MGCSAA survey results

1. Minimum nitrogen, higher potash.
2. Higher cut on greens, tees, fairways.
3. Hold back on first watering to harden turf.
4. Establish priorities on watering, i.e., greens, tees, approaches, landing areas, etc.
5. Use anti-transpirants on grass and shrubs. (Experiment)

6. Advise membership now concerning water problems we will be facing. (Emphasis added. Ed.)

7. Watch herbicide-fertilizer application. Use less amounts if water availability is in question.
8. More hand watering, less sprinkler use on greens.
9. Determine how much water you have to work with (capacities of lakes, ponds, etc.). Adjust watering program to possibility of not having any rainfall to replenish these amounts.
10. Omit fairway watering if necessary.
11. Capture rain water from roof gutters, club buildings for filling spray rigs, cleaning, etc.
12. Get back to old time basics of golf course management, i.e. old courses in Scotland, no water but still beautiful.
13. Consider sprigging zoysiagrass in fairway areas prone to wilt and moisture loss.
14. Use wetting agents for more uniform water profile. (Experiment)
15. Keep nitrogen at the 3-4 pound rate per year.
16. Program or apply irrigation in dawn to early a.m. hours.
17. Use soil probe to determine water need.
18. Cut less area as fairway — shorter and narrower.
19. Insist on water person timing all moves.
20. Cut down nozzle size if possible.
21. Educate water person as to desirability of “skipping” low fairway areas.
22. Use herbicides only if needed (can reduce roots).
23. Educate your membership, write a special newsletter and follow up articles laying it on the table as to what will happen. (Emphasis added. Ed.)
24. Re-evaluate all your water re-

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Turfgrass maintenance during the water crisis

Ed Worthington, Ed Worthington Corporation

1. Raise height of cut on all mowers to obtain additional shade, provided by the longer grass blades which will help to conserve soil moisture.
   a. On golf courses, notify the membership that SLOW greens are the order of the day until the crisis is past.
   b. Adjust mowing schedules so that no more than 1/3 of the length of the grass blade is removed at every mowing. This will reduce shock to the plant.
   c. Adjust mowing schedules so that no more than 1/3 of the length of the grass blade is removed at every mowing. This will reduce shock to the plant.
2. Your long range problem will be to retain as much soil moisture as possible under your turfgrass areas. In a water crisis, a good long SOIL PROBE can be an important piece of test equipment. Use it daily to check localized dry spots and to find how far down is your drought zone. Start as soon as you can in the spring and try and keep it at least one foot from the surface. Dry soil works up towards the surface—reducing your ground moisture reservoir. When it reaches the root zone, your grass is in trouble. Water applied to a turfgrass area tends to move horizontally with very little vertical penetration until the thatch and ground is thoroughly wet and surface tension is reduced. Methods by which this can be accomplished are as follows:

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a tricky business. Hay mulches may introduce undesirable weed seeds. If applied too thickly, lack of sufficient light will kill the turfgrass underneath or cause disease problems. The right amount of straw would be better, as all you want to do is to provide some additional shade, keep weeds down and to let light, air and water down to the turfgrass. Still better, may be plastic netting or woven materials that will accomplish the same purpose but make sure they don't cause more problems than they are worth.

5. If your water supply may be cut off or reduced, now is the time to think about where you can get water that is safe for turfgrass and how to get it where you want it. Keep your eyes open for any items that might be useful. An old abandoned sprayer might be repaired to hold water. Make sure you have a small pump with suction hose, strainer and discharge hose—long enough to reach from your lake, pond, stream, etc., to your water carrier, should your irrigation system be cut off.

6. Finally, keep up on long range weather reports for your area, keep a daily weather diary, and record soil probe moisture depths around the course. Good luck and if all else fails, gather together some good Indian friends and hold a Rain Dance

1. Fungus diseases can be a problem during any stress period. Maintain your fungicide schedule even though heights of cut on your mowers have been raised. Use only enough N to help control dollar spot. Check your pH readings and try to stay around 6.5.

b. Insects may become a real problem. Start early on an insecticide program and keep at it. For hard to wet insects, use a spreader-sticker with your insecticide.

c. Herbicides—personally, I never would use them during any stress period.

4. Chemical applications of pesticides during stress periods requires planning. Here are some suggestions in a water crisis:

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