

BARRIER NETTING

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The "simple" task of installing protective netting to contain golf balls can become a major project for any superintendent. At Brookview Golf Course, we have two 50' x 450' barriers designed to contain stray range balls. Over the last few years, we have tried various methods of installation, but this has seemed to work the best for our course.

TYPES OF MATERIAL

A. Nets. After trying all major brands of netting, we have found that "you get what you pay for". The less expensive nets are weaker, do not weather as well, and are generally undersized. You may order a 25' x 150' net and get a 20' x 125' net which you try (with the strength of Godzilla) to stretch to 25' x 150'. It is important to remember that you will be up in the air trying to work with a material that catches a great deal of wind. Nets may be custom ordered with the target single piece being 25' x 150'. The nets should have 60 lbs. tensile strength and a maximum of 1" mesh size. You can expect a five to seven year life expectancy, assuming the nets are removed during the winter.

B. Supports. Utility poles (class 3 or 4) treated or untreated made from West Coast Douglas Fir are the best to use. Holes 1" in diameter at every 11 feet are predrilled in order to install eyelets through the pole. Any excess threads should be cut off as they can rip the net if they catch in it.

C. Cable. Cable is strung around the entire netting using 7 x 7 3/16" airplane cable. To prevent the cable from cutting through the netting, hog rings are attached to the cable and netting every 8-12". Cable is also run horizontally through the middle of the net (every 11.5'). Without this center cable, too much stress is put on the outside of the netting, causing it to rip.

D. Installation. Poles are installed with at least 35% of them in the ground (i.e., a 50' high net would require a 67' pole). Don't let all of the holes in the netting fool you. They catch a great deal of wind so good support is needed. Back fill around the pole with class 5 gravel. The cable is attached between the top of each pole to provide lateral support to the poles. The last poles are wired to the ground using 8" diameter landscape anchors.

Poles are placed 45' apart (not 50') to allow for some sag in the netting.

The netting is prepared on the ground and lifted into place. Weight is not a problem, but the wind is, so two ground people are needed to steady the net. To speed up the attachment procedure, use 1 1/2" spring loaded clips to attach the cabled netting to the poles and to the lateral support cable between the poles. Two landscape anchors are installed between each set of poles to attach the bottom of the net to the ground.

Materials: The materials are not inexpensive. For a 50' x 150' section, the following is needed:

4 67' fir poles @ \$500.00 each	\$2,000.00
2 25'x150'nets @ \$500.00 each	1,000.00
700' 3/16" 7x7 cable (net) @ \$.20/foot	140.00
300' 3/16" 7x7 cable (support) @ \$.20/foot	60.00
8 landscape anchors @ \$10.00 ea.	80.00
1000 hog rings @ \$8.00/1000	8.00
50 1 1/2 clips @ \$1.50 each	75.00
20 eye bolts @ \$2.50 each	50.00
Miscellaneous	50.00
Aspirin	5.00
Total	\$3,468.00

These costs do not include labor costs for installation or boom truck costs. We used a boom truck because of the height, but if your net is less than 30' from the ground, a self propelled lifting platform would work best.

If you plan to use netting, I suggest the following"

1. Try other alternatives
2. Visit others who have installed netting

Continued

3. Consider any idea on how to install the netting; do not rule out the "weird" idea.
4. Install netting on calm days.
5. Design the netting so it can be taken down and reinstalled easily.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Pesticide Law Bill (H.F. 485/S.F. 717)

Finally, the key bill for industry recently received hearings. On the House side, the bill was heard in a sub-committee of the Environment Committee. No opposition was voiced against the bill in the sub-committee; however, a few environmental groups wanted the regulations to go further in the areas of human exposure and penalties. Additionally, St. Paul and Minneapolis succeeded in getting an amendment to the bill exempting their local lawn pesticide ordinances from being pre-empted.

In the Senate, the Ag Committee held two hearings in one day and a third has been scheduled in a few days. There is no physical opposition to the Senate bill, but there are also a few groups who want the regulations to go further than proposed.

Issues that are being discussed:

-Human exposure. Senate version calls for a \$5,000 fine for applicators who spray field workers. Excludes drift, but includes overspray and target applications.

-Prima facie evidence. MPFCA is trying to get Sen. Berg and Rep. Kalis to drop wording which would make any drifting of pesticides a violation of law. Dept. of Ag agrees with our position but is not pushing it.

-Fees. MPFCA is very close to persuading the Dept. of Ag to set commercial applicator fees at \$50 per firm license and \$25 per applicator employee. Bill calls for a license fee of \$50 for all applicators.

-Trading services. Looks like Dept. of Ag will bend to farm groups request that farmers be allowed to continue trading application services without being licensed.

-Local ordinances. Probably the biggest disappointment to date. Minneapolis and St. Paul have the muscle in the legislature to kill the proposed bill without an exemption for their local pesticide regulation ordinances. As such, the lawn care and golf course groups are working on a set ordinance for ONLY TURF PESTICIDES which will be spelled out in the law. Only cities of the first and second classes (over 20,000 population) could adopt the ordinance outlined in the bill.

Note: With the recent groundwater problems in the state and the finger pointing at ag chemicals, the Pesticide Law bill is gaining more momentum each day. We just have to stay ahead of the crowd and beat off any bad amendments that may come up.

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