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Your turf can survive with limited water

■ Dr. Jim Beard, turfgrass professor in the Dept. of Soil and Crop Sciences at Texas A&M University, says he's been getting more and more phone calls from golf course superintendents in sunbelt areas who are faced with more stringent water restrictions. What should supers do to keep their turf healthy while water becomes more scarce?

Dr. Beard, speaking at the recent GCSAA convention in San Francisco, suggests several actions: enhance root growth; cultivate to enhance water penetration; control thatch levels; lower the nitrogen levels; raise potassium levels; and minimize the use of herbicides (which can hurt roots). Three factors Dr. Beard said reduce drought hardiness are high nitrogen levels, low potassium levels, and iron deficiencies.

Dr. Beard maintains that large water users, such as golf courses, will have to appear before a local water control board to argue for allotment of water. That's already common in some areas.

Water woes touch all in green industry

■ Moreover, it's not just the golf course sector of the green industry that is affected. Dr. Beard says landscape firms and other large green industry water users should seek new conservation solutions because there will be a water shortage in this country. And that day is not far off, he said in the September, 1985, issue of the *Landscape Contractor*. There's plenty of water in the U.S., but as more people move off the farms (where water is generally plentiful), we need to find a way of getting the water from the country to the city, where many housing allotments are rising. That's not always an easy task.

Dr. Beard recommends that water managers keep records of water use. He says users who can document their requirements will have a better chance of receiving adequate supplies if allotment is based on past consumption.

Phoenix gets Colorado River water

■ Late last year, Phoenix, Ariz., got its first taste of Colorado River water it was promised by the U.S. Congress in 1979. The successful partial completion of the Central Arizona Project (CAP) has allowed water to be pumped from Lake Havasu eastward and uphill—more than 200 miles—to Arizona's capital city.

The joint federal/state cost-sharing project is not yet finished. Work is continuing on another goal: extension of Colorado River water to Tucson, some 110 miles to the southeast of Phoenix, by 1991. As the project progresses, the state will assume more responsibility for CAP. When completed, CAP will provide 60 percent of Arizona's renewable water supply.

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