

TURF TWISTERS

INVEST

Question: We are about to upgrade our irrigation pumping station and I would like to include a flow meter so that monthly/annual waer use can be monitored. There has been resistance to funding a flow meter for our system. Is a flow meter a good investment? (Pennsylvania)

Answer: Absolutely. Installing a flow meter would be very proactive. In many states flow meters are required equipment. In fact, Pennsylvania is shifting to a metering basis to document water use. Annual reports must be submitted during a normal year, and monthly reports will be required during a drought emergency. During a drought emergency, water restrictions will be based on metered data. It's a case of "pay me now, or pay me later." You would be one step ahead if the meter is installed this season.

LONG TERM FOR

Question: We would like to restructure our Green Committee to provide long-term leadership, improving the continuity of our maintenance programs. Unfortunately, our club bylaws require that board members (who serve three-year maximum terms and rotate committee duties each season) chair each committee. Can you offer any suggestions? (Utah)

Answer: Consider appointing two individuals to "co-chair" the Green Committee. One person satisfies the bylaws as the board member liaison, and the other (not a board member) assumes the more active and longer-term role in the position, providing necessary continuity for ongoing programs. Also, when the time arrives for replacing the long-term, non-board position, consider a requirement that all candidates have a minimum of two years experience on the Green Committee. This will perpetuate the continuity of ongoing programs. For more tips on Green Committee organization, read the *USGA Green Committee Guide*, available for \$2.00 through the USGA Order Department (800-336-4446).

LEVEL RETURNS

Question: We are preparing to rebuild some of our tees. Our plan is to use the same rootzone mixture that meets the USGA's guidelines for greens. We are going to put the mix down at a depth of six inches. Should we make the surface of the tee perfectly level, or is some slope necessary? (Arkansas)

Answer: Even though the mix you plan to use drains very well, we recommend you maintain some surface drainage (typically 0.5 to 1.0% slope). This will ensure the tee drains well even as the internal drainage of the rootzone decreases over the years. If possible, the tee should slope away from the entrance side of the tee to help reduce wet conditions in high-traffic areas.