

USGA

Keep It In Perspective, Turf Can Be Replaced

By Mike Huck

As we find ourselves midway through the summer season, it is important that we remember to keep things in perspective. A loss of turf can be experienced through a bad season and sometimes seems to be a catastrophic event to both golfers and superintendents. Personally, I am beginning to question if turf loss really is a major catastrophe, because after all, turf can be replaced. Sometimes it takes a real tragedy for us to understand this and put things back into perspective. It brings us to the realization that everything which lives eventually dies, including turf, trees and humans alike. This all became very clear to me on April 19, 1995 while watching the 6:00 P.M. news. The federal building in Oklahoma City had been bombed that morning and sud-

denly the thought of a dead green did not seem so important. Remember now that dead turf can be replaced. It may take a few months to bring a dead green back to putting quality, but, given the time it will happen.

Hundreds of people were affected by the tragic loss of life in Oklahoma City as are hundred by one dead green. The magnitude of the Oklahoma City bombing is quite different than that of a green, because, while turf can be replaced human lives cannot. Nothing that anyone can say or do will replace the lives lost in Oklahoma City. The families and friends of these unfortunate victims will be affected much longer than just a few weeks time, and that green will be back. I don't think that one single golfer's life has ever

been completely changed because of a green that died, they got over it as soon as the green reopened, their life continued on unaffected.

Often the demands placed on superintendents by their employers appear unfair, actually bordering on ridiculous. This seems especially true knowing that we are all human, occasionally make mistakes, and are at the mercy of mother nature in this line of work. Superintendents often must work with substandard irrigation systems, poorly constructed greens, equipment that should have been scrapped long ago, or a turf species that is not well adapted to local conditions. All while perfection is still demanded!

A good friend of mine once asked me

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Delaney —water bills

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tal and economic interest," James said.

He also reported on a new effort to provide information on multiple chemical sensitivity.

An organizational meeting for an institute which will monitor and interpret research on the complex and confusing issue of multiple chemical sensitivities was held on June 13-14 in Beltsville, Md/

"RISE is a sponsor of this new organization, the Environmental Sensitivities Research Institute," said James.

"But it is a good idea for individual manufacturers and formulators to become members as well.

"This is a serious issue that could have a very negative impact on the green industry."

Keep It In Perspective

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why it is acceptable for Businessmen to lose deals, Bankers to lose money, Doctors to lose patients, Lawyers to lose cases, Golf Professionals to lose tournaments, but, it is unacceptable for a Superintendent to lose any turf? Unfortunately, I do not have an answer to that question.

It is hard to forget during the heat of summer, that holding the greens may mean holding your job. Knowing this makes working long hours and on weekends a requirement of the job. So, do the best you can this summer, and try not to let your work consume you. At least not to the point that you neglect your friends and family. If the worst does happen, and turf is lost, deal with it at that point in time. Keep it in perspective and remember, turf can be replaced.

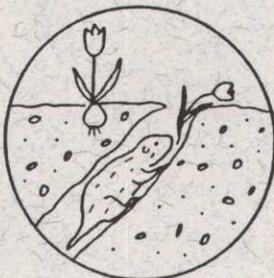
Golf and the Environment: P. R.

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sional maintenance practices.

Public appearances are a great way to spread the word. An ideal place to begin is at local schools, elementary, high school and college. At the elementary level you could discuss how golf courses can benefit the environment. Environmental topics are certainly a part of the curriculum. What a great opportunity to tell "the rest of the story". At the high school and college level you could discuss the turfgrass profession as a career, emphasizing the environmental benefits of golf courses. How about speaking to a local environmental group? Part of the reason anti-golf attitudes exist is due to a lack of knowledge. You can help provide that..

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