ACSP Water Conservation

Making water conservation an everyday practice

BY TOM BENEFIELD, CGCS

Every living organism, plant and animal is wholly-dependent on water. No other aspect of daily survival of life is as important as the need for this precious resource.

One needs only to look at the bleak conditions of drought-ravaged parts of the globe to understand the unique interwoven relationship between water, life and death.

It is through this knowledge that we gain an appreciation for the concept of water conservation. Our country has become the advanced civilization we call home because of our abundant fresh water supply and our ability to use it. If our country is to continue prospering, it will be because we have learned to develop and wisely use this resource many take for granted.

Water conservation means using water wisely.

Even in places like South Florida, home to one of the world's greatest wetlands, we find a pressing need to utilize and develop an attitude of conservation. With the recent deluges of Tropical Storm Gordon and the closing of golf courses being for prolonged periods of time due to inundation of rain, it is difficult to maintain focus on the conservation message.

However, one only needs to look back a few short years to the droughts of 1989, 1990 and 1991 to see that from a historical perspective, what we are now experiencing will be viewed as a brief moment in time. With the addition of a thousand people a day to this state, using 400 gallons per day, we will need an additional one and a half billion gallons of water per day just for the newcomers.

One day soon, we will again be living on the edge of available water resources. Couple this with a direct correlation of less available water recharge and collection basins acreage and you can understand the need for starting now to prepare for tomorrow.

With society's increased need for top-grade drinking water comes the realization that some water usage of our culture will be forced to adjust. Along with this

ACSP: Part IV

In Part 4 of this series on the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Curses, ideas for fulfilling the *Water Conservation* category are presented.

- ✓ Environmental Planning
- ✓ Member/Public Involvement
- ✓ Wildlife & Habitat Management
- ✓ **Water Conservation**
- ❑ Water Quality Management
- ❑ Integrated Pest Management

adjustment will also be large-scale acceptance and usage of reclaimed waste water. The goal is to save high-quality ground water resources for usage by the masses.

What this leads to is a shrinking of the water resource pie we currently use for irrigation. When the pie shrinks, we must turn inward to cope and deal with the problems encountered by managing turf under different attitudes.

Most of us practice some aspect of conservation on a daily basis. The use of computerized irrigation systems, utilizing weather stations, installing moisture sensors or automatic pump shutdown switches in the event of significant rainfall are all excellent examples of water conservation.

Each and every day that we make an analysis of the golf course to determine the irrigation needs, we are not only practicing sound turf management principals, but subconsciously we are also applying conservation measures.

We know conservation will be a major part of golf course life in the coming years. Our goal at this point should be to work diligently with the water agencies to position our industry at a sustainable degree of certainty for tomorrow.

Irrigation Practices

Irrigation weather station monitors conditions and adjusts run times.

Water Conservation and healthy turf are compatible

BY MATT TAYLOR

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Collier's Reserve Country Club

At Collier's Reserve, water conservation is a top priority. Beginning with the irrigation system design, selecting the best equipment available, and controlling water frequency, we are intent on maximum efficiency and minimum energy use and maintenance, as well as optimum water conservation.

Incorporating sound Integrated Plant Management (IPM) and agronomic practices, we keep a healthy turf, which translates into water conservation.

Irrigation System Design Golf Course and Common Grounds

The irrigation system at Collier's Reserve is a state-of-the-art, computerized prescription irrigation program and is controlled through a weather station.

Run times are calculated daily by theweather station which monitors and compares evapotranspiration (ET) rates and automatically sets each head's run time for that day. The computer program allows each head on the golf course to be manuallyfine tuned for irrigation cycles if adjustments are needed for wetor dry areas on the course, and delivers only the amount of waterneeded, where it's