

IRRIGATION

Toro and Texas A&M launch 4-year study

The Toro Co., manufacturer of turf maintenance and irrigation equipment, has entered into a contract with Texas A&M University to help finance a 4-year study of water use rates for turfgrasses.

David T. McLaughlin, Toro's chairman and chief executive officer, said his company will contribute approximately \$17,000 to the study, the principal objective of which is to develop a method for predicting water requirements for turfgrasses under a wide range of growth conditions.

The university will contribute about \$29,000 to the project, mostly for special instrumentation including leaf and soil psychrometers, dewpoint recorders, infrared thermometers, and a multiple point potentiometric recorder. The school also is building a water stress simulation chamber and a high light intensity preconditioning growth chamber especially for the study.

The study was designed by Don Johns, a graduate student; Dr. James B. Beard, well-known authority on turfgrass culture and a turf specialist at the university's Texas Agricultural Experiment Station; and Dr. James R. Watson, Toro vice president and chief agronomist. Beard will direct the study.

Watson said the information gained from the study would be valuable to golf course superintendents seeking grass species with lower water requirements, as well as for determining overall water



Golf architect Robert Trent Jones, Jr. (center) points out design features of the future Keystone Ranch Golf Course to Sandy Tatum (left) and Will F. Nicholson, Jr., president and vice president of the United States Golf Association. Now under construction at the Keystone resort 72 miles west of Denver, the course will be the highest in the United States. Opening is planned for spring or early summer in 1980.

requirements of a particular region.

For Toro, he said, "It will help to make it possible to design irrigation systems capable of delivering the precise precipitation requirements anticipated under varying environmental conditions" — to design irrigation systems which will utilize water with maximum efficiency.

More data needed on use of effluent

As was first reported in the July issue of GOLF BUSINESS, a statistical study on the use of effluent water for irrigation is being conducted jointly by the American Society of Golf Course Architects Foundation, the National Golf Foundation, and the United States

Golf Association's Green Section. As of mid-August, about 50 persons had filled in and returned the questionnaire printed in the July issue, according to Al Radko, national director of the USGA Green Section, but further data is needed to make the study meaningful.

There are probably 75 or more golf courses in the United States now irrigating with recycled water, Radko said, "but the numbers are clouded by the fact that most of these haven't wanted to advertise that they are using effluent water."

Once the practice becomes more widely known and accepted, he added, more courses will come forward to volunteer information about their operations.

If your golf course uses effluent water for irrigation and you did not return the questionnaire in the July GOLF BUSINESS, please

contribute to this important survey by filling out and mailing the form below. The data will be used only in combination with that of others; replies of individual golf courses will be kept completely confidential.

GOVERNMENT GOLF

Is beer necessary for course success?

Brighton (Colo.) District Judge Abraham Bowling recently granted a preliminary injunction against the Colorado Department of Revenue, enabling the sale of beer to continue at a golf course at the Adams County Regional Park complex in Henderson.

The Revenue department had denied the transfer of a 3.2 percent beer license to Adams County Golf Inc., a nonprofit corporation formed by county commissioners to operate the beer concession at the county owned and operated golf course. Beer had been sold at the course under an agreement with license-holder and former golf pro Jim Bailey, and the facility was reported to be operating in the black for the first time in 4 years. The revenue's denial of the transfer was based on the reasoning that because the county is the local licensing authority as well as the principal of the nonprofit corporation, it would in effect be regulating itself.

Judge Bowling found, however, that the loss of the right to sell beer at the golf course would cause "irreparable injury" to the county because of a reduction in the number of rounds played at the facility and, therefore, loss of revenue. Here's to the judge.

PLEASE RETURN QUESTIONNAIRE TO:

Mr. Al Radko
National Director
USGA Green Section
P.O. Box 1237
Highland Park, NJ 08904

- 1) Do you presently use recycled water on your turfgrass?
Yes No
- 2) Are you considering recycled water as a possibility?
Near future Distant future No
- 3) What is your source of recycled water? Industrial
Military installation Municipal Housing
development Other (specify) _____
- 4) Number of acres irrigated with recycled water:
Greens _____ Tees _____ Fairways _____ Rough _____
Other _____

- 5) Type of facility: Private Daily fee _____
Municipal Military Other (specify) _____

Size: Regulation Executive Par 3

- 6) Do you know of any other golf facility using recycled water? No Yes Type of course _____
Location _____
(If more than one facility, please attach list.)

- 7) If you use well, city, or pond water for irrigation, how many gallons do you use annually? _____

Form filled out by: (optional)

Name _____

Title _____

Golf course _____

City and state _____