

# WATER PROBLEMS

Mr. Bruce Adams  
 So. Fla. Water Management District  
 P O Box V  
 West Palm Beach, Fla. 33402

Dear Bruce:

Thank you for your invitation to meet with you regarding the turf industry's water use needs.

As a follow up to that meeting held in the So. Fla. Water Management District headquarters on Wednesday, Oct. 28, 1981, at 10 A.M. and which was attended by S.F.W.M.D. staff personnel and representatives of the turf industry, I wish to submit the following position paper.

We, the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association, are in tune with the critical water situation which has developed and become so much a part of our daily existence. We pledge our cooperation in assisting your efforts to provide equitable, reasonable amounts of water for all required consumption. More specifically we, the superintendents of golf courses situated in your water management district, offer these facts and figures for your information and consideration.

Located in your area of administration are approximately 350 golf courses with an average acreage of 125. This constitutes an urban life supporting factor by providing oxygen for 2,920,000 people each year.

A conservative estimate of the economic value of these courses is a yearly dollar volume of 350 million. This does not include the consideration of variables such as the dollar volume of business generated by supporting and allied industries.

Although somewhat difficult to ascertain in a dollar volume, the negative impact on future development and tax dollar revenue without the involvement of a golf course is immeasurable and, in the eyes of revenue seeking government entities, unthinkable.

Recognizing the fact that we are large users of water and also being cognizant of the inordinate energy costs involved in our irrigation process, demands on our application systems for more sensitive control and monitoring have been met. We have the ability to place water in specific areas. The ability to automatically shut off during a measurable rainfall is incorporated. Rainfall amounts are the key factor of consideration in our irrigation programs and the period following a rain is carefully observed as to atmospheric conditions, previous and future weather conditions, temperature, wind velocity, and the condition of the turf before further irrigation is applied.

We also offer our support in regulation assistance through

our association communication tools and by personal surveillance and contact.

The detailed water requirement schedule which follows divides the average golf course into five basic areas which are listed in an importance priority.

- #1 - Greens
- #2 - Tees
- #3 - Fairways
- #4 - Roughs
- #5 - Non-Playing and Common

Greens, Tees, and Fairways are self explanatory. Roughs are in two forms — short or controlled and deep. Non playing areas are basically clubhouse grounds and practice areas. Common areas refer primarily to entrances and approach boulevards.

	Maximum	Minimum
Greens	2" - 2½" per wk.	
Tees	2" - 2½" per wk.	1" - 1¼" per wk.
Fairways	1½" - 2" per wk.	¾" - 1" per wk.
Roughs	1½" - 2" per wk.	¼" - ½" per wk.
Non-Playing and common	1" - 2" per wk.	0 - ½" per wk.

The maximum amounts are for ideal playing conditions. The minimum amounts are for grass survival in a semi dormant stage with further play being determined by each individual. Please note that survival of greens is an absolute and this is at a playable state — they survive in a playable condition or they don't survive.

Please keep in mind the time required to accomplish a complete irrigation cycle on the average golf course is a minimum of 12 hours.

An average golf course of 125 acres generally will have the following area breakdown:

Greens	9 acres = 7.2%
Tees	9 acres = 7.2%
Fairways	65 acres = 52%
Roughs	32 acres = 25.6%
Non Playing	10 acres = 8%

and common

Bruce, I wish to again thank you for the opportunity to present this information to you. The situation is difficult but it can only be enhanced by your efforts and our cooperation. We would appreciate meeting with you in the near future to discuss final determination of our situation.

Respectfully,  
 Bill Wagner