

The Hardest Thing To Do, Is

Mike Huck - Agronomist

It was last summer, either late August or early September, I received a phone call from a superintendent who had lost a few greens. Summer patch, Anthracnose, Pythium, you name it and their greens had some of it. He told me the green chairman wanted to deep tine aerify and overseed the greens, if for no other reason than "Just to show the membership that something was being done about the problem." I understood their reasoning but told him that under their circumstances the Verti-Drain would likely disrupt the surface and only make things worse.

"What about a heavy overseeding?" he asked. I knew that their daytime high temperatures were in excess of 100 degrees with nighttime lows and soil temperatures over 90 degrees. I told him they could bury their greens in bentgrass seed but they were not going

to get much germination or growth under those conditions. I added that what germination they might get would be extremely vulnerable to damping off and high temperature injury. In my opinion, they would just be throwing good money after bad.

"Could they sod?" he asked. I couldn't recommend that they spend a few thousand dollars on sod and try to manage a 1/2" root system under the temperatures they were experiencing, it would just be futile. The sod wouldn't tack down until it cooled off and then, what percentage might they lose to the heat? The superintendent agreed with my arguments but reminded me of the words of his green chairman — "We need to do something to show the membership we are addressing the problem." I told him the best thing they could possibly do was nothing at all; **nothing . . . until the growing envi-**

ronment became more favorable.

Referring to *Turfgrass Science and Culture*, we find that creeping bentgrass photosynthesis is optimum when air temperatures range between 70 and 85 degrees. Maximum leaf growth for cool-season grasses occurs between 60 and 80 degrees. Root production steadily slows as soil temperatures begin to exceed 60 degrees and comes to a halt near 90 degrees. Trying to establish bentgrass seed or sod outside of these ranges can be more than an uphill battle.

I personally know how difficult it is to watch turf die and there is nothing anyone wants more than to get those areas back into play as soon as possible. But, please realize that Mother Nature is in control at times and there isn't a slot one can do about high temperatures and humidity when they occur. Remember That trying to establish bentgrass seed or sod when air and soil temperatures

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Life is short.

SOD IT!

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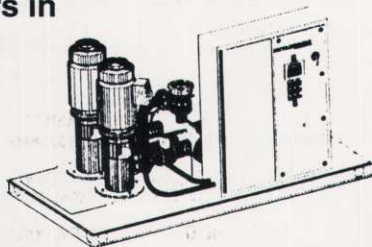
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Office Notes (Cont'd)

The board of directors meets monthly accepting membership based on the recommendation of the Membership Committee. Once the membership committee and Board of Directors have reviewed the application a letter of acknowledgment is mailed. This happens usually within a week of the board of directors meeting. The member's name is added to the mailing list. 'Thru the Green' and meeting notices are mailed. We have a 30 day waiting period before membership is finalized. This allows publication in "Thru the Green" of new members names before final acceptance. If anyone has objection to the individual being accepted into the Association this allows time to present the board of directors with objections to the membership. With the acknowledgment I mail a directory and promise to send the card, plaque and badge when provided by our suppliers.

Well, it does take some time for our suppliers to get our cards, badges and plaques finished. They won't just do two or three. We need to give them a minimum number before they process and that may take some time. The same is true for reorder on name badges when you change courses or businesses. We are adding an attestor letter for GCSAA for new Class A and Class B members who need to join GCSAA. /

The Hardest Thing (Cont'd)

are outside of a reasonable range is a waste of both time and money. Yes, the hardest thing to do is nothing at all, but sometimes it is what you must do under the circumstances be patient and wait until the growing environment becomes more favorable for germination and growth. /

Watson To Highlight 65 Year Program

Dr. James Watson, formerly of the Toro Company, will highlight the 65 Year Anniversary Meeting Program with an historical look at golf course maintenance and maintenance equipment. Watson, who served as an agronomist for the Toro Company has an impressive background in the turfgrass industry, earning his Ph.D. at Penn State University in 1950. His many accomplishments include extensive turfgrass research, as well as the authoring of numerous technical articles. His presentation will be a part of a two hour program which will also feature an historical perspective presented by Past Presidents, Cliff Wagoner (1959) (1965) (1967), Rich Lavine (1995) and Bob Hanna. Also slated for the morning program is recognition of all Past Presidents, as well as the presentation of honorary memberships to Walter Boysen and Paul Paulsen. Fifty year pins will be given to Paul Paulsen and Ed Silva. The days events will begin at 9:00 with a continental breakfast and an historical display of equipment and photographs.

The Way It Was (Cont'd)

restricting its use and requiring a permit.

GCSANC established its presence on a national level when Elmer Border was elected President of the GCSAA in 1959. Later that same year a motion was passed to consider requiring members to also be a member of the National.

Myrtle Wagoner joins the Association in 1960.

In 1961 a meeting was arranged among the Presidents of the Southern California Chapter, Northern California Chapter, Central Chapter, Hi-Lo Chapter and San Diego Chapter. They would call themselves the California Federation of Golf Course Superintendents.

Public relations was at the forefront again in 1964 when a list of sports writers were sent articles pertaining to the status of the golf Course Superintendents.

1965 saw the birth of the green blazers. Samples were presented to the board by Walter Boysen.

In 1967, GCSANC's very own Walter Boysen was elected as the president of the GCSAA.

The Tarp Program, a joint venture with NCGA received membership support in 1968.

1971 was a particularly noteworthy year. It was determined that badges

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Northern California Greenskeepers Association Charter Members

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