is rotten roots from poor drainage. To encourage excessive water to drain from the pot, a mix of “drainers” such as sand, large bark chunks, perlite or vermiculite and “holders” including fine bark chunks/shavings, Canadian peat moss and compost is commonly used. A “2 drainers and 1 holder” formula is commonly used.



When well sited and designed, living signs are not difficult to care for.

Bed soils — The most influential factor with flower bed soils is the density. As a general rule, it's best to adapt the particle size of the soil to the preference of the plants being grown. Loosening the soil to allow for root growth and crowning or sloping the grade to encourage excess water to move away are two common initial bed preparation steps. Amending with compost is another, as it has the potential to hold water in excessively well-drained soils or release it in ones that are excessively tight.

John C. Fech is a horticulturist and Extension educator with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He is a frequent and award-winning contributor to GCM.

genesis

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

Achieve Green Excellence with
Convenient Delivery and Expert Service

- Golf
- Lawn & Landscape
- Sport Fields
- Horticulture
- Sand / Stone / Soil

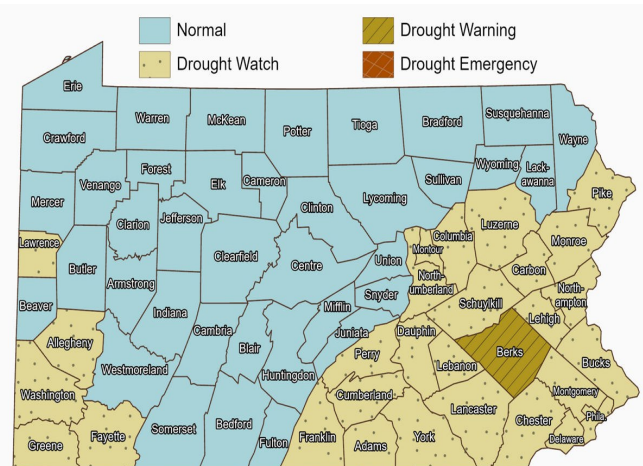
Serving Central Pennsylvania
with Green Excellence since 2005.

Ben Brace 570-472-1248 / bbrace@genesisdist.com	Don Dodson 717-586-9064 / ddodson@genesisdist.com
Jim Byrne 717-471-5569 / jbyrne@genesisdist.com	Eric Kline 717-250-3701 / ekline@genesisdist.com
Todd "Sandman" Cowing 443-790-0013 / tcowing@genesisdist.com	Andrew Puddester 410-562-9084 / apuddester@genesisdist.com

COMING SOON: WWW.GENESISDISTRIBUTION.COM

Follow Us: [X/@genesis_dist](#) [FB/genesisdistribution](#) [INSTA/@genesis_dist](#)

Current PA Drought Declaration Status



[Pennsylvania drought condition monitoring indicators provided by the U.S. Geological Survey can be found here](#)



Golf Course Superintendents Association

Dear CPGCSA Member:

The CPGCSA Board of Directors has developed a scholarship for students pursuing a career in Golf Course Management and/or for children of a member of CPGCSA seeking any type of higher education. The deadline for applications is July 31st.

Listed below are the CPGCSA Scholarship Guidelines:

Eligible Candidates:

Applicants must fall into one of the following categories:

- * Students majoring in Golf Course Management at an accredited institution and are employed at least part time by a CPGCSA member.
- * Students majoring in Golf Course Management at an accredited institution and are currently a member of CPGCSA in good standing.
- * Students attending an accredited institution and are the child of a CPGCSA member in good standing.

Guidelines for Applicants:

- * Applicants must have completed at least one year at an accredited institution.
- * Applicants must submit a typed essay of no more than 500 words outlining his or her career goals and why they feel they are deserving of the CPGCSA Scholarship.
- * Applicants must submit two letters of recommendation. (One from an instructor and one from a CPGCSA member)
- * Applicants are eligible to receive this award one time.
- * The scholarship will be paid directly to the college or university.

Timeline

- * July 31 - Deadline for submission of applications.
- * August - Board will review applicant's information, approve and notify recipient.

Attached please find a scholarship application. Additional applications can be obtained by contacting CPGCSA office at (717) 279-0368 or cpgcsa@hotmail.com. If you know of a deserving student, Central Penn GCSA can help.

Sincerely,

Scholarship Committee

2025 Scholarship Application

Platinum Sponsor

Syngenta

Gold Sponsor

Ewing Outdoor Supply

Lebanon Turf

Synatek

Turf Equipment & Supply Company

Silver Sponsor

Brandt

Finch Turf

Fisher & Son Company, Inc.

Genesis Green Supply

Helena

Lawn & Golf Course Supply Co. Inc.

Ocean Organics

Pocono Turf Supply Company

Turf Trade

Corporate Sponsor

Andre & Son Inc.

Capitol Golf Cars

Aquatrols

Envu

BASF

Golf Cart Services, Inc.

Thanks to our Sponsors, Please Support Them as they Support Us!



SynaTek Solutions® is the leading manufacturer and distributor of eco-friendly agrochemical products that are good for the environment and golf course budgets.

Ask about **P** Partnership Points

SOLUTIONS FOR TODAY, AND FOR WHAT'S TO COME



synateksolutions.com

LOCAL PROVIDERS OF:
CONTROL PRODUCTS
GRANULAR FERTILIZER
WETTING AGENTS
TURF NUTRITION
GRASS SEED



The Green Sheet

1314 Porter Avenue
Scranton, PA 18504
cpgcsa@hotmail.com
www.cpgcsa.org

2025 Meeting Schedule

June 18 (Note Dage Change)

Country Club of Harrisburg -
Scott Fischer

<https://ccharrisburg.com/>

October 13

Regents' Glen Country Club
Kevin Shue, Dallas Sledzik

<https://www.regentsglen.com/>