

FEEDBACK

We'd like to hear from you.

E-mail us at jwalsh@gie.net with your thoughts and opinions.

Irrigation accuracy

After reading Jeff Brauer's article ("Wet approach areas," December issue, page 14), I'll comment about a couple points he made.

1. I agree sprinkler heads need checked for malfunction and angle of sweep; however, contrary to his statement, any commercial golf sprinkler manufactured after 1995 doesn't lose adjustment if installed properly. Furthermore, adjusting sprinklers too often causes damage to the gear drive and adjustment gear.

2. His statement that irrigation needs vary enough only during summer heat and fall overseeding to warrant using double heads may be true to a less-detail-oriented superintendent. However, we practice changing irrigation procedures, taking into account prevailing wind direction and intensity, weekly weather patterns, season changes, cultural practices and microclimates. Part-to-part irrigation heads are a necessity almost year around for us.

Brauer should be certain of his facts by consulting a professional of the trade before they're published in a magazine destined to wind up on many superintendents' desks, where you'll possibly find agitated club members as a result of misinterpreted information.

Jay Leturno
Golf course superintendent
Santa Lucia River Club
Port St. Lucie, Fla.

Jeff Brauer's response:

My intent is to inform, not to give the occasional agitated club member ammunition to demand more from a superintendent.

There are many different conditions throughout the country, and no general 800-word column can convey any superintendent's situation accurately. For many subjects, I've written multipart sections to cover a subject more completely. However, I consulted some irrigation designers and superintendents. The bulk of the column came from research conducted by Jim Moore of the USGA and his son Travis, who's a superintendent. USGA reps have noticed that problem on many courses, enough to warrant the research. And they specifically noted problems on newer systems, at least new enough to have double sets of heads.

They allowed me to present their prelimi-

nary findings, figuring it might help superintendents spend the winter tweaking their systems. In many cases, the design of systems, in conjunction with the way they're used, caused problems.

Constantly tweaking irrigation use to minimize water use and improve presentation, as you apparently do, is also a pet subject of mine. I've written about it before, so if you have any ideas to share, they may find their way into a future column.

Too worried

Pat Jones' Chicken Little article ("Chicken Little mentality," December issue, page 50) accurately assessed the presidential election situation.

Michael D. Jones, CGCS
New Mexico Tech Golf Course
Socorro, N.M.

Does organic = good?

I liked Pat Jones' comments about the Golf Digest article concerning organic golf ("The road to hell is paved with good intentions," golfcourseindustry.com/news/news.asp?ID=4806). It bothers me quite a bit that some people seem to believe that if something is organic it has to be good. I tell them all the time that pig manure is organic, but it sure can pollute water.

Ron Dodson
Board president
Audubon International
Selkirk, N.Y.

Pat Jones' online column, "The road to hell is paved with good intentions," (golfcourseindustry.com/news/news.asp?ID=4806) is one of his best. I can't think of a superintendent who doesn't consider all inputs placed on his golf course for economic, as well as environmental, reasons. Most keep their jobs by playing to their golfers' demands first and foremost. Player expectations rule the day, and until the dynamics change, superintendents will use whatever tools are necessary to maintain their employment. To imply they're unwilling, unconscious or unskilled is an insult.

Jack MacKenzie, CGCS
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