

The Stimpmeter...AGAIN!

So, you think using a stimpmeter is easy. Roll a ball this way...roll a ball that way, do the math and you're done. Not so fast! (no pun intended) This approach might be okay on a flat green, but what's the best method when attempting to measure the speed on a sloping green? Simple, just use the following formula and you'll have your reading. The method for measuring a sloping green is:

- 1) Take 2 readings, 1 up the slope (Su) and one down the slope (Sd)
- 2) Apply the formula:

$$2 \times Su \times Sd / Su + Sd$$

If you are not satisfied with the speed, simply add one foot to your readings, ports the notice in some obscure club location (the on-course restroom is one suggested spot) and go about executing your important job responsibilities.

Lighting - What To Do, and What Not To Do - At Your Course

Clarke Fenimore, General Manager at the Quail Chase Golf Club in Louisville, Kentucky gave this presentation. His first-hand experience relates to a lighting incident at his Club. The major points he made were:

- 1) Each club needs to develop a written lighting/emergency plan. The plan must be understood by all key employees, so they know their role and can implement action when necessary.
- 2) Whatever warning system is in place at a club must be heard throughout the entire property. All golfers need to hear and hopefully heed the warning.
- 3) If a lighting incident does occur, the club must designate on spokesperson to deal with the media.

Ideas for Maintaining Environmentally Friendly Golf Courses

Stan Zontek gave this presentation. As he pointed out early in his discussion, IPM has taken on greater importance in the 90's. Another very critical area to understand and implement, is that of BMP's - Best Management Practices. These are simple, common sense approaches to our everyday tasks. Stan's best of the BMP's included:

- 1) Follow the label
- 2) Establish buffer zones along bodies of water
- 3) Use lower nitrogen rates around water
- 4) Use slow release nitrogen sources.
- 5) Use proper amounts of water when applying pesticides & fertilizers
- 6) Water in when necessary
- 7) Watch applications when heavy rains are forecasted.
- 8) Direct drainage from golf course locations to non-sensitive areas.

As you see from this list, this is not fancy stuff. Just simple precautions we should all be taking when working with fertilizers and plant protectant materials. For some, it may involve behavior modification. The same old approach won't work in today's world. It is incumbent on all of use to continually review our operations and see that we understand, use, and expand the list of BMP's.

Only with this approach can timely and correct information be presented.

- 4) A club should keep a daily log of play so they know who is on the course. The log also assists in accounting for everyone one the decision is made to clear the course.

- 5) Make all cart paths and service roads at least 9' wide. At this width, you can accommodate emergency vehicles.

As with many issues in today's world, documentation plays an important role, especially in a lighting strike!

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