

And yet, to please you, we fight the chill of spring and autumn, the merciless sun of summer, the drenching drowning rains, the drought, fungus, weeds, nasty worms which become highly personal and the birds, which not only pick on us, but also wipe their beaks on our blades.

Have you ever been watered in the heat of the day? The sun magnifies itself in the drops of water clinging to your sides. This doubles the heat and honest injun, I damn near die. You drink with your mouth. Is it too much to ask you to remember that I drink with my roots? Water on top of the ground does me no good. Please?

I too come from good families and bad. You've heard of some of my relatives: Blue, Bent, Fescue, Red, Buffalo, Crested Wheat St. Augustine, Bermuda, Carpet Zoysia -- come to think of it I have a cousin named Knot There is Crab, Quack and an old Latin professor named Phragmites Communis, although we have never called him that to his face.

We try to keep politics out of it. Our job is to grow. Grow and spread. We make your house look good. Most of the time, we are neat and orderly but if we get carried away with enthusiasm and move into the drive all heck breaks loose. The man of the house doesn't mention it until the next punishment chore comes up.

We're his whipping boys. And girls He uses us to make others dislike grass He smiles with pleasure when his dog scratches his back on us. If there is any reincarnation, I just hope that guy comes back as a blade of grass. I'd like to be around to see it.

If he cuts his finger on the mower, it's major surgery. But if he backs the car out of the garage and mangles four or five thousand of us, it's not worth mentioning.

It's a lousy life, if you get the message. For the birds, but that's a cruel joke. I have a root system that is a masterpiece of lacy underpants, but does anybody ever look at it? Not unless I'm being spaded.

CONTRIBUTION

Ed Heath from Needwood Golf Club sent the following article both to us and to the National It is nicely done and he is the first one from our group to submit an article to them. The forms he includes are good and you might be able to utilize them if you have a need for something like this.

THE IMPORTANCE OF MANAGEMENT

By: Edward J. Heath

A man once looked out over the vast Grand Canyon and said, "My God something has happened here." Yes, something had happened. For millions of

years, nature, through the elements, pounded and ground the virgin soil to form this great wonder. Immersed in the pride of accomplishment looking out over your golf course, you realize it, unlike the Grand Canyon, did not completely materialize through nature. Other contributing factors influenced by your management ability have made it possible. Let us consider the following factors in achieving this goal: Planning training, directing, coordinating, and controlling.

First, for us to be proficient in our work we must plan. Planning improves with practice, and the more we plan the better we are able to organize the crew's work, as well as our own. Planning is a responsibility no man in management can escape. With the complexities we face today as golf course managers a long range planning program is needed. This program should be written down and concern all areas of the course over a years' period, so it can be run in an orderly manner. It should then be broken down and transferred into monthly, weekly, and daily facets of operations. This will tell you and the crew where, what, when, and how the operations will be carried out. These easy to follow forms have proved most helpful for us at Needwood. The monthly schedule is for the superintendent and the weekly schedule for the crew.

This type of planning provides us with our objectives on paper and by going over them with the crew, efficient teamwork can be employed. This way the schedule can be organized into a fluid operation without confusion and misunderstanding. Tell your men not only the how, but the why of their jobs. Another idea is to use those rainy days and winter months for classes explaining all the phases of maintenance. Not only will they benefit from them, but you will find yourself gaining new insights. Your men will become more interested in their functions and better understand the cycle of the relationship between what they are doing and why it is important. When they know the "why" they are better able to give their ideas. Remember, you can learn something from every man you meet. I have found these educational classes to work very well with some actually willing to devote their own time to attend.

Training is of the utmost importance in proficient management. The president of a large corporation does not have time to oversee all operations involved in his company. As it expands, more authority and responsibility is delegated down the chain of command. By training, you will be able to delegate authority and responsibility yourself, not only to your assistant, but to the entire crew. This will make for a better organized work schedule, and leave you more time to attend your tasks.

