

**JB VISITATIONS:****August - East Lansing, Michigan.**

Attended the 1997 Michigan Turfgrass Field Day at Michigan State University held at the Robert W. Hancock Turfgrass Research Center. It was a great honor for my wife, Harriet, and myself to be present at the announcement of the James B and Harriet Beard Endowed Graduate Fellowship.

On two putting greens constructed of native soil and a high-sand root zone, regular rolling treatments for three years showed the incidence of both dollar spot (*Sclerotinia homoeocarpa*) and gray snow mold (*Typhula* spp.) continue to be significantly reduced. The specific cause of this consistently observed response is yet to be proven.

Another interesting study involved the effects of lawn care practices on soil organisms, specifically as related to chemical, organic, and untreated regimes for pest management. The basic treatments involved eight different commercial/chemical and organically treated approaches, plus an untreated control plot and a comparison with nearby cropland. Results for the first set of evaluations in 1996 revealed no significant differences in either carbon or nitrogen mineralization potentials among the eight different turf treatments. Furthermore, the only significant differences found were between the turfgrass treatments and the adjacent cropland assessments, with the turfgrass treatments exhibiting 2 to 3 times the mineralization potential for both carbon and nitrogen compared to that found in the cropland. These assessments are being continued in 1997 with the goal of obtaining a better understanding of how various turfgrass cultural practices influence soil biological activity.

**October-Torino, Italy.**

Conducted *Agrostis* cultivar assessments at the Italian Golf Federation research plots. The application of flutolinal made in 1996 for the control of extensive fairy ring development on a

putting green constructed of a high-sand root zone was sufficiently effective that no fairy rings have redeveloped throughout the 1997 growing season, even though there was no follow-up treatment with flutolinal. Efforts continue to identify the specific causal basidiomycete organism, but to date have not been successful in developing fruiting bodies. Note that over 40 different species of soil basidiomycetes can cause fairy rings and furthermore that it is unlikely for any one fungicide to control all of these species.

**October - Garlinda, Italy.**

This golf facility has winter resort golf play, as it is located near the Mediterranean coast in western Italy. Permanent surface golf cart paths are extensively used, with several crossing fairways in play areas. These hard surface paths have been removed from the fairways and replaced by turf grown on a self-flexing, interlocking mesh element system in a high-sand root zone. Good turf density has been sustained on these turfed paths of intense golf cart traffic.

The golf course also has quite small tees that traditionally have been severely defoliated during the summer playing season. Reconstruction of these tees using the self-flexing, interlocking mesh element system has proven quite successful in reducing divot size and enhancing the rate of divot opening recovery. The result has been more fully turfed tee surfaces throughout critical stress periods. This was achieved without increasing the tee size, as this was not possible in a number of situations on the golf course.

**UPCOMING JB VISITATIONS:**

Oct. 26 to 31 - Anaheim, California.  
Nov. 7 to 15 - Japan.  
Dec. 9 to 11 - New York, N.Y.  
Jan. 6 to 9 - Toronto, Ontario, Canada.