

Getting the Most From Your *Air Max* Putting Green Fans

Putting Green maintenance fans are used by hundreds of golf courses Nationwide. The fundamental purpose is to reduce heat stress and manage excessive soil moisture. Regardless of the type grass you have, it will most likely benefit from the supplemental air movement provide by *Air Max* fans. There is a potential for chemical reduction also. It would be difficult, if not impossible, to find a superintendent using fans that will not say they are one of their most valuable tools.

If air circulation on a green is inadequate, the next step is to decide: (1) how many fans are needed (2) where to orient them on the green (3) which horsepower motor/blade combination is needed. Once these questions are answered you are well on your way to making life a little easier. Who is the most qualified person to answer these three questions? The superintendent is the most enlightened person about their golf course and he or she is, without question, the most qualified person to answer these questions. Some experimenting may be necessary, but you are accustomed to that in your profession. Aren't you?

Essentially, three things need to be considered when deciding how many fans are needed on a green: area, shape and severity of problems. For example, if you have a 5,000 square foot green that is fairly round and only minor problems exist, perhaps one ½ horsepower oscillating fan will do the job. On the other hand, an 8,000 or more square foot elongated green completely void of natural air movement and poor drainage may require two oscillating 1 horsepower fans. Under extreme adversity, 3 fans may be desirable.

Where should fans be oriented on the green? If oscillating fans are used fewer are needed. Placement considerations include access to power, intrusiveness to golfers, and prevailing wind. Yes, wind can be a factor. If you need fans obviously there is little or no air movement on the putting surface, but how about where the fan is located? Will wind be a factor on windy days? The two worst places for fan placement is directly into, or perpendicular to the wind. As good as *Air Max* fans are, they can not compete with Mother Nature. Please do not overlook this aspect of installation.

What horsepower motor/blade combination is needed? Typically fans are installed 10 to 20 feet from the edge of the green. This being the case, the same criterion as above applies. If you must move the fans back 30 feet or more from the edge of the green you may want to consider using a step-up horsepower or additional fans. Two horsepower models are also available for extreme situations. If in doubt, step up to the next higher output fan. Caution: when long power runs are unavoidable, wire cost goes up as horsepower goes up. Standard *Air Max* fans operate on 115 or 230 volts, single phase. If possible, 230 volts should be used to defray the cost of your wire. If 3-phase voltage is available we can supply motors that will save significant money on wire and operating cost. You will be served well to consult a licensed, qualified electrician on this subject.

There you have it. With these guideline and some forethought, you have the basic information needed to help you make an informed decision on how to get the most from your *Air Max* fans. If you know a superintendent with experience using fans, he or she should be a tremendous source of knowledge. We are always pleased to assist you also.