

Savvy Super: Tuning in cable station can help you weather a storm

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Especially during the spring months I have witnessed that on many courses the area immediately around the catch basin is excessively wet, so many superintendents have installed drains around the grate so the near surface water six to eight inches in depth can get "inside" the basin. I have seen turf managers knock a six-inch hole near the top of the concrete cylinder, install a four-inch PVC "T" and nipple and then use a series of 90-degree elbows and nipples to make a four-inch PVC square perforated drainline, or if using ADS pipe is more favorable, put a ring of four-inch per-

forated pipe around the basin. It really works and relieves the hydraulic water pressure from the sides of any solid surfaced catch basin. Back-filling with one-quarter to one-half inch gravel around the pipe gets the water into the pipe fast.

METEOROLOGICAL PROGNOSTICATIONS

I recently had cable TV installed in my office and keep it tuned to "The Weather Channel" throughout the work day, with the sound turned off. I have found this service a valuable tool that has a major advantage over just listening to the National Weather Service (NOAA) weather

radio. Satellite photographs nationally, regionally and locally as well as national, regional and local radar maps have made it extremely accurate for me to predict cloud cover and when and how hard it will rain and for how long. The regional and local radar maps are now even broken down showing each county of each state. On our local map it even shows the Interstate highway system overlaid onto the state map. Every 15 minutes the national and regional radar maps are shown and every five minutes the local radar, with each county shown, is available for viewing. The national and regional satellites are shown

every 30 minutes, usually at the hour and half hour. It's the best \$25 a month we have ever invested, as it has been totally reliable for fertilizer, pesticide and all other employee scheduling applications.

I also have a telephone modem on my computer hooked into a private weather service computer. I can obtain more than 100 graphs, maps and charts that are updated anywhere from every 30 minutes to once a day, obviously depending on the type of information. Some of my favorite informational items include soil temperatures, low and high-resolution radar, satellites for about anywhere and potential and current lightning-strike areas. One such weather service was highlighted in the March 1993 of Golf Course News and there are other private services all over the country.

WARMED UP BUT NOT WORN OUT

Superintendent Gary Wimberly of H.G. "Dad" Miller Golf Course in Anaheim, Calif., has significantly saved the turfgrass on the first tee with a warmup area he devised and by expanding the cart path near the tee.

He placed a five-by-five-foot artificial turf mat on the new eight-foot-wide cement warmup area. The area is adequately separated from the cart path and is close to the tee but enough to interrupt golfers teeing off.

FROM BROKEN SHAFT TO SOIL PROBE

USGA agronomist Bob Brame of the Mid-Atlantic Region office in Frazer, Pa., has created a soil probe that he says does not interrupt play and is cheap, easy to use and, in fact, fun.

Brame took a broken golf club shaft, then cut off the head of the shaft three to six inches. He ground out a notch at the end of the shaft halfway through the diameter. After smoothing it off, the shaft-turned-probe was ready to go. The hole it makes is very small and does not interrupt play, he said.

Panel recommends direction for GCSAA research efforts

LAWRENCE, Kan. — A committee of golf course superintendents, industry officials and university researchers has identified key research needs, including a study of the economic impact of golf courses and course maintenance.

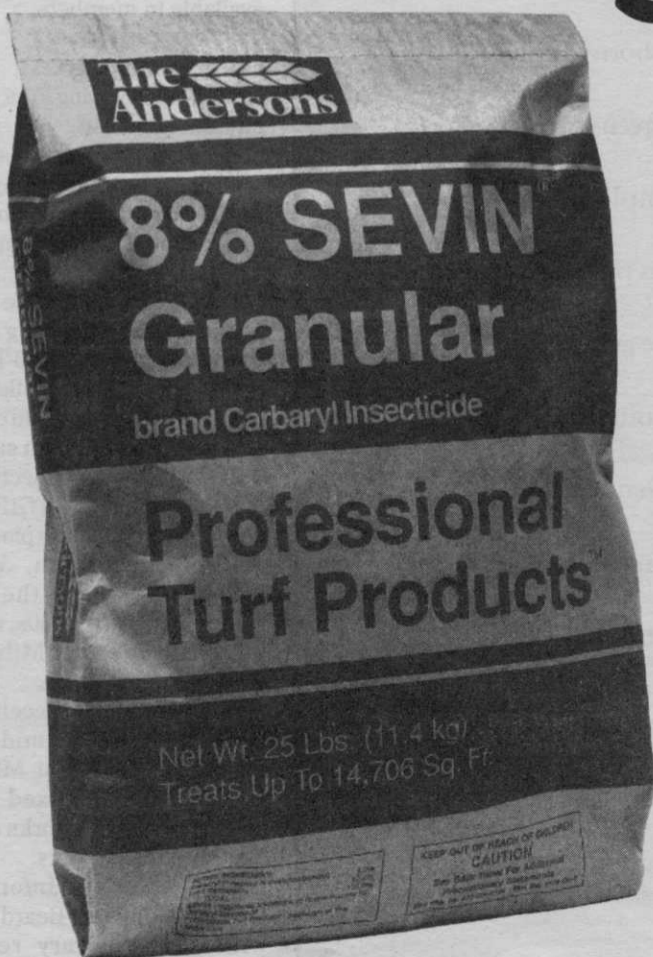
The panel, meeting at GCSAA headquarters for the organization's Scholarship and Research Foundation, prioritized projects for the next five to 10 years.

It also recommended studies documenting the impact course maintenance practices on bird and wildlife; risk assessment studies for pesticide applicators; and water use studies documenting usage rates and on courses and comparing them to other agricultural and industrial uses.

GCSAA Director Paul S. McGinnis, chairman of the GCSAA S&R, represented the association along with Director George E., Renault III.

Others included USGA Green Section National Director James Snow; Dr. John Cisar of the University of Florida, The Honors Course superintendent David Stone, Mike Waldron of the Ladies Professional Golf Association and Dr. Dave Wehner of the University of Illinois.

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