

USGA

SNORKELS AND SWIM FINS

By Pat Gross

The "hundred year flood" has caused considerable damage to golf courses in the west. I've heard many superintendents tell me that their golf course has been closed for weeks. They joke about having to break out the snorkels and swim fins just to get around the golf course. Aside from super saturated conditions, some less fortunate courses are having to deal with flood damage in the form of large soil deposits on the

turf and vast sections of the course that are under water. This was bound to happen since many courses were constructed in flood plains during the golf course construction boom of the 70's and 80's. What can you do if your course is covered with water or a thick layer of silt?

The best thing to do is try to pump off the extra water

once it stops raining and allow the turf to dry out. If

the turfgrass species, 2) duration of submergence,

3) depth of submergence, 4) physiological condition of the plant tissue, 5) temperature, and 6) light intensity. To

give you an example, creeping red fescue can be killed in as little as one day with high water temperatures of 86 degrees F. or may survive

"If you can't get the water off, the best you can do is hope that your turf can hold its breath for a good long time."

this is not possible, don't panic, since many turfgrass species can survive prolonged periods of submersion without injury. According to Dr. Jim Beard, the potential for injury will depend on 1)

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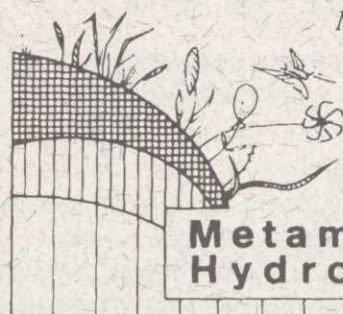
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