



# West Coast Buccaneers



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Water — the lack of it or the abundance of it. This seems to be the main topic of conversation among golf course superintendents on the west coast of Florida. I questioned several members of our association regarding this issue.

Harvey Phillips said they have had 4.5 inches of rain at the Biltmore from August 20, 1981 to September 1, 1981. However, before that Harvey was restricted to watering only between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m. He is trying to regulate this "feast or famine" situation by negotiating for the use of effluent water. It will probably be at least a year though before this plan is realized.

Lee Todd reports an adequate water supply at the Dunedin C.C. The club was put on mandatory watering restrictions for the first time this summer. Lee said they have no plans in the immediate future for using effluent water.

Lakewood C.C. golf course is "pretty wet" at the present time, according to Dick Grill. Dick uses effluent water which takes care of one side of the water issue for him.

Dan Morgan down at Sun City is currently "pretty damp." Dan's wells are in good shape and everything held up very well during the recent dry period. Sun City plans to use effluent water on all their courses within four years.

With only about a quarter of their usual rainfall, Don Wilson up in Crystal River reported he is fairly dry. His wells are in excellent shape though and he doesn't anticipate any real problems in the near future. Don was restricted to night time only watering.

Fred Tucker at Timber Oaks in Pasco County continues to have his own unique problems. Timber Oaks Golf Course is dry and getting little moisture compared with most of the rest of the west coast. The SWFWMD cut them back to 40 per cent of their normal water needs while the county

allowed only night time watering. The matter was further complicated when the SWFWMD required flow meters to be placed on the wells and pumps. Timber Oaks uses effluent water, but since the county restricts its use to within 50 feet of residential dwellings, a dual irrigation system is required for the course.

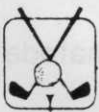
At the Plant City Golf Club we could get only enough water during the early summer to "keep the roots alive." At the present time we are pretty wet though. During the drought we conserved water which prevented our well from cavitating. The availability of a source for effluent water at our location is almost nil and so, at this point, we have no plans to use it.

The superintendents in our area agree that use of effluent water for irrigation will be the only salvation for many courses. It is all too clear — especially in our heavily populated areas — that if the natural supply of potable water is only adequate now, it will be unavailable for any type of recreational uses in the not too distant future.

It might be best for our profession and the golf course industry if we stress to water management districts and local governments that using effluent water to irrigate recreational lands will not only conserve a precious resource we are rapidly depleting, but will also solve some of the problems the various counties are facing disposing of waste water.

Just this past week it was reported in the news that Tampa had to dump raw sewage into the Hillsborough River because of all the rain. A similar situation occurred south of here in the Manatee River.

Do we just wait until we turn on the faucet and nothing comes out before we do something? ■



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