

Renovation: Adventure Into Anxiety

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It is hard to understand how one word can strike fear into the hearts of Golf Course Superintendents.

The word Renovation is not that devastating when used in a sentence.

But the act of Renovation, taking place on the superintendent's well manicured golf course can bring out even the deepest, darkest emotions and characteristics.

But in my opinion the majority of anxiety can be lifted through proper preplanning.

The smoothest running job normally obtains the best results excluding one item: weather. The weather is something that we can not control, but should be figured into the planning.

It is really difficult to give someone an accurate price quote on a new 18 hole golf course irrigation installation in less than 24 hours. But it does happen.

Consideration of time should be given to anyone who is asked to quote prices on any job no matter how large or small. Then the next step is to start the planning procedure between the contractor and the club. The Superintendent should always be included in all phases of negotiations for he is the club's resident authority on the golf course. The final results will be a success only if Architect, Superintendent, Consultant, Club Representative and Contractor work harmoniously on the project.

Everyone involved should be aware of the scope of the work and the results that are expected.

Pressures from club members to have new planting "grown in" can and do cause some unnecessary problems for all parties involved. As much information as possible regarding changes in greens, traps, fairways, tees etc . . . should be brought to the attention of club members to answer any questions in their minds.

Renovation is a field in which expertise is required to achieve a suitable finished product. But similar to most other things in life today you cannot expect a Cadillac result on a moped expenditure.

This brings us back to planning again. The Superintendent should do as much up-front work as possible to obtain a clear understanding of all aspects of the project.

Renovation is a normal, necessary procedure in the golf course industry. The Adventure into Anxiety can be smoothed considerably only if you plan in advance. ■

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