

No Excuse for Course Abuse

Noticed any ball marks on your greens lately? How's the litter around the litter basket; has it found a home inside the barrel or are your members off the mark again? How about your tees; are the rough riders still making figure-eights with tire marks?

If you accent the positive in response to these on-going questions on the incidence of a much-ignored wing of golf etiquette, maybe it's time to raise the possibility of subjecting frequent offenders to a clinic of another kind.

Golf clinics, as we know them, are confined to the intricacies of the golf swing. There, the pro tells you how to grip the club properly, how to take it away in a straight line, come back with a lateral return - all the little things that go into hitting a golf ball far and straight.

This type of tutoring is very nice, essential, especially if the golfer doesn't know the difference between the Vardon grip and the pro putting side of the cup. But it takes in only half of a golfer's education. The other half, or appreciation of the golf course, usually is left to work itself into the player's head by accident or chance. How unfortunate - for the golfer and the golf course superintendent.

Some of the scenes on the golf course are cause for alarm, not to mention cause for the superintendent to wonder if those playing the layout realize they have an obligation to treat it as they do their own homes or places of business.

There are countless ways to abuse the golf course. A foursome of junior golfers race out of the clubhouse - their pockets stuffed with candy bars and their hands full of soft drinks. Before a second or third shot is taken, the fairway takes the form of the city dump with papers flying in

all directions and paper cups challenging the grass for squatting rights.

Tees are a particular sore spot, a locale where golfers do more damage with their carts than they do with their tee shots. It's almost automatic for a golfer to drag his cart across the tee, select his club, make the shot and then rip his way back to the fairway. Abuse? What takes a superintendent months to transform into a smooth and inviting area is turned into a scarred battleground in a matter of hours.

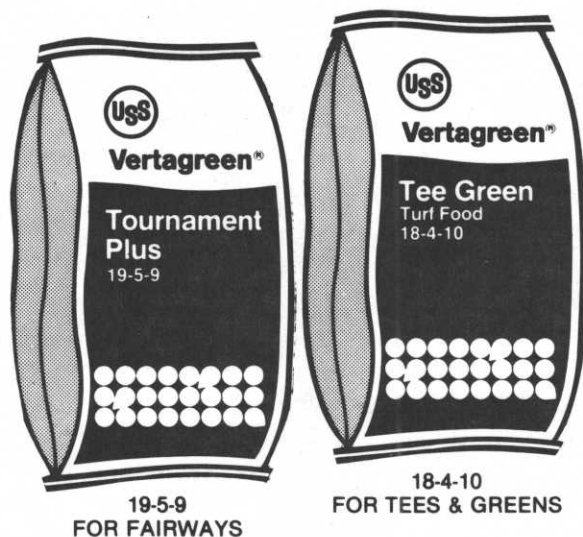
Greens constitute another area where golfers, whose minds are stuck on a single track of making their putt, ignore ball marks and perform other acts that inflict damage on the most significant product of a superintendent's maintenance efforts. It takes only a few seconds to repair a ball mark and weeks of conditioning to restore its place to its original state if the golfer allows the penetration to go unattended.

One could go on and on with examples of course desecration, most unintentional but recurring because the golfer refuses to take a few moments to appreciate the grounds on which he plays. How many burnt-out cigarettes work their way into the delicate turf? Don't count them. You'll be there forever.

These and other forms of course abuse never will be completely eliminated. It's the law of the beast. However, a course appreciation clinic could help to keep it at a minimum. But it does take cooperation and the makings of a new and constructive relationship between player and superintendent.

Therefore, what's being suggested here is another kind of golf clinic - one with the welfare of the course in mind. Setting it up is simply a matter of rapport among the golf professional, green committee and course superintendent.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



Tournament Plus 19-5-9

GUARANTEED ANALYSIS

Primary Nutrients:

Total Nitrogen (N)	19.00%
5.5% Water Insoluble Nitrogen from Urea-Formaldehyde	
Available Phosphoric Acid (P ₂ O ₅)	5.00%
Sulfate of Potash (K ₂ O)	9.00%

Secondary Nutrients:

Calcium (Ca)	1.50%
Magnesium (Mg)	0.60%
Sulfur (S)	12.00%

Micro-Nutrients:

Copper (Cu)	0.05%
Total Iron (Fe)	0.28%
0.03% Iron Chelated (Fe)	
0.25% Iron Fritted (Fe)	
Manganese (Mn)	0.05%

Density: 50 = per Cubic Foot

Tee Green Turf Food 18-4-10

GUARANTEED ANALYSIS

Primary Nutrients:

Total Nitrogen (N)	18.00%
5.5% Water Insoluble Nitrogen*	
Available Phosphoric Acid (P ₂ O ₅)	4.00%
Sulfate of Potash (K ₂ O)	10.00%
*Derived from Urea-Formaldehyde	

Secondary Nutrients:

Calcium (Ca)	2.00%
Magnesium (Mg)	1.20%
Sulfur (S)	10.00%

Micro-Nutrients:

Copper (Cu)	0.05%
Total Iron (Fe)	0.28%
0.03% Iron Chelated (Fe)	
0.25% Iron Fritted (Fe)	
Manganese (Mn)	0.05%

Density: 60 = per Cubic Foot



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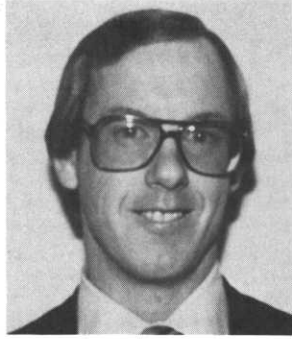
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EDITOR'S CORNER



by DOUG MAHAL
CHAIRMAN
EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Did that July weather suit anybody but me? Some very timely rains and moderate temperatures created some gorgeous July turf this year. Yes, "Mother" was dealing "royal flushes" this past month and most superintendents were happy to play the hand.

Attendance at our July picnic was astonishingly low and none of the board of directors can really figure out why. If you've got any ideas along those lines, please let one of us know. We'd like to make this a big day for all the superintendents and their families. We had a beautiful day for the picnic and Jim Lindblad's acreage out there in Wayzata was exceptional for a round of golf beforehand. He had that links in great shape for the National Junior event.

You all may recall in last months HOLE NOTES I mentioned the Minnesota Employee Right To Know Law of 1983. I've gotten some feedback from some of the membership stating that they are somewhat confused about the law. It's a law which became effective January 1, 1984 and was designed to ensure that an employee has access to information and be provided with training regarding hazardous substances, harmful physical agents (noise, radiation, heat, etc.) and infectious agents that they are routinely exposed to. I have obtained a 31 page report on the law describing the components of the law, businesses affected by the law, all definitions and explanation of the law and a list of all hazardous substances and agents included in the law. A copy of this report will be made available to all members for a

nominal fee by calling or writing the M.G.A. office, 6550 York Ave. South, Suite 401, Edina, Minn. 55435, telephone 612/927-4643.

Many thanks to last month's contributors Richard Dicks of Brooktree Municipal Golf Course in Owatonna and Richard Taylor of Golf Car Midwest. We all get extremely busy during the summer months. We can really appreciate the extra time these fellas put in.

I hope you're all looking forward to our August meeting at Rochester as much as I am. Kurt and company continually produce a great golf track and always supply the best of hospitality. Sharpen up on that golf swing. Wild shots can create some real difficulty. Remember, August is the month for the Annual Superintendent Tournament so if you plan to attend and play, get your pre-registrations back as soon as they arrive.

There has been a change in meeting sites and dates for October. The new site will be Interlachen Country Club and the date will be Monday, October 8. The format will be somewhat different as well. A 9:00 a.m. shotgun is planned followed by lunch and a speaker. Make a note of that change on your calendars.

July is gone...can winter be far away? Enjoy August and take some time to relax.

Starting with the juniors seems sensible. By no means are the newer golfers the only perpetrators in the act of abusing a golf course. However, they would be logical participants in a course appreciation clinic because of their impressionable status.

Sure, it sounds like a dead horse is being beaten because this same subject has been touched on here in the past. However, the incidence of abuse continues and has gone unchecked to the point where competition between golfers damaging the course and superintendents trying to preserve its playing condition has developed.

Actually, the highest station of responsibility lies with the country club officials or park commissions that administer municipal courses. Public courses are a separate entity. Their owners usually wield a heavier hand in demanding cooperation from players.

The golf course appreciation clinic, then, deserves to be explored and employed. There is nothing uglier than a course bent out of playing and aesthetic shape because golfers refuse to take part in retaining the condition a superintendent effects. If going to school will remedy the situation, so be it.

Gerry Finn

CREDIT: NEWSLETTER, New England GCSA