The deadline for application is November 30, 2014.

Dave Oatis will serve as the Northeast Region staff agronomist since 1996 and director of the region since 2012.

The second departmental change is the promotion of Chris Hartwiger to Director, Course Consulting Service (CCS). Chris' duties will include agronomic preparations of the other USGA championships. Darin has a wide breadth of expertise in his new role as he has been a lead agronomist for the U.S. Open, U.S. Women's Open, U.S. Senior Open, U.S. Amateur, U.S. Mid-Amateur, U.S. Girls' Junior, U.S. Women's Amateur, U.S. Women's Amateur Four-Ball, U.S. Girls' Junior, U.S. Senior Women's, East Lake Cup and U.S. Women's Amateur Four-Ball. In addition to his Section position of Director, he will further enhance the Green Section program by heading the Green Section Consulting Service.

The first announcement encompasses the formation of the USGA Green Section Turfgrass Conservation Commission.

The brilliant colors of fall are here, which can be a significant problem for agronomic professionals. The fall equinox may have just occurred, but the brilliant reds and oranges from the leaves of deciduous trees can be seen this month. This can also be a problem for golf courses, but there is a silver lining.

Tour courses throughout the world may need to alter their agronomic activities as the leaves change. However, many of the same recommendations used by superintendents to help maintain turfgrass conditions during the warm-season months can be used for the cooler months as well. Whether it is the fall in the Northeast or fall in the West, the season can be an important time to maintain turfgrass health and playing quality, whether this is during the growing season or in the winter of cold-weather areas. How can this be done? The key is to prepare for the coming winter season while maintaining turfgrass health. This can be accomplished by using a variety of methods including reducing mowing frequency, increasing nitrogen applications, utilizing weed control strategies and using the right varieties.

As the season changes, the temperature begins to drop, which means wetter conditions may mean carts are not allowed on the course. Sometimes, there are challenges in these conditions. How do we make the best of these conditions? The key is to plan ahead and conserve water to help maintain the playing quality of the golf course. This can be accomplished by using the right varieties, utilizing water conservation strategies and using the right cultural practices.

By Brian Whitlark, agronomist, Southwest Region