



BUYING AUTOMATIC IRRIGATION

Greens are lush at Columbus Country Club in Ohio since the installation of a new irrigation system.

After 44 years with the same irrigation system, the Columbus Country Club decided to replace it. Here, Superintendent Steven Kennedy tells how he went about doing so and offers some advice to superintendents who plan to replace their systems.

Once the decision to replace our irrigation system had been made, I took my notepad and camera and began traveling. I visited about 15 courses, studying their systems and asking questions. Generally everyone said they liked their present systems but when I asked about the kinds of problems they had, few would answer.

The difficulty was that very few people will admit to having made a mistake. Nevertheless, an educated eye can spot trouble. I also walked

around the maintenance buildings. If there were sprinkler parts there, it was an indication the system was not quite as good as it could be.

After the visits, I started investigating product lines. I looked at everyone's product carefully. I recommend taking them apart, watching them in operation, timing them to see which ones are accurate. This is the superintendent's job. He is the one who is going to have to live with the system.

Check to see if the system is easy to repair. Compare your replacement part availability and the cost of replacement. If the superintendent is not involved in the decision as to which system to purchase, I believe the club is making a big mistake.

Installation is all important. If the system isn't put in right, you're just kidding yourself. Many superintendents told me equipment is comparable but the installation makes the difference. If an installer won't give you a list of all of the jobs he's

Continued on Page 18

BUYING AUTOMATIC IRRIGATION

Continued from Page 15

done or won't take you to see jobs he has done, don't use him. Always check his reputation.

Another recommendation is to check your mains. Ours are cast iron. I had two engineers verify their condition before installation. Your

new system won't be successful if your mains aren't good.

Once we had made our decision to go with a RainBird system and selected our installer, everyone was pleased with the results. The pipe was pulled about 18 to 24 inches un-

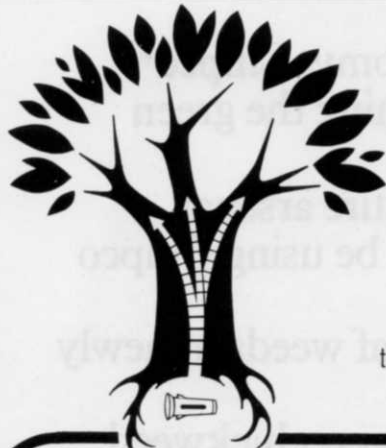
derground with a vibratory plow with no trenching. We played all four rounds of our club championship while the work was being done without a single complaint.

Our greens are small and I decided to go with two heads in front and two in the back for each valve. You can literally do anything you want with automatic irrigation but if you get too complex you are just defeating your purpose.

Also in the new installation consider snap valves. We put in a snap valve at each green. This fall we planted 145 trees. They need water and now it is readily available. The valves are covered with a valve box that can be opened with a special tool quite easily but is otherwise tamper-proof.

Once your system has been customized to suit your needs and installation is completed, you should have a system you can be proud of. And one that makes your job easier.

Steven Kennedy presented this report at the Ohio Turfgrass Conference and Show Dec. 8, in Columbus. More than 1200 people attended this most successful conference. WEEDS TREES & TURF will be publishing more topics covered at the conference in later editions.



YOU PROFIT WHEN **MEDICAP** PROGRAM IDEAS ARE IMPLANTED

If you're an arborist or anyone responsible for tree maintenance you will profit from attending one of our MEDICAP dealer/appliator meetings.

FOUR HOURS OF MEDICAP INFORMATION

Background of Systemics — Chlorosis control research
New systemic insecticide program — Profit programs for MEDICAP dealers
JANUARY — FEBRUARY — MARCH MEETINGS

	Check Location You'll Attend	No. of People Attending
LANSING, MICH., Tues., Jan. 11 Holiday Inn South	_____	_____
CLEVELAND, OHIO, Wed., Jan. 12 Holiday Inn—Cleveland/Independence	_____	_____
ROCHESTER, N.Y., Thurs., Jan. 13 Hilton Inn on the Campus	_____	_____
FREMONT, NEBR., Tues., Feb. 8 Holiday Lodge	_____	_____
ST. LOUIS, MO., Thurs., Feb. 10 Holiday Inn—Riverfront	_____	_____
MILWAUKEE, WISC., Fri., Feb. 25 Hoffman House, 251 N. Mayfair Rd.	_____	_____
ELMHURST, ILL., Tues., March 8 Holiday Inn, 624 N. York Rd.	_____	_____
CHAMPAIGN, ILL., Fri., Feb. 11 Ramada Inn—University	_____	_____
MOLINE, ILL., Thurs., Feb. 24 Holiday Inn—Airport	_____	_____
INDIANAPOLIS, IND., Wed., March 9 Sheraton Inn, Pendeton Pike Exit off I-465	_____	_____

NOTE!!! DEALER ATTENDING, PLEASE COMPLETE BELOW!!!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Meetings scheduled from 10 A.M. until 2:30 P.M. Lunch will be provided (no charge) for one key employee per firm, additional are welcome. Indicate above, location and number attending from your firm.

Clip above schedule and return at least 10 days prior to meeting as confirmation of your attendance.

Creative Sales Inc.

222 No. Park Ave. FREMONT, NE 68025 Phone 402-727-4800

Circle 136 on free information card

You ought to add your name

John P. Packer

Chairman
National Committee for
Employer Support of the
Guard and Reserve



Title: _____

Employer