

DRAINAGE SOLUTION

by G. M. MURPHY
Superintendent
Somerset Country Club

Slit trench on Greens?

As I sit here looking at the snow melt from our putting green, I note that our slit trench is still working. Every spring we would have dead spots where water would pond on several greens. This was a season-long problem. We would have standing water after each rain. On the fairways we corrected this situation by installing slit trenches. Why not on greens? So we did it. It works. Our oldest green slit trench dates back to when Jim Holmes traveled this area for the U.S.G.A. He came upon us as we were installing a trench on our #11 green. He took pictures then asked us to let him know if it worked. He then used those slides in talks in the Mid-west area.

Let me explain how we install slit trenches in greens:

Step #1: Important, select a very old sprocket, bar and chain for a 14 inch plus chain saw.

Step #2: After installing the above equipment on your saw, or someone else's, if you can borrow it, begin to use it like a ditch witch. Start your cut in the green above the wet area then proceed through the wet area ending wherever you like in a dry area.

Step #3: Work the saw as if you were cutting with a hand saw, moving the blade into the hole, full depth, then pulling it most of the way out, etc. Every time you pull the saw out, you clean the cutters.

Step #4: When you finish your "trench" remove the soil and back fill the trench with surface.

A word of caution, if you cut into the collar be sure your operator knows where the electrical or hydraulic control lines are and where the plastic pipe is found.

It's simple, it's quick and it works!!!
Good Luck!

SUMMER STRESS

by GLEN F. LENTNER
Superintendent
Rich Acres Golf Course

When a superintendent hears the phrase "summer stress" the first thing that comes to mind is wilt, high humidity, disease and soil compaction. All variables that have a direct impact on the growth of turf. But, what about "summer stress" of the Superintendent?

Sure, winter is a few months down the road - a chance to unwind, look back, gather thoughts and regroup for the following year. But in July and August, mid-winter is too far away to even think about. That's why a superintendent should evaluate himself and his/her staff along with the golf course.

First of all, a superintendent must realize that stress is a non-specific response of the body to any demand made on it. During the summer months many demands are placed on an individual both mentally and physically. When the occupational demands become too great to handle, the result is stress overload.

Summer stress cannot be eliminated, but a superintendent can take steps to avoid "summer stress overload" of oneself.

Open line of communication - keep members and/or management aware of maintenance activities.

Make use of professional services - attend monthly association meetings, give a fellow member a call; don't be afraid to ask for help.

Delegate authority - don't try and do everything yourself.

Develop an outside hobby or interest - totally unrelated to present occupation.

Look for physical or mental stress - observe employees in various situations and take time to listen.

Lunch break - don't skip lunch and don't "junk out".

CONTINUED PAGE 5