

The Florida Green

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Welcome!

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The Florida Green for the first time:

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TURFGRASS QUIZ

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Problem:
Unplayable turf
after irrigation

Clue:
Saturated Green

Location:
Florida

Answer:
Please see Page 6

TURF NEWS

ROUNDUP

ALSO

Golfweek reader poll cites top golf courses in state, nation 10

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TURF QUIZ ANSWER

Green was unplayable after irrigation. Water covered tops of show soles. Capillary pull in the soil profile was interrupted by three layers of buried thatch.

Soil profile remained constantly wet. Recommended rebuilding to USGA specifications.

Alternatives: deep spiking to break up layers of grooving to physically remove layers.



From left, James Davidson, interim vice president for agriculture and natural resources; Terril Nell, chairman, department of environmental horticulture; Bob Rehberg, FTGA president; John Lombardi, UF president; Bob Yount, FTGA executive vice president.

Turfgrass industry, researchers break ground for Envirotron

March 11 was a better day for warm-season grasses than warm-season people.

Mid-morning temperatures in the mid-40s chased more than 100 turfgrass dignitaries into a Fifield Hall conference room on the University of Florida campus at Gainesville to “break ground” for the Envirotron. And after about 20 minutes of speeches, more than half the assembly walked outside and braved the bright, crystalline atmosphere to watch five men dig in the dirt.

The Envirotron is really going to happen.

UF President John Lombardi opened the ceremonies with a summary of the \$700,000 research facility’s scientific and educational mission.

“I’m reading this,” he noted candidly, “because frankly I don’t have a clue what an envirotron does. I’ll wait until it’s finished and I can look at it.

“But we all know that the scientific study of turfgrass is important to this state and its environment. Turfgrass in the state of Florida is a big-time industry and everyone will be very interested in the research that takes place here and all of us will share in the benefits.”

Jim Davidson, UF interim vice president for agriculture and natural resources, brought down the house with the observation that “the University of Florida was not able to win an SEC football

championship until we put turf back in our stadium.”

He then recited the litany of the industry’s economic importance (\$5 billion in Florida), noting that Florida had only 125 golf courses in 1953, the year of the state’s first turfgrass conference. “Now there are more than a thousand.

“Environmental factors dictate that we take a holistic approach to turfgrass maintenance. We must not only find ways to control and eliminate pests and diseases but we must come to solutions that are acceptable to our society while protecting our environment

“The Envirotron will enable us to better serve the state and its citizens.”

Science and education will be the major contributions of the Envirotron, said FTGA President Bob Rehberg in the main address.

“One thing this facility will allow us to do is recruit first-class graduate students. We have built living facilities within the Envirotron so that first-class students can live there as well as study there.

“The leaders of tomorrow are the students of today.”

Living quarters and all the other bells and whistles in the original concept survived the design and budget process, although the final ver-