

Sports Turf show at Cal-Poly Pomona set for March 23

POMONA, Calif. — California State Polytechnic University at Pomona will hold its 10th annual Sports Turf Institute and Exhibition on March 23. The Institute, sponsored by the Horticulture/Plant Soil Science Department and the Los Robles Club, will feature seminars conducted by experts in turf management and a trade show complete with field exhibit areas. For more information, call Dr. Kent Kurtz at 909-869-2219.

Turfgrass Institute March 30-31

FALLBROOK, Calif. — The 34th annual Turfgrass and Landscape Institute, sponsored by the Southern California Turfgrass Council in cooperation with the University of California Cooperative Extension, is scheduled for March 30-31, in Buena Park.

Co-chaired by Fred Eckert and Raymond Davies, the Institute will present three primary seminars on basic turf and landscape (English and

Spanish sessions), advanced turf and landscape, and pest management.

Held at the Sequoia Athletic Club, the Institute is an educational opportunity for apprentice-level and top-level managers alike. Attendees can register in advance by mail or at the door for one or both days of the Institute. For more information or to receive a registration form, call Linda Knoche at 619-723-0255.

Treating high salinity and pH

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worked," Lashley explained. "We would add fertilizer and wouldn't see a difference. The water quality would overwhelm our fertility program and to overcome that would be expensive."

The pH of the irrigation water used on Fripp Island generally runs about 9.0. Additionally, high bicarbonate and sodium levels in the water build up in the soil with each irrigation. The result, according to

Lashley, is weaker plants with a shorter time to wilting.

Because Fripp Island currently has minimal storage capacity and sandy soils that drain rapidly, irrigations are needed daily and rain is necessary to supplement the storage. If rains are infrequent, the course dries out quicker.

"We end up with sort of a chemically induced drought," Lashley said. High winds also make the course prone to rapid periods of drying, which seem to concentrate the salts quicker, he added.

To combat the water quality problems on these courses, Peacock suggested applying flushing type irrigations, although he acknowledged that many of the courses don't have the drainage systems or the water availability to over-irrigate.

He also suggested the acidification of the water and soil to neutralize or dissolve salts, particularly sodium. "Some type of acid injection or acid-forming fertilizer can counteract the alkalinity at the source," he said. "Acidifying the soil would make the undesirable ions leach more readily."

Lashley recently began using pHairway, a water treatment additive from Unocal, that is injected into irrigation water and helps to dissolve salts and lower pH.

"Since we've started using pHairway, we've seen positive changes on our soil analysis reports," Lashley said. "By improving the quality of the water, our fertilization programs seem to work more efficiently and the plants look healthier."

Coosaw Creek Golf Course, an Arthur Hills design scheduled to open this summer in North Charleston, has also experienced poor quality well water: pH of 8.4 and high salt levels. John Betts, director of golf operations and Superintendent Tom Arneman have installed a pHairway injection system in an attempt to prevent nutritional problems from developing.

"We have the luxury of having a lot of storage capacity for good quality rain water," said Arneman. "But if we need to tap into the ground wells the pHairway will help offset the salt content."

While many superintendents regularly do water and soil analysis, Peacock also recommends doing tissue analysis.

"Soil analysis will tell you the potential for problems or plant response," Peacock said, "but tissue analysis gives an indication of what plants are doing at a particular time. "To get the highest visual quality, you must keep track of what's in the plants."

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