

# PUTTING OUT THE FIRE

*A hose system used to get water out fast.*

by JIM SKORULSKI

**N**EEED A WAY to apply water quickly? Sick of lugging 50 feet of hose behind a golf cart? Tired of golfer complaints, scorn, and ridicule? Worried about having enough bodies around on the weekend, or maybe your automatic irrigation system just doesn't cut the mustard? Well, have we got a deal for you!

Actually, the deal is a simple, manual means of syringing the golf course quickly and with minimal disruption to play — guerrilla warfare, if you will, in the battle against wilt. Joe Charbonneau, CGCS, Gleneagles Golf Club in Manchester Village, Vermont, introduced the concept to me. Mr. Charbonneau credits the original idea to Dave Clement, CGCS, who recently retired from Framingham Country Club in Framingham, Massachusetts. It is a simple, inexpensive hose system that can be fabricated from materials that are already available in your shop or a short trip away at your local plumbing supply store.

Mr. Clement's short hose system consists of a 5' to 6' length of  $\frac{3}{4}$ " hose attached to a quick coupler, a 6" piece of threaded  $\frac{3}{4}$ "-diameter galvanized pipe, a  $\frac{3}{4}$ " galvanized reducing coupler, and a nylon insert fitting. The reducer fittings range in size from  $\frac{3}{8}$ " to  $\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter. The nozzle is constructed by clamping the 6" piece of pipe to the hose. The nylon fitting is screwed into the reducing coupler, which then screws onto the  $\frac{3}{4}$ " pipe. Tighten the nylon insert and coupler with a crescent wrench and you're in business.

The nylon inserts are easily interchangeable in the field, depending on the application desired. Another nozzle option is a  $\frac{3}{4}$ " PVC insert reducing coupler attached directly to the hose. Mr. Charbonneau uses a 1"-diameter hose of the same length. A  $\frac{3}{4}$ "-diameter aerification tine serves as the nozzle, attached directly to the hose with a clamp. Both short hoses will throw water 60 to 70 feet.

The short hose is light and non-cumbersome. There are no long hoses to drag or transport, speeding up the process and making it easier to move

amongst play. Simply pull up next to the snap valve, connect the hose system, hold on tight, and you're ready to go. An average-sized green can be syringed in a minute or less, often from a single snap valve.

Mr. Clement also uses the hose system, equipped with a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " or  $\frac{3}{8}$ " nylon insert fitting, to quickly remove pine needles and other debris from the surface of the greens. He does this by holding the hose just off the surface of the green, allowing the water to spray parallel across the surface. The force of the water blows the debris and most of the water off the surface without all

the noise and work associated with traditional blowers.

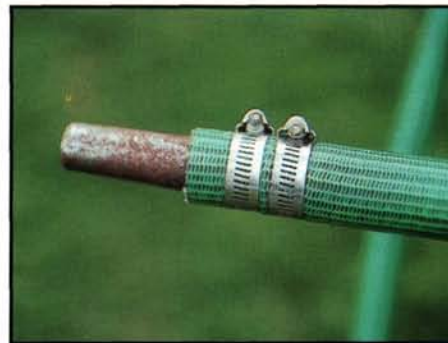
The short hose is not the answer for more precise hand watering and syringing operations, and it could be misused if placed in the wrong hands. However, if you find yourself up against the wall and need to get a lot of water out fast, then this hose system may just be the weapon for those summer battles.

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*Dave Clement uses the short hose system as a simple means of syringing the golf course greens quickly with minimal disruption to play.*



*Left: The hose system consists of a 6-foot length of  $\frac{3}{4}$ - or 1-inch hose attached to a quick coupler. The nozzle can be made with reducing couplers and nylon reducing inserts as shown or with a  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch aerification tine clamped directly to the hose. Right: A  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch hollow tine clamped directly to the hose works well as a nozzle.*