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ARIZONA SUBIRRIGATION

Researchers in Arizona recently demonstrated that quality Bermuda-turf could be produced using subirrigation with the water supplied by buried perforated pipe. Subirrigation is now being studied in Arizona as a possible means of alleviating temperature related adversities in Penncross bentgrass by improving the characteristics of the root system. The results of an initial study on subirrigation of bent-grass show that bentgrass turf which was subirrigated with a fluctuating water table was less subject to summer heat stress than surface irrigated turf. A major problem experienced with the subirrigated turf was that of providing an environment conducive to proper nitrogen assimilation and metabolism. This problem seemed to be most severe when irrigation was from a stable water table. Dessication occurred more frequently in the surface irrigated turf than in that which was subirrigated.

Subirrigation appears to have some potential for maintaining bentgrass greens in hot, dry areas — why not also in our Mid-Atlantic humid areas? Send your thoughts on this subject to the Newsletter Mailbag.

OH-OH*EPA AND MOTHER NATURE

We have just recently emerged from a devastating summer growing season. Our season pushed off with constant spring rains and abnormally cold weather. The soil seemed to take forever to warm up enough to see Bermuda growth begin a new year. The summer culminated with a record breaking stretch of no rain, high temperatures, high humidity, and the longest pollution alert yet recorded. While the daily pollution alert is relatively new to us, new high temperatures and humidity records certainly are not ever new, even if this year's records supercede any tabulated since the mid-1950's, for we are indoctrinated to expect the worst weather each summer.

As a transitional geographical area we probably utilize a larger volume and variety of chemicals than any other area in America. We constantly contend with almost every known turf disease, weed, and insect that damages turf.

With the season finally becoming history, we can look back at all our empty chemical containers, boxes and bags, and wonder just where we would be today if turf herbicides, fungicides, and insecticides were not available for our use.

