

FOREST HILLS SWINGERS



DETERMINED. John Lightfoot of the Cloquet C.C. is determined once again to regain his high bowler's score award at this year's tournament.



PAINFUL. The expression on the face of Steve Hagen of St. James shows the lower back pain brought on by another full follow-through.

Solutions that may be considered in or near low-lying areas where overirrigation is most severe include replacing the old head with one that has a checkomatic feature. Another solution is to excavate near the head, put in a by-pass pipe fitted with valves and irrigate with that particular head only when it is needed. Maybe that spot needs water only once every two or three weeks. With normal rainfall, that usually brings runoff to the low area, maybe the sprinkler need run only a couple of times in a whole season! If you have a modern irrigation system with valve-in-head controls and heads with a checkomatic feature, you are fortunate. All you need do is adjust the individual heads to fit the conditions where they exist. It is quite possible that a high spot will need 3 to 4 times as much irrigation as a low spot. This is partly because of lower demand in the lower spot, partly because of the added water it gets from runoff. Furthermore, the soil in a low spot can usually store more water because it has more clay and more organic matter than the high spot.

If you could redesign the irrigation system for your course, most of you could make design improvements. With the system you now have you must work with it, make adjustments or even minor changes. These will pay off in avoiding the aggravation of overly wet spots, to say nothing of improved golfer satisfaction.

Start first by cutting down on sprinkling time. See how little irrigation you can get away with. Adjust down until you begin to border the lean side. That's where your turf will respond with greatest health and vigor. And that's where you'll be favoring the good species over the less desirable ones.

The old question of a little's good, more is better! That's nonsense! A superintendent works against himself if his watering practices conform to that philosophy. Add the water you need and no more. You'll be happy with the results as they show up over the next couple of years.