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## Select the Proper Level Of Turfgrass Management

Golf course superintendents should not make the mistake of committing themselves to a level of management their budget cannot sustain in these times of increasing prices and scarcities, says University of Maryland Professor John R. Hall.

"In difficult situations like these, it is important that professional turf managers seek a realistic level of turf management and not over-extend themselves," Hall said. "So often we see turf managers locked into high level turf management on low level budgets." Hall said mowing, irrigation, fertilization, cultivation and pesticide application are the five general areas of turf management that should be watched.

"When setting up the mowing program, consider the fact that the highest quality turf requires frequent and low mowing with reel mowers and is most expensive to maintain," he said. He said turf under low management can be maintained with rotary mowers at high mowing heights with less frequent mowing. Selection of mowing height and frequency have a significant effect upon the turfgrass plant and cost of maintaining turf. Low mowing places the plants under maximum disease, weed and drought stress, thus increasing the need for expensive fungicides, herbicides and irrigation. High level management requires sharp reel mowers that necessitate more frequent lapping and sharpening.

"Establishing an irrigation program that is realistic for your budget requires consideration of the frequency of watering that your labor supply and budget can provide," Hall said. High level management often necessitates more frequent irrigation which produces more succulent leaf tissue." Frequent irrigation often results in decreased root systems and increased disease, weed and compaction problems.

He said high level management requires intensive nitrogen fertilization and often necessitates application of fertilizer at times that are not in the best interest of the health of the plant. Also, heavily fertilized grass requires more intensive irrigation which further complicates management problems. The high levels of nitrogen associated with expensive, high level management produce increased rates of thatch buildup which make it necessary to topdress and dethatch more frequently.

He said high level turf management under high levels of nitrogen fertilization, low and frequent mowing, heavy irrigation, dethatching and topdressing often require pesticide application. High quality turf is naturally more dense and succulent, and the moisture regimes associated with high quality turf are conducive to increased disease, insect and weed problems.

"If you select a high level of management for the areas you are managing, realize that it will require extra money, knowledge, and the right combination of environmental factors," he said.

## Missouri Golf Distributor Moves Into New Building

Robison's Lawn & Golf, Inc., a 30year-old professional turf maintenance equipment and golf car distributor, has moved into a remodeled 44,000-square-foot building in Grandview, Mo.

The building is on five acres and serves as Robison's sales and service outlet throughout Kansas and western Missouri. William E. Robison, Jr. and Jack W. Robison are co-owners of the 23-member distributorship which handles RainBird sprinkler systems and Cushman golf cars and turf care equipment.

## Ban on Beef-Grading Rules Is Appealed by Government

The federal government has filed briefs with the U.S. Court of Appeals in St. Louis challenging an injunction issued by federal judge Robert V. Denney that banned implementation of the new beef-grading standards.

In the appeal, the government will argue that Judge Denney "abused his discretion" last May when he stopped use of the new standards by issuing a permanent injunction, U.S. Attorney Daniel Wherry told GOLFDOM.

The injunction against implementation of the grading standards was sought by the Independ-