Irrigation system improvements a choice between brown and green

This year, courses in some areas of country were nearly cut off from irrigation altogether. In Greensboro, N.C., the city water manager proposed cutting golf courses back to hand-watering only. After careful lobbying, local superintendents were able to convince the city water manager to institute a decidedly more measured approach. In the first stage of the restrictions, Greensboro public golf courses were allowed use 60 percent of last year's recorded amount on a month-to-month basis. Superintendents fought and won similar battles in New Jersey and Pennsylvania this year (GCN April 2002). Going forward, constant vigilance will be required to keep water use restrictions from hurting the industry. However, it should be easy for courses to justify whatever investment is needed to upgrade and improve their irrigation systems now. The more efficient your system is, the less brown turf your course will have to endure when the next drought inevitably hits, keeping golfers happy.

Municipal golf still plays an important role in game's growth

By DAMIAN PASCUZZO, AGGA

A friend of mine, Les Claytor, wrote a terrific master's thesis titled "The Evolution of the American Municipal Golf Course: 1895-1940." It is fascinating reading, as Les chronicles the development of the country's first public golf course, Van Courtland Park in New York, in 1895. The initial success of this nine-hole Bronx-based course encouraged the city of Boston to follow a year later with the creation of Franklin Park Golf Course. Other cities around the country were nearly cut off from the restrictions, Greensboro had similar battles in New Jersey and Pennsylvania this year (GCN April 2002).

The time and need for municipal golf has come and gone

By JAY KAREN

As Davis said in his article, improved irrigation efficiency reduces operating costs, improves playability and "reduces the stress on superintendents."