

Superintendents urged to use wastewater

PORTLAND, ORE., FEB. 10 — Golf course superintendents from around the country were urged here today to consider using sewage effluent for irrigation to help conserve water.

James W. Adams, group vice president for irrigation of The Toro Co., speaking at the annual conference and show of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, said use of effluent for golf course irrigation is already being practiced in the U.S. and will expand rapidly in the next few years.

By using effluent, Adams said, superintendents will reduce their water costs and gain some soil nutrients, in addition to helping to conserve water. Use of effluent for irrigation also could help reduce the cost of sewage treatment and disposal for local governments, he added.

Adams said his company has identified about 50 golf courses in

the U.S. that are using treated wastewater for irrigation.

There are more than 30 in California; at least a half-dozen in both Arizona and Colorado, and one or more in Texas, Florida, Illinois, Idaho, Missouri, New Mexico, Nevada, New Jersey and Pennsylvania and probably several other states, he said.

Some golf courses now operating could not continue without wastewater, he declared.

Adams said the amount of wastewater available for irrigation is going to expand dramatically in the next few years, mainly as a result of action by the Environmental Protection Agency. The EPA now requires municipalities applying for grants for sewage treatment facilities to prove the proposed facilities meet the best possible cost-effective criteria. This, he predicted, will encourage on-land disposal.

Additionally, he said, other

pollution control authorities — state and county — are making it very difficult, if not impossible, to discharge treated wastewater into receiving waters.

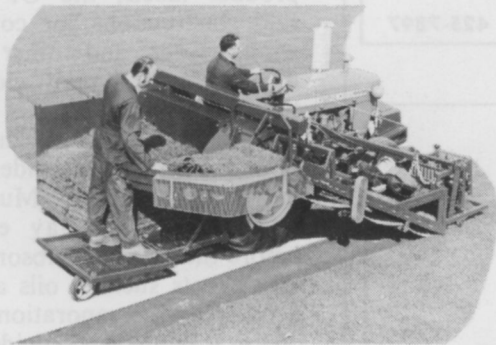
Adams said the military has been in the vanguard of users of wastewater for golf course irrigation. Fitzsimmons Army Hospital in Denver probably was the first, starting in 1940.

Golf courses at Fort Huachuca in Arizona, and March Air Force Base in California also have been irrigated with wastewater since the early 1940's.

Other military facilities whose treated sewage is used for irrigating their golf courses are: Marine Corps facilities at Camp Pendleton, El Toro, and Twenty nine Palms, CA; the Air Force Academy and Fort Carson, in Colorado; George Air Force Base, CA; Reese Air Force Base, TX; China Lake Naval Weapons Center, CA; and Scott Air Force Base, in Illinois. □

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