

THE BEST TURF TIPS OF 1985 — PART II

Flushing Drains and Brushing Greens

by CHARLES B. WHITE
Director, Southeastern Region, USGA Green Section



Charles B. White

FOUR-INCH flexible perforated pipe is the norm for drainage systems in most golf course situations. Unfortunately, if these drain lines become plugged after they have been installed, it is nearly impossible to clean them out short of digging up large areas and trying to flush them with a high-pressure hose. This is both expensive and unnecessary. The installation of flush-outs at the high point of all drainage systems can eliminate this problem indefinitely.

When installing drains in bunkers or greens, the end should not be capped off. Instead, attach a 45-degree elbow and bring the cap up to the surface. The cap can be installed just below ground level for easy access with a plug cutter. There is a cap available for 4-inch drain-pipe that has a stainless-steel insert. The flush-out points can be shown on the irrigation as-built and can also be easily found with a metal detector. Once it is located, simply expose the subsurface cap with a plug cutter, remove the cap, and flush with a high-pressure hose



Green and bunker flushes.

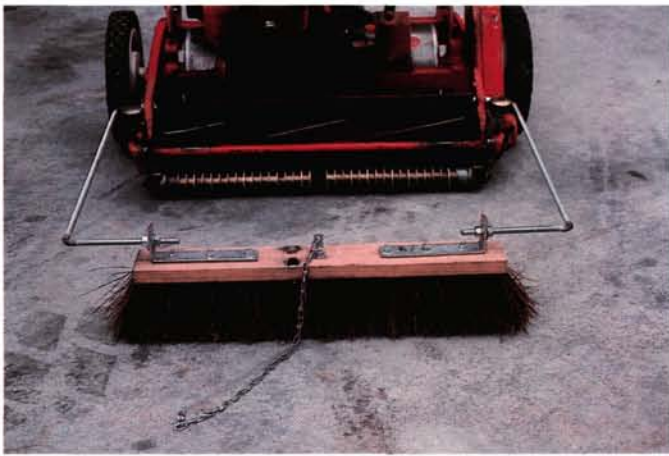
approximately once a year. If you do not have the stainless-steel disk caps, a couple of large flat washers will suffice.

If the flush-outs are located in a bunker, they should be extended through the bunker and located at its edge rather than placing them in the sand itself. This allows for greater stability of the drainage system, because a cap placed in the sand may be damaged by the bunker-raking machine.

The cost of installing flush-out points in drain systems is insignificant, usually requiring only three to six extra feet of pipe. They will quickly prove to be the most important single feature of your entire drain system.

ANOTHER TURF TIP is making brushes for putting green mowers at a significant saving. As illustrated, a brush attachment for a walking putting green mower was made with a threaded rod and a high-quality, industrial-grade pushbroom head. The broom length and weight can be varied according to the user's desires by the type of broom head purchased. It is easily mounted by a series of brackets to threaded rods onto the green mower as is the manufactured brush.

This design was developed by Stan Carr, Golf Course Superintendent at Gulf Stream Country Club, in Boynton Beach, Florida. He estimates the cost



Brush made with threaded rod and floor broom.

of his brushes at about \$11 each. He feels the industrial-type broom head gives better quality grooming than the conventional metal bristle brush. He is able to increase or decrease the vigor of the brushing by varying the weight of the brush on the surface or by changing the brush head itself. Carr has also adapted the idea for brushes on triplex putting green units and brushes for matting-in topdressing.

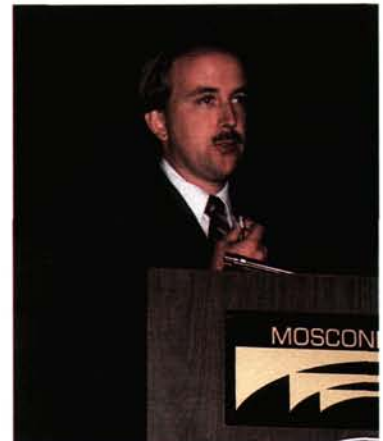
This is but one example of the tremendous resourcefulness that can be found in the field of golf course management.

Hydraulic Leak Warning

by **LARRY W. GILHULY**
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A surefire way to increase Stimpmeter readings.



Larry W. Gilhuly

ONE OF THE MOST frightening problems that plague superintendents who use triplex putting green mowers is the hydraulic leak. We have all seen damage that ranges from small dead areas every 10 to 15 feet to massive lines of dead turf covering several greens or tees. In the past, a careful maintenance program and operator attention would be the best answer to the problem. However, the golf course mechanic at Silverado Country Club, in Napa, California, has devised a method by which the operator is warned about hydraulic leaks.

The Green Sentinel operates at a detection level of five ounces of hydraulic