

## Irrigation Systems

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At one club, there is a siren at the pump house where the control panel is located. The superintendent sounds the siren to signal golfers and two minutes later the greens are being showered.

In parts of the country where *Poa annua* fairways are commonplace, the summer months are usually accompanied by weakening turf and sometimes by thin fairways. Some success has attended the efforts of superintendents to air-condition fairways by applying small amounts of water at frequent intervals on hot days.

All of the special uses are related to an ability to control the amounts of water applied, and the duration and frequency of application. It is an approach to eliminating the stress placed on turf by lack of moisture. Precise control demands either a great expenditure of manpower or rather elaborate automatic equipment. As labor costs rise and quality declines, the trend

is toward more automatic equipment.

The day will soon come when we see computer-designed irrigation programs which take into account the humidity, the temperature, the wind direction and velocity, the slope of the ground, the moisture content and the infiltration rate of the soil.

The information will be digested and proper schedule of irrigation will be recorded on tape. The tape in turn will trigger radio signals to operate the valves.

Such dreams will be reality only after the employment of a great deal of technology, innovation and "cut and try" experimentation. Such a system will never be cheap, but the more precise control together with the resulting effectiveness will offer a very tempting prospect. •

### New 18 for Firestone

Firestone Country Club has begun construction on a new 18-hole golf course.

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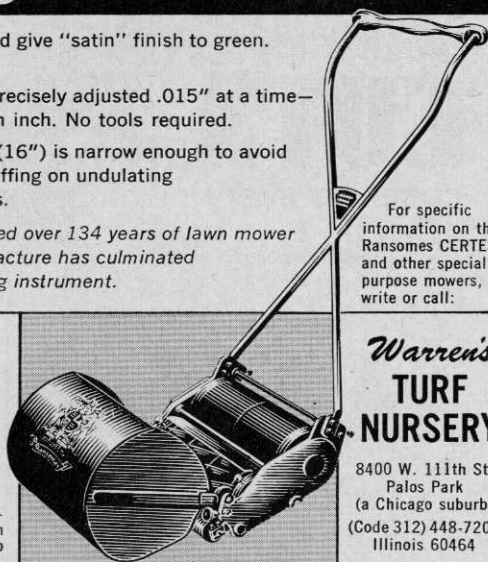
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