

# Applying for Certification Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program

The certification guidelines you receive when you become an ACSP member gives you an overview of water conservation and the information needed to apply for certification in this category. The following example will give you a feel for the level of detail required. Hopefully this will help and encourage you to apply.

## **Water Conservation Irrigation System**

**Goal:** Maintain the system to keep it as energy efficient and accurate as possible.

**A.** We have installed a computer controlled irrigation system which regulates the amount of water used on a daily basis. Use of this system has reduced the normal watering cycle from 12 to 8 hours. We are using low pressure irrigation heads which reduce drift and lower the volume of water used.

**B.** The system has a rain hold module which will shut the system off when the rain equals the evaporation transpiration rate.

## **Water source**

The source of irrigation water is primarily "effluent", which we receive from a nearby utility. If the effluent supply is reduced or is down, we can use canal water on a temporary permit from the water management district. When this is not available, we have a well we use in emergencies.

## **Watered Areas and Frequency**

Water will be distributed on an as needed basis with an emphasis on deep, infrequent watering to support healthy turf. We keep our turf on the dry side for playability and agronomics. We scout turf areas daily and use a soil probe and weather data to determine watering needs. Based on this information we water as needed, generally at about 70% of the ET rate.

Top priority is given to greens, then tees and fairways. Roughs are watered less often, and club-

house grounds are on a drip irrigation system to conserve water. out of play areas and environmentally sensitive areas do not receive irrigation.

Watering takes place between 3 a.m. and 8 a.m. to reduce evaporation and promote drying of the leaf blade.

## **Water Recapture and Reuse**

Special drains throughout the property capture runoff and pump it back into the irrigation pond, which is then reused through the irrigation system.

## **Turfgrasses**

Greens and collars are Tifdwarf bermudagrass. The fairways, roughs and tees are Tifway (419) bermuda. Most of the out of play areas are native plant beds, which require minimum water.

## **Water Distribution**

Our irrigation system uses smaller watering heads and requires less pressure to operate. Since the system is computerized, it is constantly being monitored. Irrigation heads are checked daily to insure that the correct amount of water is being placed in the correct areas.

## **Mulches**

We use cypress mulch in all plant beds to conserve water. We have a chipper which we use periodically when we lose trees and use this chipped material in out of play areas as well.

## **Water reduction**

We have reduced our water consumption by 10% over the last 2 years. We hand water when needed in dry areas. We have eliminated 2 acres of turf by returning this area to native plant materials. All landscape material planted on the golf course is native and therefore requires less water. We do everything in our power to limit our usage because it makes good agronomic and environmental sense.