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## MAIN EVENTS

### 11 THE ROLE OF POLYMERS IN WATER MANAGEMENT

Water management will be the top priority of the golf and sports turf industries in this decade. Every tool that has the potential to save water must be put to work. One such tool is a group of spongelike granules known as polymers. Long used in soil mixes for greenhouse and nursery production, the plastic- and starch-based particles have been tried by a number of golf course superintendents, sports field managers, and contractors to increase the water-holding capacity of soils. The development of equipment to place the polymers into the rootzone of established turf is now opening up a whole new technology in water management. This article explains the different types of polymers on the market, points out research at various universities, and shows the machines currently available for installing polymers in the ground.

### 21 FERTILIZATION OF SAND-BASED ROOTZONES

Turf specialists have solved problems with drainage, compaction, hardness, and shallow rooting by replacing or amending native soils with sand. However, the very characteristics that make sand drain well and resist compaction also make it relatively poor as a reservoir for water and nutrients. Sand-based rootzones on golf greens and athletic fields require greater attention to detail when it comes to fertilization. Nitrogen must be primarily in slow-release forms. Supplemental nitrogen and potassium, as well as micronutrients, must be applied on a light, frequent basis to avoid serious deficiencies and a loss of turf vigor. Examples of facilities with sand-based rootzones provide insight for the turf manager.

## LINE-UP

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**COVER:** Cross-linked polyacrylamide polymers swollen with water.  
Photo courtesy: Aquatrols Corporation of America.