

By TERRY BUCHEN

How many times throughout a typical work day, during some agronomic practices, do we think to ourselves that we have solved one problem and created one, or maybe two others? An old example is when a riding bunker rake has come on the market throughout the years from different manufacturers, and it smoothly rakes the bunker sand but its teeth "fluff up" the sand and pull up stones into the sand while driving over a shallow sand layer.

One of my favorite examples is the "Two-Day Rule" when a course decides to skip mowing greens one day a week — usually on Mondays, or during inclement weather. The greens will receive a rest from the rigors of mowing, but they will not return to the speed and firmness that they were on Sunday until not one but two days later on Wednesday.

Another example of the Two-Day Rule is when a course receives a significant rainfall, resulting in a spurt of growth two days after the rain.

I, like most superintendents, have a recurring dream of better things happening during real-world situations. Like:

- Our course has the best reputation for conditioning in our area of the country.
- Our course is in tournament condition all season long.
- Our course always looks good and plays good.
- The turf-care center is large

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also deter players from entering environmentally sensitive wetlands and brush."

Faced with steep slopes and ravines, Meaney and his crew relied on sod and wildflower plantings to prevent erosion, installed a drainage system which directs surface runoff directly to the wetlands, and applied an organic soil enhancement program that promotes healthy turf while protecting those wetlands.

An upgraded and expanded irrigation system delivers water only where and when the drought-resistant ryegrass is dry. Using less water, coupled with less mowing, reduces spread of turf diseases, said Meaney, whose chemical-free program relies on slow-release organic fertilizers, biostimulants and wetting agents.

"The technology at our disposal is better every year," he said. "As we understand more about the impact of chemicals, we discover friendlier ways of preventing and combating disease and infestation."

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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enough to hold and store all materials and equipment inside.

- Golfers always fully support everything we do.
- Our employers will always let us do everything necessary to do our job properly.
- We will never ever experience a hydraulic leak.

• Our top dressing will always be dry enough to apply whenever we decide to apply it.

- It will always rain one-quarter inch after a granular fertilizer application.
- Our equipment never breaks down and is always in great condition.
- Our employers always ap-

prove our maintenance and capital-outlay budgets.

- Our employees are easy to get along with and happy and very productive in the process.
- Our turf nursery is identically maintained to all grass varieties and mowing heights as practiced on the regulation 18 holes.

SAVVY SUPERINTENDENT



• Every day is a holiday at our golf course!

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