



Roger A. Larson - Robert V. Mitchell

U. S. OPEN, Pebble Beach, June 18, 1972

Roger Larson, Pebble Beach was presented with the GCSAA Citation of Performance award by President Robert Mitchell. In Making the presentation Mr. Mitchell said "Roger, on behalf of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, we want to take this moment to express our thanks for the outstanding job you did in preparing Pebble Beach for this year's USGA Open Championship.

By creating a course that is both aesthetically and functionally of superior quality, you have made a major contribution to the success of the tournament. But more than that, you have presented the finest image of the Golf Course Superintendent at work at his profession.

We all join together to present you with this plaque--The GCSAA Citation of Performance Award--as a symbol of our collective pride and high esteem. Congratulations!"

All who had the pleasure of being present at Pebble Beach or who viewed the Open on television must agree Pebble Beach was never better. Tough, but good.

In acceptance of the Award, Roger recognized Frank Silva for his contribution.

Congratulations to Roger and Frank.

PYTHIUM - A Hot Weather Threat - Rust, smut, and mildew are the true diseases of turfgrasses. They can live only as parasites on grass. Our other diseases are called facultative parasites. This means they don't have to be parasitic; they don't have to be diseases. They manage to get a good living from dead grass clippings, and normally they will work in the thatch until the turf is stressed. When turfgrass is so stressed it is no longer healthy, then the facultative parasites move in and remove the unhealthy grass. In other words, except for rust, smut and mildew, the grass has got to be unhealthy before it becomes diseased

Pythium, when it strikes, is one of the most devastating of turf diseases. Fortunately it doesn't strike very often, but we have seen instances of it in the past two years, and back east some consider it a problem on the increase.

At Davis we have had Pythium attacks on two occasions. In 1956 we were using nitrogen fertilizers at very high rates (24 lbs/M/yr.) to see how much the grass could take. Attacks almost wiped out our grass. In 1971 our test area had different soils. When we had enough water for the sands, our heavier soils were too wet and showed some Pythium during hot spells.

Several things have to be wrong before Pythium becomes parasitic. Our records show the following combination of conditions can lead to an attack of Pythium:

1. High temperatures. The books give 80-85° as optimal for Pythium but we have found severe attacks in California accompanying days of 90-105°.
2. High nitrogen. I have seen severe attacks only when nitrogen levels were high.
3. Excess water. Pythium is a water mold and needs a squishy turf if it is to spread rapidly. Traffic spreads the disease in the wet turf. Mowing, dragging hoses, and walking all spread the disease in recognizable patterns. This provides a diagnostic feature. When you see streaks of brown following mower tracks, suspect Pythium.
4. Low mowing. Since I have seen severe Pythium only on putting green turf I suspect the stress from low mowing contributes to attacks of the disease.

With Pythium spores on a hot, wet, fertile green, the green may be wiped out in as little as 50-75 hours.

The first appearance of Pythium is of several smoky grease spots about the size of a quarter. Within a few hours the spots have grown and the center have turned to a reddish straw color. The reddish straw will bleach to a yellow straw in the sun, but in the beginning the smoky greasy area and the reddish color are characteristic. Next you may see reddish brown footprints appearing or reddish streaks following the mower pattern. Act fast!

I would suggest you cut a temporary green so traffic doesn't spread