



BLANKETS

By Monroe S. Miller

I wrote an article in the May/June 1990 issue of *THE GRASS ROOTS* about covering putting greens for the winter with synthetic blankets. I'm not exactly opposed to them, but rather feel topdressing offers many of the same advantages plus a few others.

That article inspired the question of this issue's SURVEY because I was curious about what really was going to be happening this fall as winter approached. Basically, I wanted to know how widespread the use of synthetic covers was going to be on Wisconsin golf courses.

Here's what I asked 32 WGCSA members at either the Mid Valle Golf Course meeting in June or the Rock River Country Club meeting in July:

1. Are you going to cover any of your golf course putting greens with synthetic blankets this upcoming winter?

2. If yes, how many greens will you cover?

3. If yes, what brand of blanket will you use?

The results are as follows:

1. YES — 13; NO — 19

2. Two were covering only one green (usually a problem green, in terms of winter survival). One WGCSA member will cover three greens, another will blanket six greens, a third man will cover nine of his greens and one golf course will have 10 greens under synthetic cover. Three golf course superintendents plan to cover all 18 regulation greens on their courses. Three more will cover 19 greens, obviously including the practice or chipping green with the regulation greens. Finally, one golf course will be blanketing 40 greens for the winter of 1990/1991. Guess who has that many greens and

that kind of money?!

3. Ten WGCSA members were using Evergreen covers and three were covering with Warrens' blanket.

As is usually the case, the comments were interesting. Many of those answering "NO" to the first question would like to be using the blankets, but simple economics prohibits it. Some feel like I do — "why not use topdressing?" Some plan to use blankets in the near future and figure to budget for one or two each year.

A couple of course managers felt that neither topdressing nor covers was necessary. Their attitude was "if you have the wrong kind of winter weather, nothing is going to help much."

One of our colleagues combines both procedures. He topdresses his greens and then covers them, at least selected ones, with a blanket.

He might be the smartest of all!



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