

bright blue skies, and windy conditions result in rapid soil moisture loss and high evapotranspiration (ET) rates.

Additional care must be exercised with supplemental irrigation to avoid the onset of drought stress, especially at courses where winter overseeding is practiced. Juvenile overseeding, lack drought tolerance and can be thinned quickly by drought stress. Through the spring, closely monitor for drought stress. Daytime irrigation may be necessary to prevent a fast transition of the overseeding cover.

Until rainfall occurs on a regular basis, salt accumulation in the upper rootzone can be a problem. Even with irrigation sources that have low to medium salt content, a progressive build-up in concentration levels can occur. Thus, it is a good idea to monitor with soil sampling and, if needed, schedule flushing or leaching irrigation cycles.

This regional update, and others written by the Green Section staff, may be found on the USGA Web site at www.usga.org/green.

John Foy, Director



GCSAA News New Governance Model Will Save Officers' Time and Jobs

I'll be anxious to see how the new governance model works out as the GCSAA board members turn over the details of running things to the staff under the direction of Steve

Mona our CEO. It's a worthwhile idea since the travel time away from work for a sitting officer or board member ranges between 30 and 100 days a year. That's too long to be away from work and keep your job. Just look at the job changes of former officers. This just makes sense, and might get more people involved.

The 2004 budget and strategic initiatives

- Good news for superintendents looking for a job. The GCSAA's online Employment Referral Service is now free.
- The association is budgeting \$175,000 for television exposure for continuing its national outreach campaign.
- The association will be developing plans for more diversity within the organization's membership and improving international opportunities.
- Florida had two research projects approved in the Chapter Cooperative Research Program. Dr. Lawrence Datnoff will be looking at management of *Bipolaris* and *Curvalaria* on ultradwarf greens, and Dr. Billy Crow will be studying the best timing for nematocide applications based on soil temperatures, nematode



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Environmental Management Program

Congratulations to Bob Bittner, CGCS and 2003 FGCSA Presidents Award Winner. Bob has completed all areas of specialization in GCSAA's Environmental Management Program (EMP). Fewer than 40 superintendents have accomplished that feat. There are six areas of specialization within the EMP:

- Employee safety and right-to-know
- Golf course development
- Habitat development and Management
- Integrated pest management
- Storage, disposal and recycling
- Water quality and application

Bob says that by taking seminar courses within these areas of specialization he could focus his continuing education for a specific purpose and goal. He says that the EMP program helped him achieve ACSP certification, designing his new chemical storage/mix load facility and IPM programs, and even in the remodeling of the golf course.

Moving Up

GCSAA has an online booklet available called "From Assistant Golf Course Superintendent to Superintendent: Making a Smooth Transition." The booklet provides information on continuing education, professionalism, tips on ways to achieve career success and other information that will help move you forward in your career. The view is a little different when you are where the buck stops on everything that happens in maintenance.

Compliance Corner

One of best online tools for superintendents is GCSAA's "Compliance Corner" in the Government Relations section at www.gcsaa.org. The section contains a comprehensive list of state and federal OSHA, EPA, DOL and general safety resources. It covers everything from safe handling of drinking water (a really big deal these days) to external defibrillators and child labor laws.

Retirement

With all the buzz about Alan Greenspan's comments on Social Security, it pays all of us to take steps to secure our own

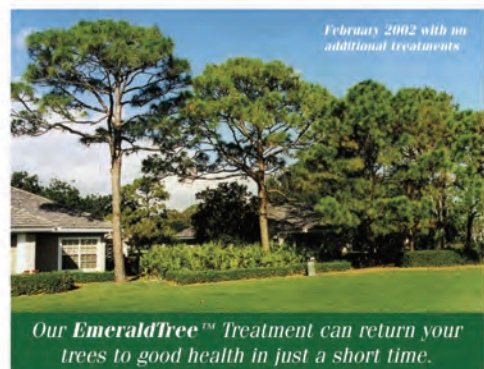
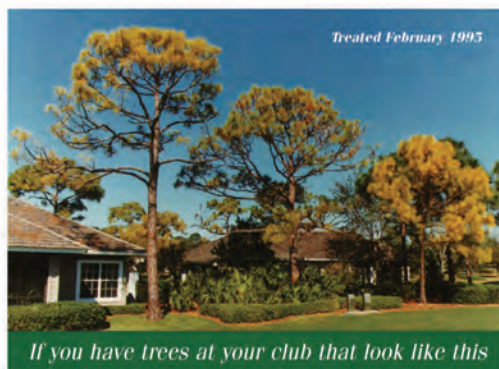
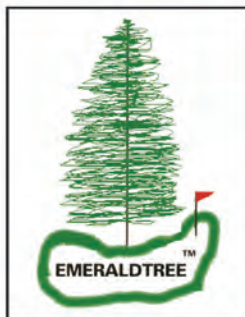
retirement funds. This is especially true in our profession where retirement benefits are often non-existent as part of our compensation packages. The GCSAA has a program called Golf Retirement Plus, which provides the following benefits:

- Personalized retirement planning. Specialists work one-on-one with members to determine the best investment strategy.
- Affordability. There are no sales charges on contributions so every dollar contributed begins working immediately.
- Significant tax savings. Members can defer taxes on potential earnings.
- Portability. The plan can be taken from one job to the next.
- Family Protection. The program provides a death benefit that ensures loved ones will be taken care of after a member's death.

For more information call Golf Retirement Plus toll free at (877) RET-PLUS.

Compiled and edited by Joel Jackson

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