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GRAU

(Continued from page 19)

fective filter, absorbing rainfall, preventing erosion, yielding life-giving oxygen. Runoff is minimized as is silting of streams and reservoirs. Aerial-borne toxins are trapped and nullified. The chemicals that the golf course superintendent applies to keep pests in check are absorbed by the mat of turf which limits the movement of materials toward water courses, lakes and ponds. By contrast, erosion from farmlands carries everything, good and bad, to foul our water sources. We cannot overlook the cooling effect of turf. Transpiration from the countless green grass blades helps to maintain more uniform climatic conditions.

This is an "off-the-cuff" evaluation. I don't have scientific data. Hopefully readers will write in and add to this incomplete coverage.

So far as we know, no one exercises greater care in the use of dangerous chemicals and in the disposal of empty containers than the golf course superintendent. This, in itself, is a plus for the turfgrass profession.

Q—Recently we rebuilt a putting green using native sandy soil which is known to drain very well. After the green settled we noticed a depression that held water. It was especially noticeable this past winter when the soil was frozen. What can you suggest as a remedy for this situation?

(Vermont)

A—The low place held water this winter because the soil was frozen. With well-drained sandy soil you should have no problem when spring comes. If water stands longer than you would like to have it, try punching holes with a tubular-tine fork. This should let the surface water drain down quickly. If the problem still persists you may be forced to lift the sod, fill the depression with the same sandy soil that is in the green, and replace the sod. □