

# Mahoney pow wows innovation into success

By TERRY BUCHEN

Superintendents have had great success growing wildflowers on golf courses, obtaining the best results by seeding in the late fall, or early spring in the cool-season and transition zone growing regions and most anytime in the warm-season growth areas.

One successful trick is to rototill the seedbed first, seed in the desired mixture, and then rake to cover the seed. Most superintendents use a drop-type grass seeder. This works well but is hard to calibrate because of the many different sizes of wildflower seeds, as most mixes contain up to a dozen varieties of flowers.

Two wildflower seed planters also have shown good results for superintendents and are available from Truax Wildflower Seeders (telephone 612-537-6639) and J. Thomas Wildflower Seeder (800-848-0078). They have shown great diversity, metering the chaffy, fluffy wildflower seeds on small to medium areas without the row effect. These two seeders also do wonders with native prairie grasses.

## SUPER PUBLIC RELATIONS

Superintendents love to show off their golf courses during annually scheduled invitational/member guest tournaments. In conjunction with the Pow Wow Member Guest Tournament at Siwanoy Country Club in Bronxville, N.Y., superintendent David W. Mahoney and his staff have devised a fun event for the stag night before the tournament begins. Held on their putting green is a best ball, two-man Nassau nine-hole putting contest that the membership literally talks about all year long. To make the contest unique in every way and different each year, Mahoney and company "make it up as they go" during a marathon 8-1/2-hour installation process that would be the envy of miniature golf operations anywhere.

Tee markers are made of wooden logs with feathers attached, and bunkers are strategically placed with dinner forks in them to rake the sand. Red and yellow toothpicks delineate where lateral and water hazards are located. Out-of-bounds are marked with wooden white golf tees with kite string attached in between them.

Each of the nine holes is totally different. This year they had a working waterfall and windmill, along with slate ramps with pots filled with annual flowers. Holes are straight, or sport doglegs, ramps and the like. Next year they plan on a loop-d-loop made of an old tire that can be severely angled in many different directions.

Mahoney's staff must totally dismantle the putting contest before the members and their guests tee it up Friday mornings, which really gets his employees' pride

and adrenalin flowing.

## THE PUMPHOUSE

If your existing irrigation pumphouse is large enough, consider placing storage shelves wherever possible inside the building to use this wasted space. Then the maintenance building irrigation parts and supplies area can be used to store other such things. If you are involved in a grow-in of a golf course, it is an excellent time to design the

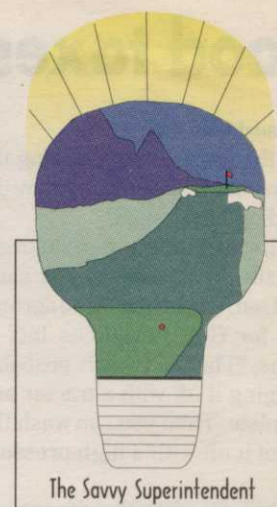
pumphouse into a self-contained, separate irrigation department. Three or four shelves can be built in. Irrigation 20-foot lengths of pipe can be stored under the shelves on the floor if the building is long enough.

Fertilizer injector vertical storage tanks can be installed inside to hide them from view and vandalism. And it's a sure way to have the pumps checked each morning and afternoon when the irrigation technician picks up and takes back

his tools and parts.

## TEE MARKER ALIGNMENT

Aligning tee markers with a PVC "T" by aiming the bottom of the "T" towards the intended line of play and then placing the tee markers on either side has proven very effective for the cup and tee placement person. A smaller size and diameter "T" can also be carried by the tee mowing person to realign the tee markers after the teeing ground is mowed.



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