

GOLF 'SCAPING

Injecting wetting agents into greens soil

Toro, Kalo, Aquatrols innovations make it easier for superintendents to dry out wet greens.

■ Harold Edgerton was one of the first people to run liquid soil wetting agents through his water injection aerator to relieve stressed-out golf greens.

He began in mid-1992, shortly after the Toro Co. approved wetting agents for use with its HydroJect 3000, a practice proved by university research to provide faster green-up and improve turf appearance.

But Edgerton added one new "twist" to the technology: he found an effective metering system that uses a proportional injector attached just off-green, but on-line to the HydroJect. This eliminates using a spray tank mix which might introduce corrosion-causing residues. He found that, by connecting a non-electric self-priming Dosatron injector (11 gpm rate) to the HydroJect, he could assure accuracy even when water flow rates changed. Trial results last fall were so good that he's now adapted the system for golf courses which are served by his business, E&E Enterprises of St. Charles, Mo.

Incoming water drives the injector's piston. This action pulls the wetting agent into the mixing chamber and blends it with the water flow.

E&E Enterprises reports success using Hydro-Wet RTA ("ready-to-apply"), a Kalo product found by Michigan State University to deliver considerably more moisture with greater residual power in the rootzone.

RTA is recommended for HydroJect injection and for its Pro-Op, a hose-end applicator for syringing golf greens.

"In our closest areas around here, we will get an inch-and-a-half of rain, then suddenly the sun comes out to quickly 'cook' greens," Edgerton observes. To avoid damage, he adds, supers are applying wetting agents by this water-pressurized method. They're getting both faster penetration of surface water and longer residual action with less overall turf damage.

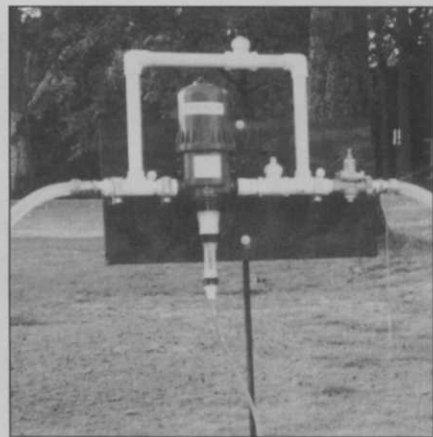
In the St. Louis area, Edgerton has used as many as five aerations per year, but he finds that three times with the HydroJect is ideal for many Midwest locations.

With many supers still coring in the spring and fall, Edgerton finds this injection service to be in greatest demand "in the

summer, when golf course activity is just too busy for traditional coring. Also, some surfaces of greens become too hard for conventional aeration to be truly effective."

Another innovation—This summer, Toro introduced the Injector Pro chemical injection spraying system developed by Hahn Inc. Designed for Toro's Multi-Pro 1100 Work Vehicle, it promises to do away with mixing chemicals with water in a

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Harold Edgerton has used a Dosatron/HydroJect hook-up for more accurate injection of wetting agents and to dry out wet golf greens. The Dosatron injector (inset) is self-priming. It pulls the wetting agent into the mixing chamber where it's accurately blended with water flow.

ELSEWHERE

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Mechanic likes these grinders

■ To the editor:

I read your article on grinding and sharpening blades in the August issue and have a few comments to make.

I used to backlap after grinding at some of the courses I worked at. Now, I don't

backlap any more because of the Express Dual Spin Grinder and the Anglemaster Bedknife Grinding System.

This system eliminates the need for backlapping because the Anglemaster trues the bedknife to the reel. The spin

grinder grinds the reel with a relief already in the reel. This eliminates the process of relief grinding that would be done on other types of reel grinding machines.

With this system, we can go 6 to 10 weeks between grindings, and the life of the bedknives is almost doubled. We save a few thousand dollars every year in labor, lapping compound, reel bearings and other related repairs.

All of our greens and tee mowers' bedknife angles are ground at 7 degrees; fairway angles are ground at 9 degrees; roughs angles at 11 degrees. All bedknife face angles are ground at 95 degrees.

While Tim Moraghan made good points, this is another system that works very well and that superintendents and their mechanics might consider.

*Paul Fox
Boca Woods C.C.
Boca Raton, Fla.*

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sprayer tank.

The new system is designed to continually mix correct amounts, and to electronically adjust application rates regardless of vehicle speed or terrain.

With Injector Pro, users can decide, in the field, to use a one- or two-chemical delivery system with water and chemical held in separate containers. This eliminates rinsate disposal and incompatibility problems since the materials have contact briefly before going out sprayer booms.

More news—Other companies are making it easier to apply turf chemicals for faster results with slow-draining greens. Aquatrols, a leading water management and wetting agent supplier, recently introduced Dose-It, a portable, water-driven in-line injector designed to

complement the HydroJect 3000.

Aquatrols adapted the Dosatron pump for faster, more effective turf application of AquaGro-L, its turf wetting agent, through a HydroJect. Dose-It is easily mounted to a hand truck or utility vehicle, and can be quickly hose-connected for accurate proportions: one part AquaGro into 500 parts water. The solution does not require watering in, say Aquatrols specialists.

Depending on the HydroJect's speed setting, they add, and whether the roller washers are on, the operator can inject as much as 9 oz. of AquaGro-L per 1000 sq.ft. Before the Dose-It, AquaGro had to be mixed as a solution in a spray tank, then connected to the HydroJect.

—Author Robert G. Coleman is a freelance writer specializing in landscape articles. He is based in Longwood, Fla.

(ED. NOTE: Check with your local suppliers for information on this equipment. If they don't carry these items, write to Bernhard & Co. Ltd., Bilton Road, Rugby, ENGLAND CV22 7DT; or phone 011-44-788-811600.

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