A UK First

Golf Landscapes designed and installed a new Toro irrigation system for the greens, tees and approaches at Royal Berkshire last year.

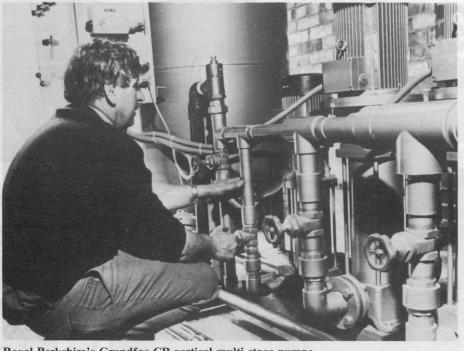
A feature of the system, which uses Grundfos CR vertical multistage in-line pumps, is that each of the 36 greens is watered by four pop-up sprinklers, controlled individually to maximise efficiency.

Most irrigation systems in the UK are of a block design, where all sprinklers on a green are activated at the same time and, so, apply equal amounts of water to each part of the green. The single head system at the Royal Berkshire club adds flexibility to the irrigation programme.

Tees and approaches on the two courses are watered by Toro sprinklers, which give full circle, adjustable part circle and two speed heads as each location demands. Certain fairways are watered with quick coupling hose points and Toro's new travelling sprinkler.

Three Grundfos CR 16-18 and one CR 4-120 vertical multi-stage in-line centrifugal pumps provide the boosted water for the pop-up sprinklers. The CR 4 acts as a jockey pump, monitoring the system requirements. When flow is insufficient, one or more of the CR 16s is activated by a solenoid.

The system installed at Royal Berkshire includes computerised control, as well as some 800 individual sprinkler stations.



Royal Berkshire's Grundfos CR vertical multi-stage pumps.

The concept could pave the way for single head control irrigation systems at many more British golf courses and full details can be obtained from Grundfos Pumps, Grovebury Road, Leighton Buzzard, Beds. Tel: 0525 374876.

Help With Planting Time Traumas

Since Maxwell Hart launched the Broadleaf P4 polymer soil additive in 1984, the benefits of moisture retentive materials have been put to widespread use. But the company emphasises that users should ensure such materials are functional, too.

Maxwell Hart has no doubts about the abilities of Broadleaf P4. It was given immediate acceptance and has since proven its worth – particularly in the planting of trees and shrubs. Afterwards, in the battle to establish root systems, P4 releases moisture 'reservoirs' to the root system as required.

Broadleaf P4 can absorb up to 400 times its weight in water and, with unlimited dry-out and rehydration capacity during its lifespan of about five years, it is a long-term solution to soil conditioning.

The additive reduces evaporation, inhibits leaching and limits the build-up of harmful salts and also upgrades the structure, hydration capacity and aeration of any soil, sand or compost.

Full details from Richard Tigwell, Maxwell Hart, Winnersh, Wokingham, Berkshire RG11 5HF. Tel: 0734 785655.

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