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VOLUME FOUR, NUMBER ONE

JANUARY 1988

MAIN EVENTS

14 REGAINING CONTROL: A TALE OF TWO GOLF COURSE IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

Bob Maloney, greens chairman at Atlantis Golf Club in Atlantis, FL, and Dick Ameny, general manager of Canyon Country Club in Palm Springs, CA, were at wits end two years ago with runaway irrigation system maintenance costs. Although they were more than 3,000 miles apart, they regained control of their irrigation systems with similar solutions. One reason is Atlantis has one of the few electric valve systems in lightning-prone Florida. By starting with their pump systems and leading into new valves and heads, both Maloney and Ameny concluded that the ultimate solution for their renovated irrigation systems was computerized control at both the central controller and the satellites. A computer program developed by Toro that accurately calculates the water needs of valuable turf and adjusts irrigation cycles accordingly has both courses back on track to irrigation efficiency.

24 JACK MURPHY STADIUM: THE ROAD TO SUPER BOWL XXII

The decision on which stadium will host the Super Bowl is very important to the National Football League and is made years in advance. The selection of San Diego Jack Murphy Stadium for Super Bowl XXII was a close one, based upon the NFL's faith in the ability of a few experts to bring the silt-plugged field back to life. As promised, the field has been rebuilt and recovers as quickly as it did when it was first built in 1967. Still, unseasonably cold weather and a fall schedule that included back-to-back games played in the rain, has turf manager Brian Bossard and NFL field consultants George and Chip Toma on guard to fool Mother Nature between the Holiday Bowl and the Super Bowl.

39 CALCULATING PUMP EFFICIENCY

Energy and water savings, possible by increasing the efficiency of irrigation systems, have many sports complexes reevaluating their pump systems. Not only will a new pump system save money, it will cut down on system maintenance and enable modern controllers and heads to perform better. This article gives sports turf managers insight into efficient pump system operation and how it relates to other irrigation system components.

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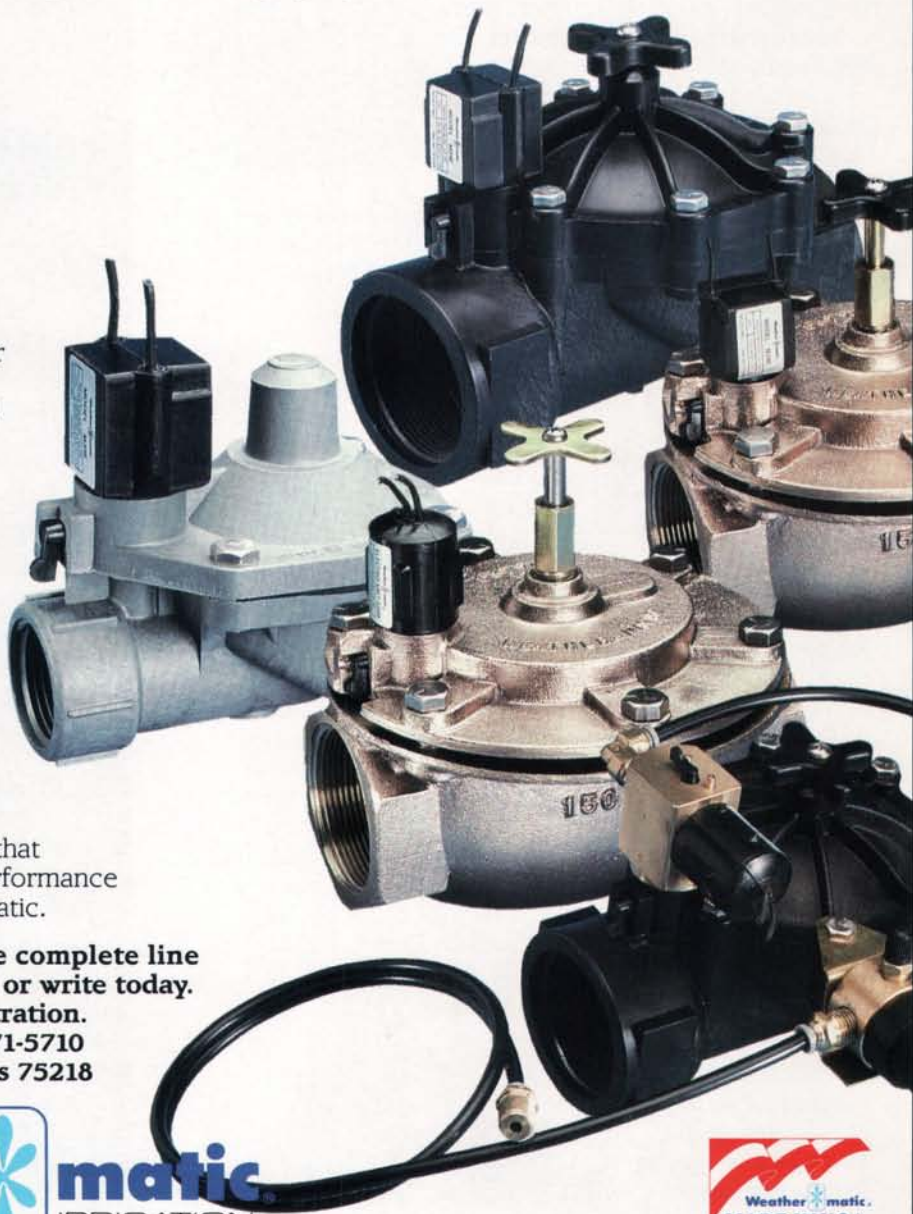
COVER: Aerating a golf course green in the early morning dew.
Photo courtesy: Salsco Products, Co.

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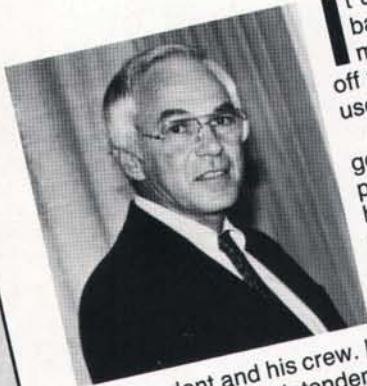




3325

JOHN DEERE

FROM THE PUBLISHER



It used to be that once the season was over, be it golf, baseball, football, soccer or any other sport, the grounds manager could begin to take it easy, take a little time off to relax and contemplate the ensuing season. I said it used to be, but that doesn't seem to be the case now.

A combination of milder weather and larger numbers of golf playing aficionados seems to have extended the golf playing season. With more tournaments on the calendar, both professional and amateur, golf courses are getting more play. Large galleries that tramp all over the course watching the tournaments cause soil compaction as well as wear and tear.

This places a tremendous burden on the golf course superintendent and his crew. In years gone by, with less play, smaller galleries and shorter seasons, the superintendent had more time to get his course back in shape. Nature could take its course.

For the sports turf manager, in the past he too would have the time to put his playing fields back in shape once the season was over. But times have changed and we must also change with the times.

To be sure the professional must have a good working knowledge of the turf. The experience he has gained coming up through the ranks will stand him in good stead, but today's manager has to be so much more knowledgeable than his predecessors. Sports is big business and as such stadiums and golf courses are trying to maximize income revenue. It is not unusual for these same stadiums to fill in blank dates with in the same week. It is not unusual for these same stadiums to fill in blank dates with rock concerts, motocross, and even religious services, such as the one Dodger Stadium put on when the Pope visited the United States.

Many stadiums are owned by cities or municipalities. Managers of the stadiums are pressured to generate more revenue and they book dates whenever they can. The sure is on the sports turf manager. He has to make sure that once the field is used for let's say a rock concert, and there is a ballgame the following week, that the field is playable. There is no question that with more frequent use, the fields and the golf courses have shorter time in which to rejuvenate. It is no wonder that these professionals need all the help industry can provide.

And provide they do. Today's newer turfgrasses, chemicals and tools all help the professional to do a better job in a timely manner. I would say the turf manager today has a herculean task.

In days gone by the manager would have complained about the task at hand and how impossible it was to accomplish what management wanted done and still keep the grounds in good shape. Today's manager realizes that in addition to having to be a professional in good turf management practices he must also begin to think as a businessman. He has to realize that the revenue derived is what drives his management. Management doesn't care how he gets the job done as long as it is done. It is no wonder that budgets for operating these areas have increased.

As for the turf manager of the future, he will not only have to be astute in good turf practices, he will have to possess good business skills as well. No longer will it be uncommon to completely resod a playing field on an annual basis, or reseed frequently. The use of more chemicals to maintain the fields, or new types of equipment to aerate and cut the turf will all come into play to help the manager do a better job. But in the end, the buck stops with the turf manager. It is his knowledge combined with his business skills that will propel him to the top of his profession and place more demands for his services.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis J. Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in the bottom right corner of the page.