

Turf Gamechanger revolutionizes golf course management

Managing golf courses using traditional methods requires a lot of work, a variety of machines and all the accessories required for each different task. Although machines have evolved, there has been no innovation in the golf course maintenance work chain for decades, unlike in sectors such as agriculture and forestry.

Turf Gamechanger TGC™ is a Finnish, patented innovation. It is a multifunction machine utilizing IoT technology and combining up to eight different course treatment steps in one machine and one run. TGC™ also integrates GNSS-related automation into field management, reducing maintenance and staffing costs while enabling a better player experience.

New thinking for a traditional industry

Developed and patented by Turf Gamechanger Oy, TGC™ is not just a machine, but a treatment method that brings the management of golf courses into the modern world with the help of smart technology. The machine collects data regarding the soil and vegetation which, after analysis, is used to generate operating instructions and adjustment values. For example, when aerating, the operator does not need to monitor the location of irrigation equipment or pipes as the machine takes care of this.

Through this method of analyzing the whole course, and the adjustment possibilities of the TGC™, golf course managers are able to increase efficiency in the use of fertilizers, irrigation water and other products and to reduce their total application rates.

The biggest revolution with this new method is the ability to improve the course, its design, and fiber layers every time the TGC™ is used, instead of carrying out an expensive, time-consuming, game-stopping overhaul.

A single machine replaces all the different items of course maintenance machinery and equipment

A golf course service hall typically has a number of different machines and tools that are used in different steps of course management. The TGC™ is a machine platform to which various items of auxiliary equipment can be connected. Thanks to the chassis structure, which is suitable for sensitive turfs, and comprehensive machine automation, Turf Gamechanger machines can be equipped with 11 mowing units, while the largest fairway mowers of today have only 7 units.

However, the biggest benefit comes from the versatility of the machine. The eight different work phases of basic course treatments can be performed in a single run.

The second machine unit at TGC™ takes care of the logistics. The sand required for maintenance work and the waste accumulated from the work can be transported in the same unit and at the same time as outbound and return loads. This reduction in traffic makes the surface of the course less stressed and immediately playable following maintenance work. The machine also reduces or eliminates the need to collect waste by hand.



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Cost down, efficiency up

TGC™ reduces course maintenance costs by one-third. The need to purchase different machines is reduced and machine utilization rate is improved. In addition, the reduction in work cycles is immediately reflected in lower energy consumption and, when up to eight work steps can be combined, the course is freed up for valuable playing time.

For a billion-dollar business with creativity, a deep understanding of agronomy and the power of engineering

Behind TGC™ lies strong course management expertise and innovative engineering skills. The prototype of TGC™, unveiled today, is the result of several years of design and testing. Sales of the machine will commence during 2021, initially in Finland and the Nordic countries and later in Central Europe.

- Finnish greenskeepers have been involved in development work from the very beginning. The biggest question has been, “when can one buy one of these machines?” says agronomist and long-time greenskeeper Ilkka Kaivosoja.

Turf Gamechanger TGC™ in brief:

- multifunction machine and treatment method for the maintenance of grass areas
- combines up to 8 different work steps on the golf course: aeration / hollow coring / vertical mowing; waste collection and transport; mulch transport and spreading; sowing; fertilisation; brushing and rolling
- modular machine platform that can be supplemented with various auxiliary equipment
- more than 30% annual cost savings compared to traditional treatment methods
- fewer work cycles reduce energy consumption and method data analysis helps reduce the use of fertilizer and irrigation water
- brings automation to the management of golf courses
- founded in Finland in 2017: Ilkka Kaivosoja, Pasi Kristiansson and Ilkka Kankkunen as shareholders
- Design: Comatec Oy / manufacturing: Finnish machine shop (Toijala Works)

For more information, please contact:

Ilkka Kaivosoja
CTO
P. 050 0880 505
ilkka.kaivosoja@turfgamechanger.com

Ilkka Kankkunen
CEO
P. 040 5585 002
ilkka.kankkunen@turfgamechanger.com

www.turfgamechanger.com

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