Working into the night to save greens from the drought brings home to the greenkeeper what the environment really is and what changes to it can mean. Greenkeepers have to cope not only with members of committees, who vary in their ignorance and inclination to interfere, but with even less controllable elements like drought, downpour, frost and the many ills that grass is akin to. Taken together, greenkeepers look after more than a quarter of a million acres of Britain's open space. A big responsibility and one that goes beyond answering just to the chairman of green at your Club. Yes, you manage a sizeable piece of the environment, our environment. Even so, I am prompted to ask - is golf being done enough to be green, in image and reality? You wouldn't think so through reading beyond answering just to the observation. You may say that they are a big hole for golf balls but long grass which, for them, is just paradise. Please send letters to: The Editor, Greenkeeper International, 13 Firle Close, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 2HL.

Greenkeepers' environmental responsibilities

- Pricey problems

1. In the June issue, Sam Morrison expresses an understandable and quite justifiable complaint when he wrote about his difficulty in acquiring up-to-date prices to assist him in preparing annual budgets.

   As distributors, we offer what we feel are the main reasons for his problem:
   1. First and foremost, cost. Any company producing a catalogue detailing products offered would be unwise to quote prices alongside them. In recent years these have altered too frequently for the printed matter to remain accurate and the wasting of existing catalogues and the re-printing of new ones becomes impossibly expensive.
   2. A price list accompanying a catalogue is a way of helping this situation, being cheaper to reprint, but again some up-dating reprints in a year would be required for it to be as accurate as possible.

2. The products sold by distributors to the Sports and Amenity trade cover a very considerable range from numerous manufacturers and producers who historically have altered their prices at differing times of the year - well known ones in January, April, June, July, September, October and November. That pattern of change presents a considerable problem to the distributor when an attempt is made to produce an up-to-date price list.

   The only way Mr Morrison could obtain the information for producing his catalogue is by telephone for prices, but even then, for planning a budget a year ahead, the prices are just not available from the manufacturers until much nearer the time of supply.

   As a compromise between offering an expensive catalogue and a separate price list, our small company produces a combined product and price guide. The most recent, although up-to-date in March, alas now requires numerous amendments.

   J D COLLIER
   Collier Turf Care (Distributors) Ltd, Norwich, NR10 4PR

3. I write to express my concern over what seems to be a lack of interest in BTEC's National Diploma in Golf Course and Sportsground Management.

   This three year course is demanding and advanced, yet nevertheless all advert in Greenkeeper International and other trade magazines for available greening positions make no reference to it. Instead, they require prospective employees to have gained City & Guilds certification and ignore BTEC.

   Being a mature student who gave up a good well paid job to gain a position in the golfing industry, I now find myself worrying that the BTEC Diploma is not being recognised and that I have subsequently wasted three years of hard work. Further, in the June issue of Greenkeeper International, the Annual Report makes no mention of BTEC, concentrating instead on the new NVQs and HND/Degree level courses.

   Both me and my fellow students...