

but pretty interesting

Little Known Facts About Golf Courses

ECOLOGICALLY, THE GOLF COURSE PROVIDES SOME PRETTY FANTASTIC HELP TO MANKIND, IN ADDITION TO JUST GIVING HIM A PLACE TO EXERCISE AND ENJOY LIFE, FOR EXAMPLE:

An average 18-hole golf course, approximately 150 acres, can produce enough pure oxygen through photosynthesis for at least 100,000 people for the entire year. On a smaller scale, that means a well-maintained lawn 50 by 50 feet liberates enough oxygen to meet the needs of a family of four, day after day.

That same average golf course of 150 acres can effortlessly absorb 12 million gallons of water during a three-inch rainfall.

Grass also provides a cooling effect. A 2000 square foot plot releases as much as 120 gallons of water through a method called evapotranspiration. This release of water reduces the heat factor. Grass absorbs only 50-60 percent of the incoming solar radiation while buildings and pavement absorb 90 percent.

Grass and tree leaves also help cleanse the atmosphere because of their ability to trap dust particles through static electricity of dense foliage. Rain then washes the particles into the soil.

GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS MUST CONTEND WITH A LOT OF NUMBERS EVERY DAY, FOR EXAMPLE:

Active chemical ingredients and other items are often times measured in something called parts per million. In more common terms one part per million would be: one inch in sixteen miles, one minute in two years, one penny in \$10,000.00, one large mouthful of food when compared with the food a person will eat in a lifetime, or one drop of Scotch in 16 gallons of water.

How about those spike marks that supposedly ruin so many great possible scores? Consider this--The average golf shoe has 12 spikes and the USGA has computed that a player averages 28 paces per green. 28 paces times 24 spikes means 672 spike marks per player, per green. 672 spike marks times 18 greens equals 12,096 spike marks per round. If there were 200 rounds played each day, that's 2,419,200 spike marks daily or more than 72 million holes each month. What's a superintendent to do?

Have you noticed the golf courses becoming more and more crowded? How about this food for thought, and the need for more golf courses-- Population experts report it took one million years for the earth's population to reach the billion mark, but only 130 years for the second billion, 30 years for the third billion and as of March 1976, we welcomed our fourth billion human to this planet. (If all of them wear golf spikes at one time we may be in real trouble, even without a putter!)

This information is provided by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, with a lot of help from all its friends everywhere.