

Course Documentation and Diagramming

As much fun as installing a new irrigation system can be, the real fun comes when you start operating it. In order to operate the system properly, you can take advantage of many sources of information. Performance specification sheets are available for all products and should be kept even after the system has been operational so that you can compare the actual performance of your system with its published performance. Owner's manuals are used not only for training but as ongoing references. As you become more familiar with your system, your ability to create better ways of watering your golf course should increase. A maintenance and repair manual will allow you to operate your system at peak performance with less down time. Typically, a new irrigation system is about a \$500,000 investment for the golf course. A good maintenance program can help the superintendent spend less money on irrigation repair as well as leave him more time to spend elsewhere on the course. When repairs are needed for the system, the repair manual should have a section where you can record what the problem was and who fixed it. Unfortunately, the best way to learn is to have to troubleshoot or repair your system. Should your system be relatively new, you can save your course money by having the warranty information on all the components in your system.

In some respects, the most important part of course documentation is the "as-built". All course have the plans as they were drawn up - an "as-built" should show you how the system was actually put in. During construction, many changes may occur as to location (sprinklers or valves) and routing (both pipe and wire). These changes may occur due to a change in the green size, cart path location, additional trees, or any one of a hundred other factors. Regardless of the reason, any changes should be marked on the plan so that should any maintenance ever be required, the superintendent can know exactly what he is working with. Aside from changes the as-built will identify all sprinkler, valve, specialty valve, and controller locations. In general, anything to do with the irrigation system should be marked clearly and to scale on the as-built. Many times, potential maintenance problems or future course expansion problems can be anticipated and dealt with more effectively with the aid of a properly documented as-built. In addition to an as-built plan, an aerial photograph can also be a useful tool in identifying potential problems or planning maintenance or expansion plans. In the same way that you should log repair work in your maintenance manuals, all changes to your irrigation system should be marked on at least one set of your as-builts. By spending 30 minutes at the end of a small project or repair, you may save yourself hours in five or six years when you are working in the same location.

S U M M E R INTERNSHIPS / JOBS

PURPOSE: To provide work experience opportunities in turfgrass management; golf course development and maintenance to U.C. Davis students. College students with academic and/ or career interests in golf course management will be seeking work experience opportunities for this summer-1991.

PROCEDURE: If you are interested in providing a summer position, please submit position description (indicate pay rate) by April 12, 1991 to:
Cliff Rourke
Riverside Golf Course
P.O.Box 13128
Coyote, CA 95013
(408) 463-0558

COMPENSATION: Students will be placed on your regular payroll.

ACADEMIC CREDIT: Students may, depending on the educational opportunities of the work experience provided, pursue academic credit for their experience.

ADDITIONAL INFO: Students will be available from late June to late September. Last years compensation rates ranged from \$5.75 to \$7.00 per hour. This is the fifth year the Northern California Superintendents Association has offered summer employment/ internships to students at U. C. Davis with each year increasing in popularity by the college. so if you can, show your support in return.

VOTE APRIL 8