

Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents NEWSLETTER

Published by this Association to aid the advancement of the Golf Course Superintendent through education and merit.

Claud Corrigan, *Editor*
Joe Gambatese, *Photographer*

1986 Officers and Directors

President Gerald Gerard
Vice President Lee Dieter
Secretary George Renault
Treasurer Walter Montross
President-Emeritus Mike Larsen
Educational Chairman Ken Ingram
Member Chairman Virgil Robinson
Golf Chairman Nick Vance
Social & Benevolence Bill Neus
Editorial & Publicity Lester Tanner
Finance Chairman Steve Nash

From the Golf World

The word is now appearing in various places that the makers and distributors of Daconil 2787 are disclaiming responsibility for the much-publicized death of a Washington-area golfer five years ago. The position statement being published states: "Recent media coverage has wrongfully implicated Daconil 2787 fungicide as the cause of the tragic death of Navy Lt. George Prior in September 1982. Daconil 2787 was not the cause of Lt. Prior's death. He died from Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis (TEN), a condition not associated with Daconil 2787. The media's association of Daconil 2787 with Lt. Prior's death is without merit, and will be clearly and unequivocally demonstrated in court."

Billy Buchanan, now the agronomist for the PGA Tour, gave an excellent summary of the superintendent's position in a recent broadcast of the popular golf TV show (on ESPN), "Inside the PGA Tour." He pointed out that the superintendent's job is to keep a proper balance between what is best for the turf on his golf course and that which is best from the golfer's point of view, since the two are rarely identical. The show was just one more example of the excellent media coverage superintendents have been getting (broadcasters now rarely fail to mention the superintendent when discussing a tournament course), which may indicate that the national's public relations efforts are paying off. Keeping the media informed on the duties and responsibilities of

DOUG HAWES DOES NEW STUDY OF THE ICE THREAT TO ZOYSIA FAIRWAYS

With Meyer zoysia being installed more frequently in the Mid-Atlantic region, there should be considerable interest in a new study by Dr. Douglas Hawes into ice sheet damage last winter to zoysia fairways on seven Kansas City area courses. Reduced to its essentials, Doug's article emphasizes that certain conditions predisposed some zoysia to severe setback or even loss, while other zoysia survived quite well despite all the courses in question being under a 2-inch ice sheet for 45 or more days.

What were the factors that allowed some zoysia to come through those rigorous winter conditions nearly unscathed? First, the zoysia that came through the best was newly established and free of thatch, situated in full sun on a slope facing south or west and with good internal drainage. It had not been treated with Balan every year for the last five, and it was free from winter traffic in the weeks before the ice came and after it melted.

Conversely, zoysia in shade, with northern exposure and poor drainage was weaker in winter because it had stored less food as a result of less sunlight having been received. Golf car traffic was a definite contributing factor, with the most heavily played courses suffering the most damage. In areas of concentrated car traffic, zoysia kill was more complete than in less traveled spots.

Amount of thatch was also a factor but less consistently so, in that it was more prevalent in areas that were killed more completely than other factors

superintendents has been a major GCSAA goal over the past few years.

This is probably not news for any of us, but the National Golf Foundation has discovered that a fairly small group (25% of the total) of avid golfers account for the great majority of rounds played — some 77%. These are the folks we see every weekend and a lot of weekday afternoons on our courses. On the other hand, the nearly 50% of all golfers who play less than eight times a year are responsible for only 7% of the rounds played. In 1985, 8% of all Americans played golf at least once, while the average golfer played between 8 and 24 times.

would account for. Prolonged use of Balan (benefin) to control crabgrass and goosegrass, for five years or more, resulted in zoysia that came through in poorer condition than grass under other, similar circumstances except for the herbicide. Previous research has shown that Balan tends to reduce the winter hardness of Bermuda and zoysia.

As to prevention of future zoysia losses, one possible (though improbable) approach would be to remove golf cars from fairways for the period January through May. In bad years, cars could even be kept off fairways until the end of May. For fairways where ice or snow accumulation has been a problem over the years, putting two cups of powdered graphite in three gallons of water and spraying the frozen cover with a backpack sprayer will blacken up to 5,000 sq. feet to get faster melt (providing some sunlight is getting through).

Dr. Hawes also suggests using a pre-emergent other than Balan, perhaps a Ronstar-Betasan combination. Aerification can help to control thatch, in late June or early July for zoysia, by making three or more passes with the aerifier and dragging a piece of chainlink fence or other device to break up cores. Letting the soil from the cores work back into the turf will assist in thatch decomposition. The tendency to create summer weed problems as a result may be offset by a second, smaller application of pre-emerge, or by application of one of the methyl arsonate postemerge crabgrass herbicides 10 days after aerification.

HELP WANTED

Salesman for Residential/Commercial
Irrigation Systems

Contact Gary Phillips or Lynn Matson
at (301) 621-2975 or 796-5575

Meeting Schedule 1986

October 14 — Hidden Creek C.C., Dick Gieselmann, host
November 11 — Diamond Ridge G.C., Howard Gaskill, host
December 9 — Green Spring Valley Hunt Club, Grant Pensinger, host