

BUYERS' GUIDE

Planning your Irrigation

"As we approach the new irrigation season, it is time to reflect on the past two summers and the effect this has had on the industry.

The sheer quantity of rain has had the effect of making golf club Committees oblivious to the need to forward plan the needs of their irrigation systems. We have in the past witnessed many times the panic driven reaction to the fact that all of a sudden the sun shines and the grass turns brown. "We want water now!" they cry. Inevitably they find that all irrigation companies are busy working elsewhere and that the quality of their golf course starts to suffer.

We need to ensure that all Committees are aware of the need to consider that wet summers may not actually be the norm and that global warming may be real. The forecasters are predicting a hot summer so the need to plan ahead is urgent. Whether this includes upgrading old pipework, replacing old sprinklers with more efficient types or extending the system to cover new tees, all such work needs to be planned and budgets set aside to cater for this. This should involve the full co-operation of all the parties involved. The Head Greenkeeper should consult with the industry experts to get advice on the most cost effective and water efficient systems. These should be accurately costed and presented to the Club's Committee for approval. All such work takes time and should therefore be considered as early as possible.

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