

Palm Desert Greens Country Club is positive proof.

Maintaining one of the heaviest played executive golf courses in Southern California is a challenging job. An average of 290 rounds of golf a day puts tough demands on the turf, and on the irrigation system. That's why golf course superintendent Robert Stuczynski recently installed Weather-matic rotary pop-up sprinklers to upgrade the system at the Palm Desert Greens Country Club.

Stuczynski was won away from a brand he's used for more than a decade by Weather-matic's high quality design and features. The exclusive adjustable armspring allows fine-tuning while the sprinkler is on or off, and stays adjusted once set — a must for handling Palm Desert's exacting schedule of watering or fertilizing.

Weather-matic impact drive, rotary pop-up sprinkler heads are available in rugged cast



aluminum alloy and high impact plastic housings for your long-range or medium-range needs — from golf courses, parks and athletic fields to commercial use.

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When you team up our rotary pop-up sprinklers, controllers and valves, you have a combination that can't be beat. Just ask Stuczynski. He's now finalizing a plan to changeover the entire Palm Desert system to Weather-matic. Because Weather-matic works.

Write or call for all the details.

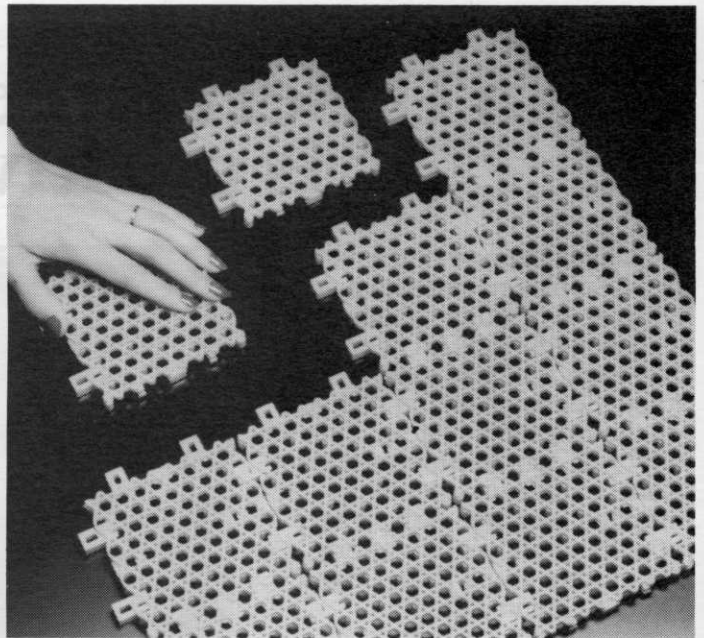
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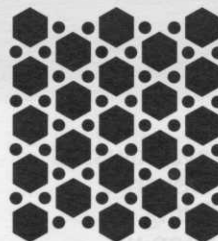
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Get Your Guide

Johnsons Seeds has issued the 1986 *British Wild Flower and Grass Seed Price List*. Two new mixtures have been introduced, one for shaded areas and a second complementary woodland mixture.

The number of individual species offered has also been increased to 150 flowers and over 40 grasses – the introduction of a native form of Birdsfoot Trefoil is likely to be a welcome item which, although still in limited quantities, can be used in standard mixtures replacing the foreign forms generally used.

Johnsons is currently the only national seed house producing and supplying its own native British wild flower and grass seeds, which involves working with over 300 species. The quantity of seed being produced has steadily increased enabling prices for mixtures to be maintained or reduced.

The new list offers a wider range of 14 mixtures formulated for different situations with detailed descriptions of their application and suitability. The recommended minimum sowing rates are clearly shown together with the percentage ingredients.

The proportion of flower to grass seeds is 1:4 in Johnsons standard mixtures and where a Johnsons supplemental mixture is used, the proportion of flowers to grass increases again to around 1:3.

A further innovation is the introduction of an eight-point management plan, using a chart

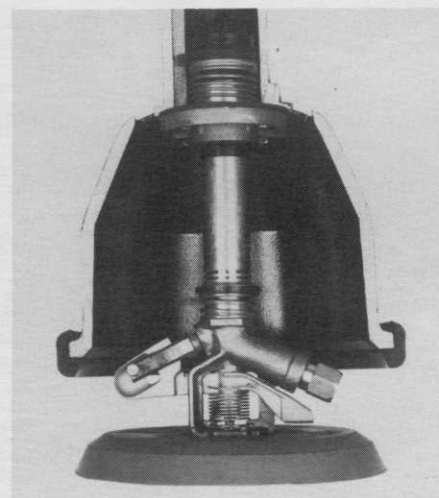
and table to highlight the timing and frequency of key operations. Johnsons full-colour, 16-page *Wild Flower Guide* is available free on request, with a practical guidance section covering choice and design of site, preparation, sowing and various management options.

For further information and copies of the booklets, contact Geoff Taylor, Johnsons Seeds, London Road, Boston PE21 8AD. Tel: 0205 65051.

First British Golf Sprinklers

Ever since automatic irrigation was introduced on to British golf courses in the 1960s, it has been necessary to buy all the specialist hardware, such as sprinklers, controllers and valves, from overseas.

Some five years ago, Watermation, with offices in Woking, Stirling and Dublin, started manufacturing its TW1 computer controller in Britain. Since then, the



number of other contractors using this controller has grown.

The TW1 controller is one of the most simple to use and works on the two wire principle, as opposed to the multiplicity of wiring more conventional methods require. Complicated keyboards and VDU screens, requiring operator knowledge of computer systems, have been avoided.

Now the company is putting on the market its GN range of heavy-duty pop-ups specially designed for golf courses. There are, at present, three models in part circle or full circle to suit approaches, greens, tees and fairways.

Full details from Watermation, Monument Way E, Woking, Surrey GU21 5LY. Tel: Woking (04862) 70303.

Roll Up!

A wheelbarrow made from polyethylene rather than conventional mild steel is being manufactured by Europolite.

Apart from a new design, which represents a considerable departure from the conventional barrow shape, this plastic barrow is light, strong, easy-to-clean, has a low centre of gravity and is rot proof.

There are two models – one with a 4½ cubic feet capacity with integral plastic handles, the other with 1½in tube steel wrap-round handles and 3½ cubic feet capacity.

Full details from Europolite, Europa House, Sheepbridge Lane, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire NG18 5DX. Tel: 0623 27142.

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- RACECOURSES – Ascot, Ayr, Chester, Uttoxeter
- LAND RECLAMATION – Work in progress on NCB sites
- ALSO on cricket pitches, bowling greens, tennis courts – in fact, wherever grass is sown, grown and mown



Apprentice Corner

Fusarium Patch Disease (*Microdochium nivale*)

This is the commonest and most damaging disease of fine turf. It attacks at all seasons of the year, from the extremes of muggy weather in summer to under snow in winter.

The disease first shows as small patches of dead grass, from 2.5cm upwards which, if not controlled, spread rapidly and coalesce. Later stages show characteristic, clearly defined margins, with sometimes fluffy white mycelial growth on the dead and decomposing leaves.

***Microdochium nivale** characteristically attacks annual meadow grass dominated turf, but can also be severe on *Agrostis*. This is especially true of some strains of *Agrostis*.*

High humidity, coupled with weakened or stimulated growth caused by smothering and the use of autumn/winter fertilisers, predisposes turf to attacks.

Prevention is better than cure. Ensure good ventilation by clearing away shading trees and



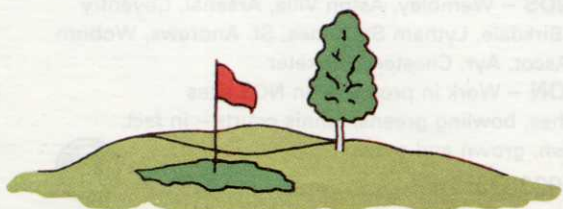
Above: Fusarium 'damping off' fescue.
Below: Fusarium Patch Disease.

scrub; switch dew regularly, especially in the warm 'growthy' periods of summer; do not top-dress turf unless there is active growth to absorb it; never use autumn/winter fertilisers and discourage annual meadow grass dominance by correct management.



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GREENKEEPER TRAINING

One of the speakers at EIGGA's annual conference at Warwick University was Peter Wilson of the English Golf Union and former Chairman of the Greenkeeper Training Committee. Amongst the many points he raised in a very comprehensive address was the matter of training centres. The GTC has now decided to back four colleges who will offer block release training in greenkeeping in England these are: Askham Bryan College
Sparsholt College
Cannington College
Reaseheath College
with Elmwood College covering Scotland. These colleges are now official approved by the County Unions with a number of counties being affiliated to each college.

A joint meeting of all the lecturers under the Chairmanship of Dr Peter Hayes with Jim Arthur and a representative of City & Guilds is to take place to standardise courses and the scheme will commence with the new academic year in September.

Mr Wilson pointed out that although the nomination of these "official" colleges would not prevent other agricultural/horticultural colleges running courses any candidate wishing to become a qualified registered greenkeeper on completion of this course would still have to attend a weeks course at one of the four colleges and pass an examination to attain registration.

USGA GREEN SECTION

The United States Golf Association — Green Section held their customary morning session at the 57th GCSAA Annual Conference in San Francisco. Apart from being very well attended — with nine of their top agronomists passing on the "Best Turf Tips of 1985" (something that the STRI's advisors might like to copy when putting on their "roadshows" this year) — the main debate was "A critical look at contemporary golf course architecture".

The essence of the argument that developed was that there is a vast difference between Americas golf course architecture of the 1920s and the new designs being built today and equally as large a difference between the courses being designed today by the likes of Nicklaus and Dye and the other more "moderate" architects.



DISTANCE LEARNING AT ELMWOOD

The Scotec Part 3 Supervisory Course adapted by Mr. A. Smith, the Course Tutor, so it could largely be taught on a Distance Learning basis (one week in college instead of the normal five), appears to have gone down well with the Greenkeeping Industry.

The National interest in the course can readily be seen by studying the list of those attending:- Gary Armstrong — Co Durham, Robert Brewer — Glasgow, Thomas Byrne — Glasgow, Ronnie Christie — Criol, Graham Clarke — Leeds, Stewart Cruickshank — Larbert (Stirlingshire), Alan Ferguson — Bathgate, Charles Fotheringham — Falkirk, Christopher Gray — Isle of Wight, Iain Gunn — Kingussie, Robert Hardie — Aberdeen, Alastair Holmes — Berwick-upon-Tweed, Neil Metcalf — Aberdeen, Paul Morrison — Irvine, Chris. Nicolle — Guernsey, Alastair Taylor — East Kilbride, Andrew Terry — Stratford-upon-Avon, Graeme MacNiven — Effingham (Surrey), Stuart Townsend — Linlithgow.

The USGA and Gene Baston President of the GCSAA gave a clear warning that the courses that utilise the more extreme design features will shortly even in the USA price themselves out of the market — Baston making the plea that mowing one in one banks is at best **very** time consuming! Although it would seem that the funds of the US golfer are limitless with a round at Pebble Beach now costing £100, including compulsory buggy hire, and with the golfers going off every ten minutes there is a two month waiting list for a tee off time!

DISTRIBUTOR CLARIFICATION

Recent advertisements appearing in Greenkeeper regarding Weather-Matic and their distributorships may be misleading to customers of Watermation, who have been the

Weather-Matic distributor in the United Kingdom and Ireland for 16 years. Watermation wish to announce that they are still the Weather-Matic distributor and that a full range of Weather-Matic parts will continue to be available from Watermation at Monument Way East, Woking, Surrey (telephone: 04862 70303).

MOLES...

Again at the EIGGA conference the delegates learned a great deal about moles and their eradication. It would appear that amongst other attributes moles live in the dark are virtually blind, equipped with vicious claws and teeth, eat grubs as well as other moles and are likely to mate only once a year and then by taking a run at their partner of anything up to 800 yards. Perhaps its all they deserve.

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