

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## THE VALUE OF A SOIL TEST



BOB FORD

Many superintendents periodically have soil tests taken at their golf course to help them set up their fertility programs. By knowing the nutrient and PH levels of the soil, one can implement a better fertilization program.

Soil tests at the time of construction can also eliminate many problems. Soils or sands should be tested for gradation and water percolation rate. The case in point being two-three year old greens constructed from a common 30-50 sand. The sand was later

tested and did meet the guidelines of a 30-50 sand. The problem being, most of the sand was of a coarse nature. The percolation rate, under single compaction, was almost 300 inches per hour and at triple compaction it was just over 200 inches per hour.

The end result was to spend a minimal amount of money on a soils test and rebuild the greens with a better grade of sand and eliminate the sparse hard greens that would not hold water. A few dollars spent on a soils test could have saved three years of misery, \$15,000, and the inconvenience of reconstruction.



## meetings

JANUARY 13 Green Valley CC, Suisun

**GCSAA's next Conference & Show:  
LAS VEGAS - Jan. 29 - Feb. 4, 1984**

MAY 20 - 21 Calif. GCSA - Annual State Meeting-Rancho Canada, Carmel