Florida’s water
Continued from page 8
Carmouche said. “But it takes a
lot of manpower.”

Wells were installed at the course
in the 1930s. “They’re pretty salty
now,” he added. “There’s nothing
like a good rainfall.”

The Orlando area is dealing not
just with drought, but also wild-
fires. “It seems like half of Florida
is on fire,” said Earl Leyton, golf
course mechanic at the
Dubsdread Golf Club in Orlando.
“I’ve even had a 1,000-
acre fire out
by my
house.”

Water
bodies in
the area are hurting badly, too. “I
live over in Clermont,” Leyton
said, “and there’s a chain of lakes
out there that’s no longer a chain.
The rivers are all dried up. Lake
waterlines are 300 to 400 feet from
the docks. It’s really a mess.”

POWDER-DRY ROUGHS
Courses in St. Petersburg also
are coping with drought stresses.
The course outskirts are basi-
cally powder dry,” said Dave
Kane, assistant superintendent
at the Renaissance Vinoy Resort.
“In early March, we got nearly
an inch,” Kane said, “but then
we hadn’t had any since Janu-
ary. We’re hurting. This is the
worst drought period since
they’ve kept records in this area.”

The challenges continue to
stack up. “Florida has a lot of sandy
soil, so what little rain we’ve got-
ten so far drains straight down
through,” said Kane. “We do use
effluent, and we can irrigate our
greeks, tees and fairways okay.
But the problem is that the so-
dium content gets high. We need
rain to flush it out.”

SUPER S STRIVE FOR FLEXIBILITY
In South Florida, phase two re-
strictions continue to remain in
effect even though rainfall condi-
tions are fair. “Temporarily, we’re
in great shape,” said Randy
Randquist, superintendent at the
Boca Rio Golf Course in Boca
Raton. “Long term, we still have
concerns about water restrictions.
“Lake Okeechobee is still real
low,” he said. “I believe the lev-
els are around nine feet now,
which is the lowest it’s ever been
for this time of year. Our real
concern is when we get back
into the dry season again — espe-
cially if restrictions are still in
place. And that really hinges on
Lake Okeechobee getting some
heavy amounts of rain.”

Parts of the 663-square-mile
lake have actually caught on fire.
Superintendents in South
Florida are negotiating with the
SFWMD for more flexibility.
“They won’t make any changes to
phase two restrictions,” said
Randquist, “but there is some in-
dication that they may rewrite
some rules for a potential phase
three situation to offer more flex-
ibility.”

Superintendents may be able
to better manage when and how
often they irrigate their courses.
“If we can show a genuine reduc-
tion by using flow-meters, they
may be more willing to rewrite
those rules,” Randquist said.

Drought conditions are ex-
pected to persist in the South-
est through August.

Danneberger launches Superintendents’ Korner
By JOEL JOYNER
COLUMBUS, Ohio — T. Karl
Danneberger, Ph.D., professor of
turfgrass science at Ohio State
University, has launched Super-
intendents’ Korner, an Internet
site for superintendents in the
Midwest.
Located on the OSU Web site,
SK is designed to cover issues
and developments concerning
turfgrass in the region. Current
topics, called “turfnotes,” are listed
on a regular basis and inform su-
perintendents on both abiotic and
biotic stresses that occur through-
out the growing season.
“I launched it in April, and I
think it has been well received,”
said Danneberger. “Whenever I
make a new posting, I send out
an e-mail to those on the SKlist.”

The site may be viewed at
http://hcs.osu.edu/karl.
Turfnotes published so far this
year cover a range of topics,
everything from red thread,
mushrooms in aerification
holes, necrotic ring spot and
dandelions. Basal rot anthra-
cnose, take-all-patch and dol-
lar spot on bent/Poa fairways
round out the list.

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