

## California's landscapers take advantage of drought

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Landscape contractors in this drought-riddled state are taking advantage of the lack of water this year to further service customers' lawns and landscapes.

Walter Barrows' company in Santa Barbara, where lawn watering is restricted, is using green paint on brown, dormant turf.

"California's rainy season really ends in April," notes Larry Rohlfes, communications director for the California Landscape Contractors Association (CLCA). "So we don't expect any more rain until fall this year."

The CLCA's position on water states, in part: "The key is efficient irrigation management. Far more water can be saved by im-

proved irrigation management than by other water-conserving landscape practices."

Rohlfes says that the CLCA has been busy disseminating water-saving hints to the public through the mass media.

"This is the fourth year of drought," notes horticultural extension agent Janet Hartin of San Bernardino County. "People are beginning to water more intelligently—in the morning and on a schedule. We've put together a lawn watering guide for homeowners with minimums and forty commonly-asked questions and their answers.

"We are all in total agreement out here: do the grunt work on your irrigation system and save 10 to 20 percent of your water." □



### Real or artificial?

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — It's real, explains turf expert George Toma (left, with Jonathan Harmer of Great Britain). Noting that dirt tends to accumulate in artificial turf, Toma decided to sow some Ph.D. ryegrass into the mat and dust it lightly with sand. The pre-germinated seed sprouted within four days and is nourished with Bov-A-Mura organic fertilizer and Ferramec liquid iron. The real grass/turf mat can be playable within a couple weeks, after which a high pressure hose can be used to blast the grass out, says Toma. This novel grass-growing approach is one of several possibilities for re-turfing artificial surfaces to meet the World Cup Soccer standards.

### GOLF

## Golf courses offer answers to problem

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. — The golf industry needs to convince the public that golf is part of the solution to environmental problems, not part of the problem, says Perry Dye, president of the Golf Course Builders of America.

"Whether it's building environmental habitat or taking care of water problems, golf courses are part of the solution, not part of the problem," says Dye.

"The studies we need to compete in today's environmental arena have to be three to five years old, they have to be very well documented, and they're very expensive," says Dye. "The environmentalists have spent the money, so we're behind in our research in order to provide that one piece of information that

proves that golf courses are part of the solution."

Dye says an important "buzzword" in 1990s will be "spoon-feeding."

"I think spoon-feeding through irrigation is something that's going to help us in the future," he says. "We need to spoon-feed our grasses instead of using heavy applications and do soil balancing and soil mixing at the time of construction. Sites will then be environmentally safe for a long, long time and require less chemicals for maintenance."

Dye notes reports from Japan that more than 90 caddies have developed skin problems and rashes due to mis-application of pesticides. Such incidents demonstrate the need to export our knowledge of turf management.

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