

## Thirsting for answers

There is a very real threat to the Green Industry looming on the horizon.

It's water. Not only lack of it, but quality as well. Everyone seems to know a problem exists, but somehow the threat hasn't been real enough yet and the bite in the pocketbook hasn't been big enough to build any kind of a groundswell of concern.



When the editors of WT&T decided to do a story on this critical issue, we didn't realize just how wide the floodgates were that we were opening.

For two and a half months I became immersed (sorry, no pun intended) in the subject of water. With every phone call I made, with every interview I did, with every bit of water information that flooded my "in" basket, this germ of a story idea had a rippling effect -- growing wider and wider with each new piece of information.

It was amazing that a resource so common and so taken for granted has such a profound effect on so many parts of our lives and livelihoods. From golf course superintendent to landscape architect to city water department official, from California to Florida, the sophistication level of knowledge and understanding of this very imminent threat to the health and well-being of an industry was indeed impressive.

What's being done industry-wide to ebb the tide of a shrinking resource is even more impressive. The Green Industry has very few ostriches with their heads buried in the sand waiting for the problem to go away. There is an awareness that while the U.S. essentially has enough water right now, that picture could change rapidly and drastically with continued misuse and fickle Mother Nature.

Next month and in August, a good many of the pages of this magazine will be devoted to a two-part series on water use, conservation, quality and quantity as it effects the Green Industry.

Part I will take a particularly hard look at problems in Florida, California and Texas because of the types of water problems those states contend with and the quantity of water they need to survive. In Part II in August, we will concentrate on solutions to some water problems through low water use turfgrass and ornamentals research, industry association involvement, and how the pivotal industry -- irrigation -- is responding to the increasing challenges.

The picture, surprisingly, while serious, is not bleak. The water situation in this country, does, however, demand continued and diligent attention by an industry who will feel any tightening of control of water the hardest.

Somewhere in this upcoming series you will see yourself and your industry. Hopefully, it will be as part of the solution, not the problem.

Maureen Hrehocik, managing editor

### WT&T Editorial Advisory Board



**Al Turgeon**  
Vice President  
Tru Green  
E. Lansing, MI



**Warren Bidwell**  
Olympia Fields CC  
Olympia Fields, IL



**Douglas Chapman**  
Horticulturist  
Dow Gardens  
Midland, Michigan



**Kent Kurtz**  
Professor  
Horticulture  
Cal Poly - Pomona



**Harry Niemczyk**  
Professor, Turfgrass  
Entomology  
Ohio State University  
Wooster, Ohio



**Roger Funk**  
Vice President  
Davey Tree  
Expert Co.  
Kent, Ohio