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ARIZONA SUBIRRIGATION

Researchers in Arizona recently demonstrated that quality Bermuda-turf could be produced using subirrigation with the water supplied by buried perforated pipe. Subirrigation is now being studied in Arizona as a possible means of alleviating temperature related adversities in Penncross bentgrass by improving the characteristics of the root system. The results of an initial study on subirrigation of bent-grass show that bentgrass turf which was subirrigated with a fluctuating water table was less subject to summer heat stress than surface irrigated turf. A major problem experienced with the subirrigated turf was that of providing an environment conducive to proper nitrogen assimilation and metabolism. This problem seemed to be most severe when irrigation was from a stable water table. Dessication occurred more frequently in the surface irrigated turf than in that which was subirrigated.

Subirrigation appears to have some potential for maintaining bentgrass greens in hot, dry areas — why not also in our Mid-Atlantic humid areas? Send your thoughts on this subject to the Newsletter Mailbag.

OH-OH*EPA AND MOTHER NATURE

We have just recently emerged from a devastating summer growing season. Our season pushed off with constant spring rains and abnormally cold weather. The soil seemed to take forever to warm up enough to see Bermuda growth begin a new year. The summer culminated with a record breaking stretch of no rain, high temperatures, high humidity, and the longest pollution alert yet recorded. While the daily pollution alert is relatively new to us, new high temperatures and humidity records certainly are not ever new, even if this year's records supercede any tabulated since the mid-1950's, for we are indoctrinated to expect the worst weather each summer.

As a transitional geographical area we probably utilize a larger volume and variety of chemicals than any other area in America. We constantly contend with almost every known turf disease, weed, and insect that damages turf.

With the season finally becoming history, we can look back at all our empty chemical containers, boxes and bags, and wonder just where we would be today if turf herbicides, fungicides, and insecticides were not available for our use.

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What if some governmental agency deemed it necessary to ban many of our "turf savers" and regulated the uses of the remaining available chemicals so to render them impractical for golf course use?

Needless to say the latter, banning use of some hazardous chemicals has already confronted us, fortunately we have had no extremely serious repercussions to date. Now for the second problem — governmental regulations rendering chemical use impractical for golf courses — "how," you say, "can this possibly ever happen!" Just read the following article which appeared in the National Club Association Newsletter on August 29, 1973.

Proposed EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) generic standards and regulations controlling the reentry of workers and others could force the closing of golf courses for a minimum of two days, and for as much as a week, after the application of pesticides and herbicides.

According to the EPA, limitations on entering treated areas will be established as follows:

1. When labels on the chemicals bear the words, "Danger, Poison, and Skull and Crossbones symbol" the period before reentry will be 3 days. Such chemicals will be defined as "Highly Toxic."

2. Labels with the word, "Warning" will be categorized as "Moderately Toxic" and reentry to treated areas will be restricted to 2 days.

3. Chemicals with labels bearing the word, "Caution" will be classified as "Slightly Toxic" and entry to treated areas will be permitted only after inspection shows that all dust has settled and all spray has dried.

4. Some pesticides, under ill-defined circumstances have been implicated as being especially dangerous in certain parts of the country. Reentry into fields treated with these will be permitted only after 5 days.

The proposed regulations will permit early reentry into any restricted area only if protective clothing is worn by the person or persons in the area. The minimum protection allowed for class 2 and 3 chemicals is "a coverall of closely woven material, normal footwear to cover the entire foot and an approved respirator." Classes 1 or 4 will require "an impermeable garment to cover the entire body, hat, natural rubber gloves, impermeable shoe coverings, and goggles or a face shield and an approved respirator."

While these proposed regulations do not single out golf courses, other soon-to-be-issued regulations dealing with the certification of applicators make specific reference to "turf." At the forthcoming hearings the National Club Association will seek to clarify references and establish specific standards for golf courses.



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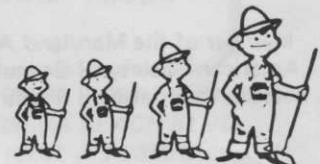


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What are the consequences of such governmental actions?

First of all, as I see it, the club could no longer ever plan ahead for any particular golf tournament; this would also include any PGA or USGA nationwide professional tournament. How could they plan ahead for the following season if, in order to have any golf course at all, we had to spray a fungicide to control a disease outbreak on our greens?

So be it resolved — we spray when necessary and virtually eliminate organized golf during periods of stress when systemics are not totally effective. The popularity of the game isn't dead yet, but it might be if we proclaim the need to spray our greens; especially with a class 1 or 4 chemical that will close the course for 5 days. Even with the mildest of chemicals the course would be closed for a minimum of 3 days unless all people were fully protected, including respirators — picture that if you will — perhaps golf pro shops will have to carry a whole new line of merchandise!

What if after we spray "the mildest of chemicals", class 1 or 3, we find that we need either a stronger solution, class 2 or 4, or find that we need to spray even the mild class 1 or 3 chemicals a second time. Class 1 or 4 will require an impermeable garment to cover the whole body; hat, natural rubber gloves, shoe coverings, and goggles or a face shield and an approved respirator. These standards would not only completely kill any golf enthusiast from ever playing golf again but would also render our job in maintaining the golf course virtually impossible. How many men would go out on the course during the heat of the summer with all this garb? Impossible, impractical, and worst yet all natural turf golf courses would be forced to be changed to synthetic turf.

The confusing implications of such EPA regulations would certainly totally cripple the sport of golf and drastically change the profession of golf course maintenance.

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TURF FOOD

Two things worry most people these days; one, that things may never get back to normal, and the other, that they already have.

Nothing is more depressing than to feel bad in the morning without having had any fun the night before.

The incredible happens just often enough to make life either disturbing or delightful.

It's always easier to dismiss a man than it is to train him. No great leader ever built a reputation on firing people. Many have built a reputation on developing them.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Ed Wilson of Twin Shields Golf Course has requested that his membership classification in the Mid-Atlantic be changed from B to A. This change is being published here in accordance with our by-laws. Unless written objection is received within 30 days after publication, this requested change will take place.

PAPER WORK

Paper work accumulates, accumulates, and still accumulates, mounting higher on our desk each passing day. Record forms of weather, OSHA, man hours, equipment hours, related service charts, budgets, capital improvements, payrolls, chemicals, and or course endless preparation for never ending reports and presentations to club officials are just some of the time consuming office chores demanding our time. Our daily desk work is rapidly getting out of hand. As we keep more accurate and complete records of manpower hours, specific job costs, equipment service costs, materials, supplies, and other related costs of our operation we may soon be engulfed over our heads without the help of a secretary.

Fortunately we have assistants and foremans and mechinics, all specialized people who help manage personnel and equipment; but still our work load increases with the increased demands of members. Until we can secure a few hours from the club secretary each week, here are a few suggestions that will certainly help you keep organized without too much confusion.

1. Before you write a memo, consider whether a phone call might be quicker and cheaper.

2. When you must write, keep it brief. Get to your point and be done with it.

3. If your're receiving reports or copies of correspondence you don't use, ask people to take your name off the mailing list; otherwise don't clutter your office and desk with unnecessary magazines, etc.

4. If you can't visualize a future need for certain information, or if it's available elsewhere, don't file it.

5. Use a temporary file for information needed only briefly, then clean it out regularly. Don't burden permanent files.

Paper work, once started, never seems to die of its own accord, it just goes on forever. There should be a sound logical reason for every piece of paper work created, circulated, or filed. If there isn't it's a waste of time and money.

... A boat builder during World War II was rebuked by a bureaucrat from Washington for not filling out all the government forms properly. "How do you expect to keep track of production progress?" asked the official. "Oh, that's easy," replied the boat builder, "at the close of each day we weigh the boat and then we weigh the paper work you require. When the boat weighs as much as the paper, we know the boat is completed."