

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

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