**GOVERNOR APPOINTS CLARK**

GREEN VALLEY, Ariz. — Mark K. Clark, head superintendent of Green Valley Country Club here, has been appointed by Arizona Gov. Fife Symington to the Structural Pest Control Commission. Clark is the first person from the "green industry" to hold such a position. His appointment is for three years, and will require monthly meetings which involve travel and a great deal of case study for each meeting. It is a voluntary position.

**USGA FUNDS RESEARCH ON FLOATING GREEN**

COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho — The U.S. Golf Association (USGA) Green Section will award Washington State University (WSU) a $24,000 funding grant to study the run-off water used to irrigate the floating green here at the Coeur D'Alene Resort.

A multi-million-dollar, state-of-the-art water-collection system exists underneath the floating green. It collects all rain and irrigation water into huge tanks and prevents any of the water — not to mention any other products used to maintain the floating green — from escaping into Lake Coeur D'Alene.

The water is then pumped back on shore where it's disposed of along with other golf course runoff. In their continuing efforts to make golf courses more environmentally-friendly, WSU and the USGA will study this water and the products it contains.

In 1996, Washington State Golf Association funds research on floating green.
NTEP reports. In other words, they expect a bag of seed they buy to be genetically identical to the seed used in tests. Some method of cultivar identification is needed to ensure that managers get the cultivar they have selected. In the past, few methods were available for the identification of turfgrass cultivars. Most morphological attributes are affected by the environment. Many characteristics are not apparent until plants have reached a maturity. This makes cultivar identification based on seed lots difficult.

Recently, however, molecular methods have shown promise in identifying cultivars. We have been successful in using random amplified polymorphic DNA (RAPD) techniques for the identification of creeping bentgrass and perennial ryegrass cultivars. GCN: What has your work on the use of creeping bentgrass blends shown?

KD: The use of blends, two or more cultivars of the same turfgrass species planted together, is a common practice on golf courses to broaden the genetic basis of the turfgrass species. Lately, the concept of blending creeping bentgrass cultivars has increased in popularity. The purpose of our work was to evaluate the performance of a blend as affected by disease pressure to see if blending was a significant benefit to turfgrass managers. We established plots of 50-50 blend of Penncross and Crenshaw creeping bentgrasses. Dollar spot was allowed to develop to various levels within the blends. After two years, disease did not have an effect on the composition of the blend, but one cultivar predominated, possibly due to its aggressiveness. These results suggest that turf managers should consult the regional NTEP studies prior to selecting cultivars.

GCN: What has your work shown on the effect of temporal shade on bentgrass?

KD: Shade is generally believed to be detrimental to turfgrass growth. Creeping bentgrass is a relatively shade-tolerant species, but declines rapidly when exposed to low-light conditions and short mowing heights. A few researchers believe creeping bentgrass exposed to morning shade declines more rapidly than plants exposed to afternoon shade. We’re testing this hypothesis. An understanding of shade and its temporal effects provides a basis for effective decisions concerning tree removal and adjustments in management practices.

IPM know-how

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