

West's dry spell expected to last into foreseeable future

Continued from page 4

idea the drought is over is a misconception of the media," said Ray Davies, superintendent at Virginia Country Club in Huntington Beach and past president of the Southern California Golf Course Superintendents Association.

For example, Virginia CC received 1/2-inch of rain in a recent 24-hour storm, Davies said. Courses 40 miles north in the Los Angeles Basin got 6 to 8 inches. But most of the water in both areas simply ran off into the ocean, he said.

And since no major water retention projects have been built since the late 1960s, most heavy rains will continue to simply wash into the ocean, he added.

"California has a permanent water shortage. We simply don't have the capacity to store what we get," Davies said.

Bob Thomas, editor of the Southern California Golf Association magazine *Fore*, said the heavy rains simply bought the area another year without severe restrictions rather than freeing it from the drought. Watering restrictions were lifted this fall in Santa Barbara where water supplies were seriously low.

"What we desperately need is a few 20-inch snowfalls in the mountains to build up the snowpack," Thomas said.

The news is worse farther north and east, according to U.S. Golf Association agronomist Larry Gilhuly. Golf courses on city water in Seattle and Portland were restricted to watering just tees and greens this summer and fall, he said.

"That was never the case in L.A.," he recalled. "Every time I drive through Northern California, I can't believe how low Lake Shasta is.

"It's down 40 to 50 feet. That's a major water source for that part of the state."

Farther east in Las Vegas, the water district has raised the price of water significantly to curb water use, Gilhuly said. Nevada Gov. Bob Miller declared 14 of the state's 17 counties drought disaster areas.

The Wall Street Journal reported recently that Idaho Power Corp. — which serves Idaho, Oregon and Nevada — will spend \$90 million more this year to burn coal because less water in the rivers meant its hydroelectric facilities ran below capacity. It will pass that added cost on to customers.

"Rising electric rates is a problem I hear at almost every course," Gilhuly said.

The same article suggested this drought may not be unusual. Studying tree rings, scientists believe decades-long dry spells may have occurred in past centuries and that the 1900s have actually been a wetter-than-usual time.

While that may give most Western states cause to dread the fu-

ture, in Arizona they are looking forward to it.

Despite being mired in a 30-year dry spell, the state goal is to have no further depletion of the aquifer by the year 2025, according to Arizona Golf Association Director Ed Gowan.

The golf industry has moved away from a confrontational attitude with regulators to a cooperative one. For their part, regulators approach the industry with a much more open mind than

they did 10 years ago.

With the two working together, Gowan said the no-depletion goal is attainable, especially with the amount of effluent available. Ninety-five percent of the state's waste water presently is not re-used, he said.

Projects are underway statewide to get that water to where it is needed, such as a nearly completed 35-mile pipeline that will pass by Desert Mountain near Scottsdale.

The 12 inches of rain Phoenix received in 1992 was twice its average annual rainfall. Tucson was somewhat drier, but still above average.

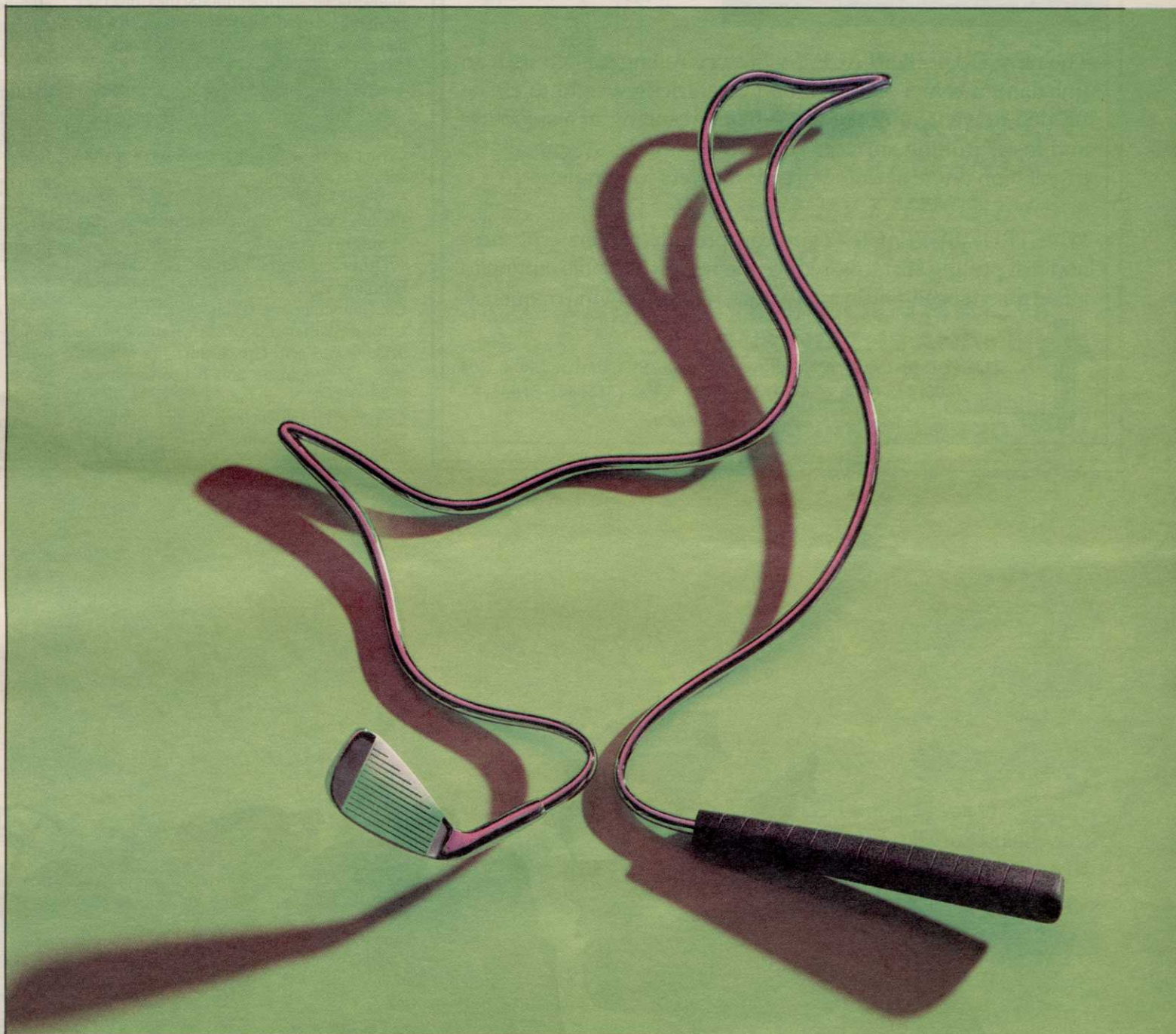
Another heavier-than-normal year of rainfall will get most of the state's reservoirs and water tables back to normal, he added.

"There is plenty of water. The major issue now is quality. We need to make sure the chemicals put down on the ground don't contaminate the water," Gowan said.

Missouri wetland report ready

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — The Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Division of Geology and Land Survey has released a report titled "Missouri Wetlands: A Vanishing Resource." The report regards the status of Missouri wetlands, as well as the programs and activities affecting them.

It is available at no cost from Jane Epperson, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, 1-800-334-6946.



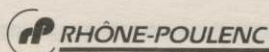
IGNORE GOOSEGRASS, AND YOU WON'T BE THE ONLY ONE BENT OUT OF SHAPE.

Even the most mild-mannered golfer is likely to get bent out of shape when he discovers that his beautiful drive has landed in a patch of ugly goosegrass. It puts a kink in his game, and in your reputation. That's why so many top golf course superintendents straighten out their goosegrass problems with the proven control of CHIPCO® RONSTAR® G herbicide. Just one application delivers season-long protection against goosegrass, crabgrass and 23 other tough broadleaf and grassy weeds. You can even depend on CHIPCO® RONSTAR® G to keep

your ornamental plantings weed-free for up to 120 days with each application. And you get all this control and convenience without the root pruning commonly associated with other turf herbicides. With so much at stake, does it make sense to use anything less than the best? CHIPCO® RONSTAR® brand G herbicide. Now available in an easy-handling, low-dust formulation.



Chipco® Ronstar®
Brand Herbicide



Rhône-Poulenc Ag Company, 2 T.W. Alexander Drive, Research Triangle Park, NC, 27709. For additional product information, please call: 1-800-334-9745. As with any crop protection chemical, always read and follow instructions on the label. CHIPCO and RONSTAR are registered trademarks of Rhone-Poulenc. ©1992 Rhone-Poulenc Ag Company