

USGA specifications and will be restored to their original contours.

## Architect revises booklet on greens construction

"More than 70 percent of all greens today have been improperly built, or otherwise fail to meet modern scientific standards conducive to promoting growth while reducing physical and physiological stress," says Dr. Michael Hurdzan, a former superintendent and past president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects.

In his revised version of the 24-page pamphlet, "The Evolution of the Modern Green," Hurdzan points out that to further complicate matters, each green has its own requirements involving such factors as orientation to the sun, air, drainage, shade and wind, and swings in temperature and relative humidity.

"The net result," Hurdzan concludes, "is that today's golf course superinten-

dent has 18 different 'babies,' each one having its own strengths and weaknesses, and all of them being susceptible at any given time to devastation resulting from weather, disease, insects, vandals, weeds, equipment failure or operator error, miscalculation or player abuse."

The quest for faster greens has resulted in a situation in which more of today's greens are being stressed beyond their genetic capacity to heal themselves.

However, he believes space-age technology will help win the battle.

"Today's greens are the product of such disciplines as agronomic chemistry, soil physics, genetics and



Mike Hurdzan

play physiology — disciplines that were far removed from the art of turfgrass management until the last 30 years or so," Hurdzan says.

Even at world-famous courses, the greens may be perfect only for a very short period, and then only with great expenditures of time, money and manpower, he adds.

"Therefore, greens should not be compared. Good greens are expected... great greens should be appreciated... and perfect greens should be cherished. For they are as fragile and changeable as life itself," he says.

Hurdzan's booklet reviews the historical development of the putting green, including the dominant methods of construction and the carefully prescribed procedures for building them, as well as the proper care and maintenance of both new and mature greens. It is available for \$5 from the American Society of Golf Course Architects, 221 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL 60601.



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