The Total Renovation Package

From the latest computerized software to simple, touch-screen control; from digital wireless paging to true two-way communication; from just a handful of stations to as many as you’ll ever need; from stand-alone control to hand-held flexibility. Leave it to Toro to provide a full complement of options, while making your central control decisions simple.

That’s experience.

For more than 35 years, Toro has led central control system product innovation. Because we understand that it’s not just irrigation control, it’s sophisticated irrigation management.

Managing our valuable natural resources. Managing the health and beauty of your turf. Managing your people and your time. Toro will always provide you with solutions that meet your needs.

That’s leadership.

Central control systems are very complex electronic components that, when integrated together, provide the brains and the brawn that drive your irrigation system. And Toro has made it easy. Just decide what you want and Toro has the control system equipment to meet your needs perfectly — every time.

That’s innovation.

Toro National Support Network NSN

Toro NSN is the leading dedicated computer hardware/software support network in the irrigation industry with over 2,000 satisfied customers. With a Microsoft-certified staff of licensed irrigators, NSN can help with the central system troubleshooting, system-operation advice, extended warranties and system upgrades.

That’s dedication.
TouchNet™ Irrigation Control System*

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*For E-Series OSMAC® and Network LTC™ Plus field hardware.

SitePro™ 2000 Irrigation Control System

Picture-Perfect Irrigation Control.
SitePro was designed to accommodate a short learning curve and a long list of features. We based it on the popular, easy-to-use Windows 95 and 98 operating systems and eliminated tedious keystrokes and layers of spreadsheets — replacing them with point-and-click simplicity.

Whether your system is wireless or wireline-based, uses one-way or two-way communication, or requires advanced field sensing, Toro has you covered. Simply choose the Toro field hardware that meets your needs, and all the benefits of SitePro are yours. Toro pioneered centralized irrigation control — developing features that set the standard for productivity in the industry. Now, those same features are all in a single software package for picture-perfect irrigation control.

Two types of field hardware — the choice is yours.

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Irrigation renovation that respects its surroundings. Golfers are passionate about their game. Which can put a lot of stress on a superintendent when it's time to renovate an irrigation system. Your Toro distributor will work with you every step of the way, to ensure you get the best possible system with the least disruption to your course. We have the industry's largest selection of quality products, and the most comprehensive after-sale support. What's more, we offer total solutions for your turf maintenance needs. Contact your Toro distributor or visit www.TORO.com for more information.
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Don Benham, FTGA director of public affairs, uses his inaugural Florida Green column to enumerate the ways our two organizations can accomplish more together than separately. Regulators are willing to listen to the industry... if its members will only speak up, says Joel Jackson. First concept plan for the turfgrass plots at UF/IFAS's new Pine Acres center south of Gainesville already has researchers and regulators drooling.

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About the use of trade names: The use of trade names in this magazine is solely for the purpose of providing specific information and does not imply endorsement of the products named nor discrimination against similar unnamed products. It is the responsibility of the user to determine that product use is consistent with the directions on the label.
I

s it ever going to rain again in Florida? We have experienced droughts in Florida before but this year just may be the most devastating from our industry’s view. The effects are being felt everywhere and will likely continue.

It has been known for several years that our population growth alone will put severe pressure on our potable water supply. With that growth the use of water we have become accustomed to will change. Our industry will be facing some tough situations and, without question, tightening of the existing water rules and laws are on the horizon.

Each area of Florida will have its specific challenges due to the diversity of water supply resources in each district. We can no longer sit back and hope that someone will look out for our water needs. I think we would all agree that a dependable source of irrigation supply is paramount for our success as turfgrass managers. There are many things we can do to help improve our chances of survival. Believe me, survival may just be what is in the near future if we don’t get some relief on many of our golf courses.

I have just heard a frightening story at our national convention. As I understood it, a water management district in New Jersey determined to respond to a drought condition by making an example of the golf courses. They decided it would be a good political move to drastically reduce the amount of water they would allow golf courses. Golf courses are very visible and the district felt it needed to make a statement, and of course everyone knows they must be using all the water.

In reality it was discovered all the green industries were only using .1 percent of the water and golf courses specifically were only using .003 percent of the total water consumed in the state!

Now I ask you, how fair is that and what good would that really do to conserve the water supply? Is that scenario too far-fetched for us in Florida? I don’t think so if we are not involved in our water management districts decision making process.

Some of our members have realized the need to be involved; one is Stuart Bozeman in the Seven Rivers Chapter. Stuart has been attending the SWFWMD meetings on a regular basis, letting management officials know that we are smart managers of water and we follow sound scientific and agronomic irrigation practices. The equipment we use to apply the required irrigation is state of the art and many courses even have weather stations on their property to help determine the irrigation needs.

Stuart has suggested the district consider changing the way it restricts golf course water usage. He suggested instead of restricting us to days of the week that a percentage reduction from the annual permitted amount would make more sense. For example under a phase-one restriction the user would be required to reduce 10 percent; under phase two, a reduction of 15 percent from the permitted amount. This allows the superintendent to determine where and when to apply the irrigation to best suit the needs of the turf.

He brought this idea to the FGCSA Board of Directors and we felt this does make a lot of sense. I sent a letter recommending and supporting this concept to the governing board at SWFWMD. The letter has already received their attention as I have received phone calls from SWFWMD to discuss our proposals. They have questions on how much more could we cut if the drought worsens and about the timing of implementation. These are valid questions, but It is through our involvement that we can make a difference and help them make informed decisions instead of radical regulations.

I thank Mr. Bozeman and applaud his efforts to get involved. He has made a difference. I ask all of you to think about this and help us. Get involved. Get informed and make a difference.
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Thanks to all of you who voted us number one in mole cricket control. (And it was, pretty much, all of you.)

In just a few short years, the vast majority of you have come to depend on Chipco® Choice™ to take care of one of your biggest problems: mole crickets. In fact, in a recent GCSAA study*, you chose Chipco Choice over the second-place product by a margin of more than 2 to 1. And it looks like you’re pretty pleased with the job we’ve been doing, too, since a whopping 91% of you rated Chipco Choice as "excellent" in efficacy.

To be honest, our overwhelming popularity does make sense. After all, Chipco Choice has several very attractive qualities, if we do say so ourselves:

For instance, there’s the unique mode of action of our amazing active ingredient, fipronil. (Fipronil works two ways, killing mole crickets both through ingestion and through contact.) Then there’s the long residual control — six months with just one application. And the low-dose efficacy: Just one pound of our fipronil works as well as 200 pounds of an organophosphate.

All in all, Chipco Choice offers a combination of benefits that no other mole cricket insecticide can match. A winning combination, you might say. In fact, that’s just what you did say.

* Superintendents were surveyed as part of the 2000 GCSAA Plant Protectant & Fertilizer Usage Study.
Joe Ondo, CGCS, left, receives his FGCSA Distinguished Service Award from FGCSA Director of Communications Joel Jackson, CGCS, at the 2000 Crowfoot Open banquet in August. Photo by Stuart Leventhal.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

FGCSA Honors
Joe Ondo's Years of Service

I haven't checked the Guinness Book of Records, but I can go by my own eyewitness experience to verify that Joe Ondo, CGCS has one of the longest-running records of service and FGCSA Board Meeting attendance of any active superintendent.

In recognition of his devotion and dedicated service to his peers through his board service and committee work, Ondo was selected as the recipient of the FGCSA's Distinguished Service Award for 2000. The award was presented at the 24th Annual Larry Kamphaus Crowfoot Open last August at the Bay Hill Club in Orlando.

Ondo wasn't out to set any records. He only volunteered his time and energy because he loves this business and the game of golf and he respects the pioneering work done by those who paved the way for the rest of us.

After an unprecedented 14 years as the external vice president for the Central Florida chapter, Ondo then rotated through the chairs of the state association becoming the 17th FGCSA president in 1997. Ten years prior to that, Ondo had served two terms as the president of the Central Florida chapter from 1985 to 1987. For the past 10 years he has chaired the FGCSA golf committee, coordinating the selection of the FGCSA's No. 1 team to represent the state at the annual GCSAA Golf Championship.

Ondo's quiet, unassuming manner belies the passion which he harbors for his profession and the game of golf. He is an avid reader and collector of books not only on turf management but also on course design and histories of the profession and the game itself. Those who have competed against him on the course know consistent his swing and his temperament are under fire.

Because he plays a lot of amateur golf in the central Florida area, Ondo gets asked a lot of questions from golfers about their courses and their superintendent's methods. Ondo politely tells them that it wouldn't be ethical for him to second guess his peer's decisions and he steers them around to the fact that they need to talk to their own superintendent instead of asking a stranger about their courses.

Ondo is a consistent contributor to The Florida Green sharing his hands-on experiences at the Winter Pines Golf Club where he has been the superintendent since 1979. He praises the work of his tight-knit crew of eight that helps him keep the course in great shape even under the pressure of more than 85,000 rounds a year.

Ondo also appreciates the strong working relationship with his owner Ed McMillin and the Club President and General Manager Jon McMillian. Along with Head Golf Professional John Pohira, this team consistently provides an outstanding public golf facility to Orlando area residents.

I offer my own personal congratulations to my long time friend and golf partner for many a G. C. Horn Memorial Tournament.

The Gang's All Here… Finally

Timing is everything! During our cover story visit for the Winter issue, the Olde Hickory G&CC maintenance staff was too busy to stop for a photo session. Superintendent John Stach sent in this picture to be sure the staff got it's well deserved recognition for a job well done. Photo by John Stach.
Native Grasses and Aquatic Plants
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Everglades GCSA Research Donation
FGCSA President Cary Lewis, CGCS, left, accepts a $4,000 check for the FGCSA Turf Research Fund presented by Everglades Chapter External Vice President Dale Walters, CGCS at the FGCSA winter board meeting in Orlando. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Smokin' Joe you're a great guy, a true professional superintendent and one heck of a golfer. Thank you for your very distinguished service to all of us in the profession.

JOEL JACKSON, CGCS

GCSAA CONFERENCE & SHOW
Dallas No Hit But Conference a Big Winner for All

As a GCSAA conference and show site, Dallas was not a big hit. The cold, wet weather and conference center construction did not help matters, nor did the spread-out nature of the hotels and strange street grid system help in getting around. Some people reported different taxi fares to and from the same locations depending on the time of day.

But we did not come for the tourist attractions and sightseeing, we came to participate in our industry's biggest event of the year, and by all accounts that part of the trip was successful for everyone. This 72nd

GCSAA Distinguished Service Award Winners
"With this award you have put a turtle on a fence post. A turtle can't get up there by himself." - Dr. Euel Coates, Mississippi State University.
"I believe the GCSAA has helped to provide the training and leadership for us to provide the best playing conditions ever in golf." - L. W. Sonny Dubose, CGCS.
"A round of golf is like music that can refresh your soul." - Arthur P. Weber

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