

FREE ENGINEERING CAN BE COSTLY \$\$

Golf course superintendents who accept "free" engineering services offered by equipment suppliers may pay a high price for it. Free engineering service, often in the form of an irrigation drawing, is really an illusion and can hardly be considered free for the costs must be recovered somehow by the supplier, usually they are concealed in the orders that are won. This illusion encourages practices that inflate costs and wastes engineering man-power already in short supply.

Superintendents should realize that the manufacturers representative is primarily concerned with selling a product. Any assistance offered is usually aimed at closing a sale, under these circumstances a manufacturer's representative can hardly be completely objective.

Any superintendent planning a major capital expenditure, such as a complete new irrigation system, should look at all of the factors through the eyes of club member engineers, or an experienced consulting engineer. After a thorough evaluation a recommendation should be made to the Board of Directors whether to proceed at all, and, if so, the best course to follow. Only then can equipment be selected that is best suited for the purpose, and balanced design developed that gives consideration to first costs as well as subsequent operating and maintenance costs for it will often be the case that a consultant will specify equipment made by various manufacturers, such as control panels by one, sprinklers by another, valves by another and so on. Truly competitive prices can then be obtained on such a plan for each bidder is asked to offer a quotation on the same set of drawings and specifications.

Charles E. (Scotty) Stewart

TREXSAN DEMONSTRATION

SITE - Spot spray fairways and roughs

DATE - May 11, 1982

RATE OF APPLICATION - 2 pints per acre and 3 pints per acre

TYPE OF APPLICATION - 400 gal. John Bean with 3/4 KLC Field Jet Nozzle

- Standing pressure 80 psi

- 60 gal. H₂O per acre

- Nalco Trol Drift Retardant

NOTE - 2 pint per acre treatment used in fairways and roughs. Good control of Dandelion and Plantain (Buckhorns and Broadleaf). Poor control of clover.

3 pints per acre treatment used in fairways and roughs. Excellent control of Dandelion and Plantain species. Seemed to be a much quicker control or "knockdown" of Broadleaf's. Once again poor control of clover, however, at least the 3 pint rate seemed to put the clover under stress.

The remaining areas on the golf course were treated with Trimec at 4 pints per acre with the same results. Poor control of clover.

In the 30 days following these applications we had 15 days of measurable precipitation totalling 5.37 inches and below average temperatures which I feel directly counteracted the chemical, thus, the poor results. On June 18th we spot treated with Banvel 4-S at 1 1/2 pints per acre and cleaned up the clover.

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