

Elevate to Irrigate Temporary Nursery

Eric von Hofen, director of agronomy at Calusa Pines Golf Club unquestionably had his hands full when he accepted his current position at the recently opened Hurdzan/Fry-designed golf course in Naples. The golf course, which is certain to receive accolades for its dramatic design, will definitely also catch the eye of many for the extensive landscape that complements the 18-hole layout. According to von Hofen, over a million dollars of landscape was installed during the construction of the golf course, for which he was responsible for the placement, and survival. The species that were planted included live oaks, cabbage palms, slash pines, palmettos, and hundreds of thousands ornamental grasses, all of which blend in nicely to the existing flora giving the perception that the course has been in place much longer than it has.

With the ownership of Calusa Pines providing the extensive funds that were needed to con-

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struct the golf course and the facilities, it was expected for all parties involved to be diligent and not allow any waste to occur. To help assure the survival of the vast quantity of containerized plant material prior to installation, von Hofen directed the construction of a temporary holding area where all landscape material would be delivered, stored for an extended period and receive immediate irrigation.

To assure adequate moisture would be provided to each and every plant that was delivered,



A simple, inexpensive quarter-turn ball valve controls water flow to each sprinkler. Total cost of temporary irrigation system was less than \$100 to protect huge investment in plant material. Photo by Darren Davis.

a temporary overhead irrigation system was installed. To accomplish this, six pine trees that recently had been discarded from the golf course clearing process were limbed up and cut to a length of approximately 35 feet. These straight tree trunks were then buried to a depth of ten feet, leaving approximately 25 feet of exposed trunk. A two-inch PVC line was attached on the side of each trunk leading to the top where a full circle Toro 670 irrigation head was secured. Each head can be isolated at the base of the trunk with a quarter turn ball valve. The trunks were placed in a grid, three per side and approximately 60 feet apart.

The water was needed prior to the installation of the computerized irrigation system on the golf course so originally a portable pump was used to supply water from a nearby lake. However, once the irrigation system was in place, a "T" was



Toro 670 heads were mounted on trimmed pine tree trunks to cover nursery holding area. Elevated position insured all plant material received adequate watering. Photo by Darren Davis.

added in an adjacent main line so the system became a little easier to operate.

Being overhead, it was easy for von Hofen and his staff to see from a distance and know that it was in operation which gave them peace of mind knowing their concentration could be given to other necessary tasks. The end cost of the entire system was less than \$100 due to the fact that the six irrigation heads went into inventory for future use on the golf course leaving the only true cost being the discarded PVC pipe and PVC quarter turn ball valves.

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