

# BEST TURF TIPS OF 1987 — PART II

## Some Interesting Uses for Water

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**G**REEN SECTION agronomists traveling the country have found water the most common denominator on every golf course. When one thinks of water in terms of golf course management, one immediately thinks of the irrigation system, and the effect water has on plant growth functions. Occasionally we run into other interesting uses of water that are both unique and life-giving in particular situations.

During 1987, three examples were seen that were definitely worth noting. The first involves the use of irrigation water for reducing excess sand on bunker faces. This technique has been used with great success by Brent Weston, the superintendent at the Lakeside Golf Club, in Hollywood, California. Basically, Weston uses existing irrigation hose pressure, and begins washing the excess sand back into the bunker. As this is accomplished, the contour of the bunker edge changes, without losing any of the rooting system, or requiring the intensive labor usually associated with this type of renovation. Simple, yet effective.

The second idea was seen on the island of Maui, Hawaii. At the Makena Golf Course, Walter Mattison had a problem establishing bougainvillea plants for color in the natural lava areas without the ability to install regular irrigation. Mattison's simple and direct technique involves the use of a five-gallon bucket with a small pin hole in the bottom for a slow drip irrigation system. I am happy to report the plants are thriving.

The third use of water involves an exceptional water fountain constructed by Ray Lozano, superintendent at El Caballero Country Club, in Tarzana, California. Lozano used brick to con-

struct a pedestal fountain with three planters containing impatiens. Inside the pedestal, the daily application of ice provides cold water during the warm southern California summers. However, the unique feature of this fountain is what happens to the excess water.

Lozano placed a drainage line to provide drip irrigation to the planter beds from the excess water from the fountain. This is another excellent example of the ingenuity, craftsmanship, and simplicity that is frequently displayed by today's golf course superintendent.



*(Top right) Excess water from drinking fountain provides ample water for nearby flower beds.*

*(Right) Using water, changing built-up contours on bunkers can be quick and simple.*

