

Therefore, when the casual visitor sees an irrigation system in use throughout the day, he should not assume that the golf course is heavily irrigated. It may be that the course is merely being *syringed* to combat high temperatures or that it is a routine check on 'maintenance day'. All too often though, because he can only relate to his experiences in the cool British climate, he ignores the implications of the harsh weather and returns home to Britain, criticising the 'American' ways.

Whether a golf course is situated in an arid or semi-arid, warm-humid or cool-humid zone will govern the maintenance requirements, and, to some extent, determine the size of its maintenance budget. A severe climate will proportionately increase the cost of maintenance if general standards are to be achieved.

The United States of America is a country of extremes, both in climates and degrees of affluence. Standards of golfturf management vary considerably. Some golf courses are disappointingly poor whilst others display unbelievable excellence. Some struggle on very limited maintenance budgets, whilst others enjoy the luxury of an almost limitless one. This is not to say that it is only the wealthy Clubs that have good greens. Some low budget courses are excellent. Knowledgeable and dedicated superintendents can produce good greens, even on relatively low budgets. Understandably though, the cream of superintendents are normally offered a



**Not all golf courses are healthily irrigated even in Arizona**

position at a wealthy Club.

The severity of some climates dictate a minimum maintenance budget required to achieve an acceptable standard. If the Membership is unwilling to pay the price, they are denied the privilege of a golf course as we know it. If they are willing to pay the price for excellence, they are justly rewarded.

There is no 'typical' American green, just as there is no typical American. It is a vast country with an incredible diversity of climates, soils, vegetation cover, and maintenance methods, and a vast array of golf courses.

*To be continued .....*

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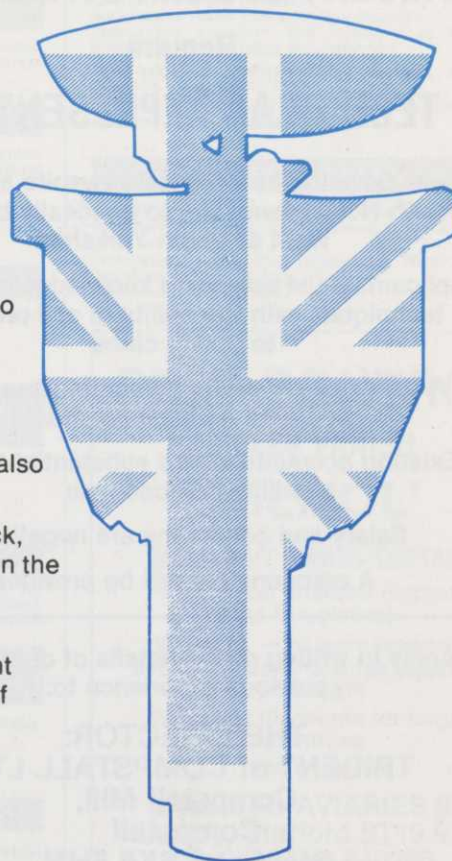
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