

The Bad News That's Really Good News — There's No Silver Bullet

BY DEMIE MOORE

We know that usually there's no one simple answer to a problem. However, that doesn't stop us from often wishing there was just one answer. This is true in many different areas of life — so it's no surprise that it applies to water use in golf course maintenance as well.

A single, simple answer seems like a nice idea. However, after giving it more thought, I have to conclude that a single, simple answer — or wanting one or choosing what we might think is one — really has a high risk associated with it as well. The results, and therefore the success or failure of the solution, depends so much on the “one” solution chosen. By contrast, if the solution is a “recipe” of things that's consciously selected, there's a greater chance of a good result. So while it seems like bad news, I'll suggest that “no silver bullet” is really good news — because you have many and therefore more options for making a difference and being successful.

Applied to water use in golf course maintenance, this means there are multiple factors that can be managed to deliver a green golf course in a “green” and water-efficient way. We don't believe the new green is brown — although we do think that golf as a whole needs to, and can be, even more water wise than it is at present. It's not just about how much water you apply, or what kind of turf you have, or the irrigation program you have or how many acres of turf you have, or the kind of water you use, or, or, or . . . Rather, it's about managing all of these and more together to be able to produce excellent playing conditions using as little water as possible and as efficiently as possible — making every drop count.

The October issue of *Golfdom* addressed the perspectives of some who have negative views about the golf industry's use of water. There were also some great examples of what certain superintendents and superintendent associations have and are doing to



proactively show their commitment to good water stewardship — not just on their golf courses but in their communities as well. Hopefully, that information provided further insight into some issues to address and ideas for some ways to take action. In this month's edition, superintendent Christopher S. Gray Sr. discusses even more ideas to take ac-

tion. He offers tips on how you can keep the golf course green and still be “green” and water efficient.

I have to add that, while there's no one answer, one thing that's always important is the soil — including how it receives, retains and releases water. No matter what else you do, if your soil is not functioning as intended, you will not get the results expected — and the chance of wasting water as well as other inputs is increased. While this may seem like a no-brainer, the fact is that the soil is often taken for granted or considered in a theoretical way rather than monitored and managed for water efficiency on an ongoing basis. Aquatrols is pleased to have a role in managing this important part of the water-management equation by giving you tools for more control over the water in your soil.

As we all know, golf courses are a great environmental asset when managed well. Good management always involves multiple activities. Good management of water on the golf course is no different. We hope you enjoy this issue and are inspired to find more ways than ever to use water more efficiently and produce a great playing green golf course in a water-wise way. ■

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