

ASSISTED FROM THE CLASS C
Nick Marfise, Park Ridge Country Club



Trick of the Trade

There are many tools that help golf course superintendents keep track of soil moisture. Evapotranspiration(ET), the sum of evaporation and plant transpiration from the earth, has become a “hot” topic in our industry. The ability to apply the exact amount of water needed by the plant can create a significant amount of savings in water, money, and time at your facility.

How do you keep track of ET if you do not have the money for an expensive weather station or a modern ET gauge? The answer is simple, make your own.

Using supplies found around the shop we made our own ET gauge at Park Ridge Country Club. We used PVC pipe, clear plastic tubing, barbed fittings, and a sponge (okay, so maybe we had to buy the sponge). The plastic tubing is attached to the side of the PVC using the barbed fittings. The sponge is placed inside the PVC to act as a wick. By filling the gauge every morning we are able to judge how much water is lost during the day. Our gauge is not calibrated to national weather bureau standards, but it is part of our tools we use on a daily basis to judge water loss. **-OC**

