

# International Turfgrass Conference a chance to share ideas

By DR. GEORGE SNYDER

The design, construction, and maintenance of golf courses has become increasingly complex in recent years because of demands from the golfing public and by official regulators and self-appointed critics of societal affairs.

Players have always wanted better playing conditions, which require design, construction and maintenance inputs. Yet many feel that inputs used to create and improve the game of golf should have virtually no impact on any surrounding area, including above and below the turf surface. To what extent, and how, can this be achieved?

Both the improvement of turfgrass quality and the quantification and reduction of external impacts will be addressed at the 7th International Turfgrass Research Conference (ITRC) held this summer in West Palm Beach, Fla. As it turns out, the challenges the golfing industry is facing in the United States are being faced elsewhere as well, and in some countries the heat has been turned up even higher.

For this reason, a lively exchange of ideas will surely emanate from turfgrass research and practical experience from throughout the world. Conference attendees will be able to discuss problems and solutions one-on-one with others from a variety of countries.

In addition, it is clear that golf is expanding into parts of the world that have known little about the game in the past. Participants from these countries will be eager to meet with their counterparts in the United States. Lasting personal relationships are sure to develop, and the ITRC has been designed to foster both formal and informal contacts among participants. There will be time after the oral presentations for questions from the audience, and poster sessions will foster detailed discussions among interested parties.

Friendships are sure to arise among the participants and their families at the social events.

The program will provide an excellent opportunity to

enjoy The Breakers, one of the grandest oceanfront resorts in Florida, and all its amenities, at very attractive special conference rates. Thus, in addition to being a great educational opportunity for turf professionals, the conference promises to be a fun-filled



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vacation value for the whole family.

A special spouses program of daily activities is being offered, and swimming, golf, tennis, fishing and a wide variety of other activities will be available. A \$25 pass will enable golfers to play on a selection of courses before,

after and during the conference.

Each ITRC becomes a memorable event, made more so by the quadrennial scheduling and, for U.S. participants, by the rarity of their occurrence in our country. It has been 20 years since the last ITRC was held here, and the next one may not be for another two decades.

Thus, many U.S. residents may have only one or two chances to attend at ITRC during an entire career. Because of the importance and pertinence to the golfing industry of the topics scheduled, and because of the unique opportunity to meet with an international assembly of one's turfgrass colleagues, this event should not to be missed.

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*Dr. George Snyder is the organizing chairman for the 7th International Turfgrass Research Conference, July 18-24, in West Palm Beach, Fla. (see story on page 14). He is a professor in the Soil Science Department of the University of Florida's Everglades Research and Education Center in Belle Glade, Fla.*