

## *Guest Editorial*



Golf course superintendents, along with key officials in other outdoor industries such as commercial nurseries, swimming pool builders and suppliers, landscapers and agriculturists, have a keen interest in South Florida's water supply since their industries depend so heavily upon it.

The South Florida Water Management District, the agency charged by the state legislature with managing our invaluable freshwater supply in South Florida, is aware of this interest and understands the concerns of this multi-million dollar industry as we face what may be a severe water shortage this winter and spring.

In response to that concern, staff members of the Water Management District have met with representatives of the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association over the past several months. The result of those meetings is a better understanding by the District of the special problems and needs of the golf course industry, as well as a better understanding by industry people of how the District operates and how it will deal with various water users during a water shortage.

Following this cooperation between industry and government, officials at the Water Management District are confident water intensive industries, such as golf courses, will not have to shoulder more than their fair share of the economic hardships that may be unavoidable during a water shortage. At the same time, it is vital that golf course interests cooperate completely during this critical period. One of the first ways that cooperation can begin is by having all golf courses establish their legal right to water use by becoming permitted water users under the guidelines established by the District. Examining watering techniques to insure that waste is not encouraged, adjusting the timing of irrigation to water during the early morning or late afternoon, and setting sprinkler heads so that they can be targeted to water greens, tees and fairways separately, can all be part of a program to condition your course to withstand the harsh winter and spring we must anticipate.

With these efforts and continuation of good, open communication, we can meet this serious situation with as little real difficulty as possible.