

# IRRIGATION ON GOLF COURSES

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Too much water! Seems impossible in 1976. But that's what I see on a large number of golf fairways and greens. Overwatering is still a serious problem on the majority of courses.

Plants normally grow best if watered thoroughly but less frequently. Automatic systems are usually set to add a small amount of water, but frequently. But the intelligent superintendent can resist the water-by-the-clock syndrome with a little thought and scheduling.

Healthy plants require healthy roots. Healthy roots aren't developed in wet soils. They develop during the drying out cycle. Keeping them wet with too frequent and too much water encourages poorly developed, shallow roots and sickly turf. The result is that the grass is susceptible to plant diseases. And worse, there is a slow conversion to less desirable turf species that occurs over a few year's time. The best way to encourage poa annua on fairways or greens is to overirrigate!

In most cases just reducing the running time on your system will correct a lot of the problems of overwatering. If you now run 18 minutes, try 15 minutes. If that proves to be too much, cut the time again. It will not only be better for the turf, but it will reduce your power bill.

Some overwatering problems are due to poor system design. What looks good on a shop drawing may result in placing nozzles in low spots or so that they overlap at the low ground area. The result is a superabundance of water just where it is least needed. Runoff from rain or snowmelt, shallow water table at that point and then compounded by excessive irrigation, results in a mushy spot where the mower wheels make ruts and the turf is cut to pieces as if in a swamp.

To make matters worse, unless the heads have a checkomatic feature, water flows into the area from higher-lying pipes every time the water is turned off. The head continues to dribble into the surrounding soil.

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## "GREEN SAVERS"

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## OPENING AT VOYAGER VILLAGE

Experienced Golf Course Superintendent at Voyager Village Country Club, Webster, Wisconsin. Eighteen hole course. Salary open. Send resume to: Ray Nygren, 323 Endicott Bldg., St. Paul, Minn. 55101.

# Green Clippings

CLIP 1: We have received word from Research Chairman Jim Lindblad that the M.G.C.S.A. Research Fund is still considerably short of the goal that was set for 1976. Please talk to the appropriate person at your club so that we may receive these donations before the golfing season flies by us. One way in which the fund is growing is the \$1.00 assessment that is levied on all members not wearing their official name tags at the monthly meetings. This policy was announced several months ago in a previous issue of HOLE NOTES and was enforced for the first time at the August meeting at Forest Hills.

CLIP 2: Life Member Ray Hall of Owatonna is not quite ready yet to call it quits on the work front. He has asked us to mention that he is looking for a part time job either in the summer or winter. He is free to travel and adds that the amount of remuneration is no problem. With all his experience and mechanical ability, I am sure that he would be a bonus to any superintendent's staff. Ray's address is: Ray Hall, Box 522, Owatonna, Minnesota 55060....Telephone (507)451-9926.

CLIP 3: You don't have to be a long ball hitter to win this month at Hazeltine. Golf Tournament Chairman Carl Johnston has announced that there will be a chipping contest and hole-in-one contest as well as the popular raffle which will be held this year. So don't agonize over some shortcomings on the tee! Instead go out and practice your short game so you, too, can get in on all the prizes including a Johns-Manville Club Car donated by Gerry Commers and the Cushman Motor Company.

CLIP 4: M.G.C.S.A. Executive Director Warren Rebholz asks that all superintendents make sure they trim around the M.G.A. markers on each tee. The golfers in the state have come to enjoy the important functional value of these markers and without periodic trimming, they can easily be lost in the overgrowth.

CLIP 5: HOLE NOTES has received word from the National Office that interest in the post-conference Hawaiian Tour is running high. Over 60 reservations have been received already for the trip February 12-19, 1977. If you are interested in plans "Follow the Sun to Hawaii", make your reservations soon as the tour is limited. Non-G.C.S.A.A. members and their families are also eligible to take advantage of this eight day luxury tour. The descriptive brochure and reservation form are available upon request from G.C.S.A.A. Headquarters.

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## FIELD DAY SLATED

Golf Course Equipment Field Day at the Landscape Career Center, Friday, September 17, 1976 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Come, see and operate the equipment. Bring your assistant and mechanic along also. Take 7th Ave. North off of Hwy. 10 in Anoka to Center (behind Anoka Senior High School)

LANDSCAPE CAREER CENTER  
3929 7th Ave.  
Anoka, Minn. 427-4920