

"Yes! There is Something New Under the Sun"

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I HAVE experienced it twice in the past five years and I like it! It really works and it is easy and inexpensive and saves work and saves money and makes people happy and makes work easier and more fun.

First, before I tell you what it is, answer one question. Can you count the number of times you have heard an irrigation designer or architect say, "I had a good design but the contractor fouled it up?" Put the shoe on the other foot and you have heard the contractor state, "I followed the plan correctly, it's the fault of the designer and architect."

Who in your estimation profits from this "buck passing." Yes, you are correct, *No One!* The person who eventually loses in every single case is the owner, and we are talking about all types of outdoor facility construction, including golf courses, parks, lakes, shooting ranges, industrial lawns or plants for shopping malls.

The answer is *quality control* in outdoor construction. And it works! The procedure is as follows:

1) Develop a good set of written specifications. Of course, writing specifications is an exacting science. The architect will help because he has something to gain if the job is accomplished according to his thoughts (thus specifications). If something is overlooked in the specs, be flexible enough to write a change order. This flexibility is obtained by budgeting construction monies to include a percentage for change orders. If it does not have to be spent, you have gained a few dollars for post-construction expenses. Manufacturers are also very cooperative in helping with specifications because their reputation is also enhanced by proper construction and installation. The object is to spell out in writing every detail of the entire job.

2) Set up a pre-bid meeting with prospective contractors to discuss the specifications, the job and their qualifications. Be totally honest! A qualification statement at this point is desirable. In other words, have the prospective contractors list their previous experience in the type construction of your interest. Do this in writing and make an effort to check out their statements.

3) After a contractor is selected, have a pre-construction meeting. Again go over the job and its specifications. Clear up any questions and make any necessary changes at this point. Do not try to trick the contractor. Don't hide anything. After all, if he loses money on the job, the owner has an

excellent chance of not getting his money's worth. Be sure to point out that change orders requiring additional money will be held to an absolute minimum and all requests must be approved by the owner, in writing, before the change is accomplished.

4) Hire a quality control person. This is *new* in outdoor recreational facility construction. It is common in road construction, dam construction, and the building industry, but not in recreation areas. It should be! It will result in millions of dollars being saved and most facilities being of higher quality.

The quality controller need not be a graduate engineer. However, he should be familiar with the operations and the desired outcome. Two things he must be: 1) able to read specs and drawings, and 2) willing to be firm, demanding and take the abuse.

The quality controller should work when the contractor works. Keep very explicit records. He can design his own work forms to fit the job. He must document everything. He should be willing to stick by his guns, if required to accomplish those jobs as described in the specs and drawings. He must keep a very precise, correct, legible, intricate and detailed set of "as built" drawings.

Fees currently being charged by firms in the Tucson area involved in quality control are between 2 per cent and 5 per cent of the contract cost. This is a very small payment for insuring quality workmanship. In the desert Southwest, it is a relatively new concept and it does work.

Unless the contractor does the job properly, it's hardly worth doing at all.



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DIRECT turfgrass advisory visits to USGA Member Clubs started in June, 1952. In the 25 years since then, the Green Section Staff has increased to eight specialists, and it has made over 25,000 golf course visits! Every USGA Member Club should be a subscriber, for you have information other clubs need and can use. Why not put this highly trained team to work for you on your course?

Every club subscribing to the Green Section Turfgrass Service receives the following benefits yearly:

1. Several direct conferences with a Green Section agronomist, in this manner:
 - A. A scheduled half-day, on-the-course consultation, followed by a written report from the agronomist to the Course Superintendent and Green Committee Chairman or club representative. A second visit will be made if necessary, upon request.
 - B. Consultation with the agronomist at local group meetings and turf conferences.
2. Assistance by correspondence and telephone.
3. A subscription to the USGA *Green Section Record*, dealing with golf turf affairs, six times a year, addressed to the Golf Course Superintendent. (This is in addition to the subscription sent to the Green Committee Chairman in connection with USGA Membership.)
4. A voice in the direction of turf research whose results benefit golf courses. The subscription fee covers all services and expenses; there are no extra charges for travel. (The fee for the Green Section Turfgrass Service is additional to dues for USGA Membership.) A list of regional Green Section offices can be found inside the front cover.

APPLICATION FOR TURFGRASS SERVICE OF USGA GREEN SECTION

(Open to USGA Members only)

Date _____, 19____

Full Name of Club or Course _____

Permanent Mail Address (Street or Box) _____

Post Office _____, State _____ Zip _____

Application authorized by _____ Title _____

Course Superintendent _____

We hereby apply for the Turfgrass Service of the United States Golf Association Green Section and certify that we are eligible for the class checked below.

We enclose the fee (see schedule below) for the current year ending December 31. The USGA *Green Section Record* is to be addressed to our Golf Course Superintendent. (This is in addition to the subscription sent to our Green Committee Chairman in connection with USGA Membership.)

This application is automatically continuous from year to year unless interrupted by advance resignation.

Check Proper Class:

Less than 18 holes \$280.

18 to 27 holes \$360.

More than 27 holes:

36 holes \$385.

Per regulation course in addition to 36 holes \$ 75.

Total number of courses _____ Total amount enclosed \$ _____.

Please send receipted invoice.

For the third or more requested visits within the year, an additional charge of \$200 each will be made.