

# CHEMICAL LOG

## ORGANIC WETTING AGENT MAKES A SPLASH

At one point last spring, we went 40 days without turning on our irrigation system," states Pete Hernandez, superintendent of the Las Posas Country Club in Camarillo, CA. "You've got to make every drop of water count and use of wetting agents is a good way to accomplish that."

Hernandez estimates that he uses between 300 and 500 gallons of wetting agents annually. "The Las Posas course is very hilly and our greens are mostly based on heavy clay soil," Hernandez continues, "These soils are difficult to penetrate with water, and we constantly have to contend with dry spots and puddles."

The product Hernandez uses is an organic wetting agent and soil pene-

trant derived from natural plant extracts that offers several unique advantages to golf course managers.

Called NorburN\*, the product does not have to be watered in at application. It is not phytotoxic to turf, and can be safely applied with most fertilizer and pesticide formulations, according to the manufacturer, ROOTSinc., a division of LISA Products Corporation in New Haven, CT.

"I've been very pleased with NorburN," says Hernandez, who uses it on most of his *Poa annua* and bentgrass greens. "Since we began using the product, I've had noticeably fewer dry spots and less trouble with puddling of water on the greens."

A natural product extracted from the

desert Yucca plant, NorburN is non-toxic, biodegradable, and will not contaminate ground water, the manufacturer says.

"Given the tight water restrictions in effect in California, use of wetting agents can help golf course managers stretch limited water supplies and irrigation efficiency," says Wayne Wall, president of ROOTSinc. "Unlike chemical, alcohol, or petroleum-based wetting agents, NorburN does not have to be watered in at application. You can apply the product during the day and wait until night when sprinklers normally run to water the product into the soil."

Hernandez concurs, "I've used NorburN even on the hottest summer days and haven't seen any phytotoxicity. □

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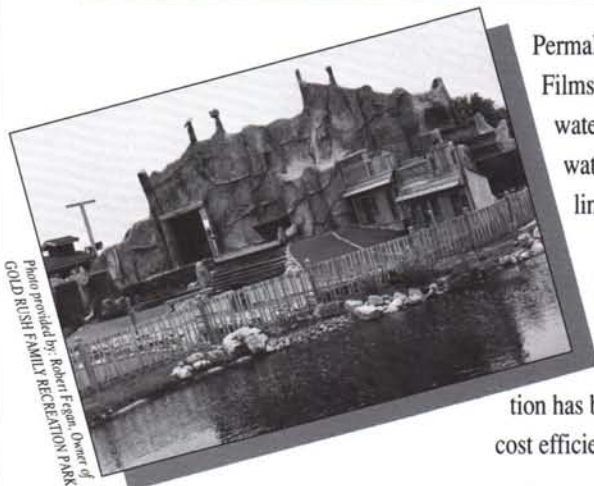


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