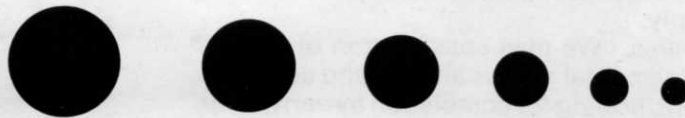


# Editorial



Less than 3% of the earth's water is potable. Out of this 3% must come water for human consumption, industry, farming and recreational uses. The latter includes golf courses and is considered to be the last priority by many experts.

By 1990 (ten short years from now) golf course superintendents will find themselves in a critical position. No fresh water will be available for irrigation. Only two courses of action are feasible. Cease to operate (as some California courses have done), or find alternate sources of usable irrigation water.

The most readily available water source is sewage effluent. Billions of gallons a day are being dumped into our lakes, rivers and oceans. We cannot afford to let such a precious commodity be wasted. We, as an association must get the government and the EPA to recognize our needs.

A sewage plant sits in the middle of Coral Ridge Country Club (Ft. Lauderdale) and twelve million gallons a day of effluent is being pumped into the ocean. Not one drop can be used on the golf course. Another example, two regional sewage plants are being built in Dade County (Miami). One of these plant will dump sixteen million gallons of effluent into the ocean daily and the other plant will pump it into the ground. Why can't this excellent source of irrigation water be utilized on golf courses, parks and other recreational areas? A pipeline could be run to these different facilities and the effluent could be purchased the same as city water.

Pinellas County (St. Petersburg - Clearwater) is a good example of utilizing sewage effluent. The effluent from a regional plant is pumped to Innisbrook Golf Course and the entire golf complex (36 holes) is irrigated with this water with no adverse effects on plants, grasses or irrigation equipment.

Golf Course Superintendents must take a firm fast stand on this issue. Within ten to fifteen years farmers will be using effluent (as alien as it might sound now) to irrigate crops. Industry will also be using effluent for 50 to 80% of its needs. If golf courses do not secure the use of effluent within the next two to five years we will find ourselves without this precious commodity.