Southern Superintendents speak:

I've been irrigating with effluent water. I believe all the courses on Hilton Head will convert within the next ten years. We need to find out when crowfoot germinates in our area for a preemergent program and we need to know more about creeping charlie.

Traveling for an hour, I can go surfing, ride a dune buggie, or ski. You can see the tremendous variation that occurs in golf courses.

We have problems with transition. Last year I had ryegrass in July. The bermuda just sits there. It varies, though. Three miles down the road it'll be perfect. The next year I'll have the right conditions.

We have to carefully watch humidity in Hawaii. Our temperatures don’t vary much, 68-72 in the morning, getting up around 82-84 in the afternoon. Summer humidity might be 10-25 percent, but in winter it gets up to 70, 80 or 90 percent. Pythium can become a problem.

Some courses in our area are putting superintendents on a bonus program. Anything they can save, they get a percentage of. It makes you think cost efficiency. Some extras you have to do if you’re a resort course. If you’re going to charge the prices of a resort course, golfers expect the luxury.
The Carolinas are being recognized as a prime area for industry. Population is increasing. The Carolina’s section of the PGA holds over 70 golfing events. Some of the biggest and most prestigious events are here.

Weather can shift the best plans. We had 18 inches of rain last September and had to aerify in October, right before winter. I didn’t want to but would have had to put up with algae all year long.

I’ve found, at Royal Poinciana, that I can be more effective as a superintendent by relating my needs in terms the members can understand. For example, I relate my equipment needs in miles rather than hours. A member understands when you tell him a mower has 200,000 miles on it.

Tourism in Florida has gotten bigger, if anything. There are more people living here. Our main problem is going to be energy. We need to develop systems to create energy from our grass clippings. I’ve converted to diesel on all my equipment and am using only a third the gasoline of a year ago.

I went to the GCSAA show looking for answers about LP gas. I’m hoping to convert at least one greens mower, one fairway unit, and a runabout. I want to be ready in case the fuel situation gets critical. I’ll still be able to get things done. Besides, it’s much cleaner and more efficient.

You have to have an irrigation system in Arizona. Then you have to find the water for it. We do a lot of aquatic weed control, taking care of our water sources.