

***I'll Take Bogey***

Tell your friends that you're happy to shoot a bogey round, and they'll think you don't understand the game. But the British term "bogey" has changed its meaning since crossing the Atlantic. In England, it originally meant the same as the American term "par," and if you "shot bogey," you took only the number of strokes expected of a really good player. Nowadays in the United States, "bogey" means one stroke over par, not to mention those awful double, triple, and quadruple bogeys.

**FYI**

by Barbara Mikel

**H**ope you had a happy Fourth of July!

I would like to thank all of our members for the cooperation I have been receiving on meeting reservations. It really makes my job easier when you can get your reservations in to the office early. I know sometimes it takes forever to get that check out of your accounting department. Keep up the good work!!

On another note, it's fly

fishing season, in case you haven't noticed. Each year we try to test our skills (luck?) in Montana or Utah. This year we are going to Missoula, Montana, then on to Green River, Utah. Wish us luck!

**NOTE!**

The office will be closed the week of **July 18 through July 25**. The answering machine will be in the "announce only" mode. I will be back in the office on July 26th. If you have a problem or question that can't wait until I return, please contact one of the board members.

**BENTGRASS TRIALS**

**Tips from the USGA  
Hand Watering Greens**

by Pat Gross  
USGA Agronomist

Summer is here, and there is nothing an overheated maintenance staff member would rather do than hand water greens on a hot afternoon. After all, it's an easy job -- grab a hose, hook it up to a quick coupler, and soak the grass. Think again. That employee may be doing more harm than good if they are not familiar with the proper way to hand water greens.

This may sound a little ridiculous, but many employees do not understand the proper methods for hand watering greens. A 1992 survey of the Green Section staff indicated that over-irrigation of greens was one of the top 10 maintenance pitfalls. Over watering contributes to disease development and inconsistent playing conditions. Even the best-designed irrigation system cannot produce a green with uniform moisture content throughout. Therefore, occasional hand watering will be necessary to compensate for localized dry spots or to cool the turfgrass canopy, and to maintain consistent playing conditions.

A few basic tools are necessary to do the job right: a soil probe and a hose-end nozzle that applies water in a gentle showering fashion. If regular soil probes cannot be purchased, effective probes can be made by cutting down a broken golf club shaft and cutting out a view port using a bench grinder. Staff members should be trained to check the greens with the soil probe before applying any water to determine soil moisture levels. Many disease and insect problems display symptoms similar to localized dry spots. Watering these areas will often make the situation worse. If the turf is wilting and adequate moisture is present, staff members should report this condition to the superintendent immediately.

Hand watering the wrong way can do as much damage

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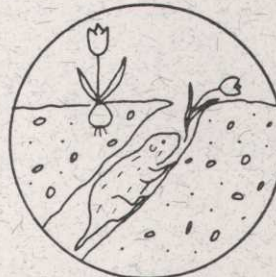
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## HAND WATERING GREENS

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to the playing surface as no watering at all. Puddles on the surface of the green can promote the development of pythium or a condition known as "wet wilt." If the soil is dry, water should be applied gradually, in a showering manner, so that puddling or runoff can be avoided. The goal should be to match the

water application rate with the infiltration rate of the soil. It may take several minutes and several light applications of water to wet the soil. For hydrophobic areas, you may wish to spike the area first to improve water penetration. Spot applications of wetting agents have also been successful at treating localized dry spots, however, don't overuse these products to compensate for excessive

thatch accumulation or compaction. In many cases, an aerifier will do a better job than a barrel of wetting agent.

Putting surfaces may wilt during the summer due to high temperatures, high winds, and hours of intense sunlight. In these cases, syringing the greens with a light application of water will help revive the plant. The idea is to lower the air temperature around the leaf tissue and allow the plant to continue a balanced transpiration rate. Syringing is a very misunderstood operation. It is important to remember that you are only trying to cool the grass plant with a very light application of water, not wet the soil.

Hand watering greens should not be forgotten on

weekends. A superintendent's worst nightmare is to return from a well deserved weekend off only to find the greens scorched due to lack of water. (Actually, this is only one of several nightmares that superintendents have!) It is a good idea to schedule one or two people to come in on Saturday and Sunday afternoon to check the greens and hand water as necessary.

On a final note, check into the reason for the localized dry spots. These areas could be the result of poor sprinkler head coverage, worn nozzles, tree root encroachment, or excessive thatch accumulation. Be sure to treat the cause and not just the symptoms.

## NOTICES

### Equipment for sale

One Ty-Crop model TD-400, 4 yd. top dresser with warranty, delivery included. Call Joe Selmas 209/836-1246 (work), 209/832-1169 (home).

### WANTED!

#### Sites for Future Meetings

If you and your club are interested in hosting GCSANC at some time in the future, please call Bill Kissick at Salinas Country Club - 408/443-4566. We need sites after October, 1994.

#### Turf and Landscape Research Field Days

Thursday, July 21, 1994

8:00am to 12:00

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