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PURR-WICK UPDATE

At least 340 Purrr-Wick greens are in use in 17 states and Canada according to update of 1 June 77.

In Colorado, the desire was to have extra water present when warm drying windy period occur in late winter. The same applies in the plains areas in Canada. In the southeast, the desire is to get drainage and reduce Pythium and wet wilt potential for bentgrass. In California, water conservation is accentuated, and 37% less water applied was achieved on Purrr-Wick. In the midwest, the desire is to modify the problems of hot humid weather changes.

Besides 340 greens, at least 140 tees are installed. The ease of watering and isolation from tree roots are benefits. Also, the updated list shows 125 flower beds, vegetable gardens, roof garden containers, and greenhouse benches. The first Purrr-Wick was build in 1968.

Purrr-Wick greens known in use as of 1 June 77 - W. H. Daniel

Ala. 13	Ill. 51	Tenn. 1
Ark. 1	Kan. 9	Utah 12
Col. 36	Ky. 44	Wash. 11
Cal. 3	Mo. 46	W. Va. 1
Ga. 9	N.C. 4	Wisc. 2
Ind. 95	Ore. 1	Canada 2

Total in 17 states and Canada.....340

Movement (siphoning effect) as unsaturated soil moisture flows over dividers at low (0-40cm) tension in the sand above barriers of the Purrr-Wick method of constructing rootzones for putting greens is being studied by Purdue graduate student, John M. Roberts. Models containing dune sand (50% med. and 50% fine) were filled to 45 cm, in which dividers of 40 cm and 20 cm were tested. Based on data obtained, building with dividers to near the final surface is currently suggested. Most of the first 300 Purrr-Wick greens built with low dividers need to have the dividers exposed, then a strip of plastic added to extend the divider upward, which will minimize the movement between compartments. The barriers have already been raised in one green in California, as well as in some in Indiana. This gives a balance of water within compartments. The procedure involves finding and following the barrier, removing the sod, taking out the sand, extending the barrier, then replacing the sand as a one-day project.

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