

PRACTICAL MAINTENANCE HINTS

There have been reports that turf on greens is extremely shallow rooted this spring. If so it will be wise to be on the lookout for dessication of the grass in the early spring. Many times the grass seems to be dying for no apparent reason with plenty of moisture present. The cause is the dying out of the grass plant thru the inability of the grass roots to supply the plant. The ground may be plenty moist but if there are little or no roots to get to it the plant will eventually die if not properly cared for. So get your water systems in operation as soon as possible and if grayish areas appear on your greens it may be for this reason. The only thing you can do is to spray these areas with water until such times as the roots are able to take care of the plant in better shape.

Jimmy Bedoni, Supt. Bryn Mawr Country Club, reports that lengths of chain link fence dragged behind a tractor have done much to eliminate the mat in creeping bents on his fairwayys. Jimmy has a great deal of bent and claims that his fairways were never better than they were after dragging them with the fence wire

Here is a way to set your fertilizer spreader accurately without moving it from the machine shed. Measure the distance between openings and multiply by the number of openings. This will give you the width of the fertilized strip. This into 43,560 gives distance the spreader will travel per acre. Now take the radius of the wheel times two giving you the diameter. This times 3.14 divided into the distance the spreader will travel per acre gives wheel turns per acre. Now spread a tarp or large sheet of paper under the spreader to catch fertilizer and jack up wheel which operates the agitator. Put fertilizer in spreader, put spreader in gear and turn wheel at about same speed as it will travel in the field and turn one tenth the number of established wheel turns per acre. This times 10 gives you the rate. Sounds complicated but is really very simple.

It was noted during this open winter that a great deal of sand blew out of sand traps and this was more so in traps that had had sand hauled in during the winter. Much of this could have been saved if the Superintendent had the sand spread at the time it was hauled in instead of dumping it in piles as is usually the case. When the piles are exposed to freezing weather the tops of the piles dry out and the sand is moved by the wind. When spread there is less chance of drying out and consequently less blowing.

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We are happy to say that some of the boys who were on the sick list are back in good shape again. Mel Warneke who had to undergo two operations this winter, is up and about, and, although he doesn't look his ordinary healthy self as yet, he says that he feels fine and that under doctor's orders he has taken 45 pounds off his weight. John MacGregor has fully recovered from a gall bladder operation and says he feels better than he has in a number of years. Chester Ranby has almost fully recovered from the bad accident he had last winter when a tree fell across his legs. Chet says one of his legs pains him at times, but he is walking without much of a limp. Jerry Dearie underwent an operation in January and says he is feeling fine again. There have been numerous reports of different men being down with the flu, but altogether they seem to be a pretty healthy lot.

17 YEAR LOCUSTS DUE THIS YEAR

Seventeen-year locusts of Brood X, one of the largest on record will swarm out of the ground this year to plague 20 states east of the Mississippi. Numbers may reach a half million an acre in some sections. Emergence will start earlier in the South than in the North, but in most states it will take place sometime in May. Local emergence will cover a period of about 10 days. When females start cutting twigs and laying eggs it's time to get your sprayers rolling. TEPP has been found most satisfactory for the control of these periodic pests. The recommendation calls for 6 oz. of 40 percent TEPP in 100 gallons of water, sprayed with a mist that will envelop trees quickly. Repeat applications at 3- to 5-day intervals, depending on seriousness of infestation.

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More drought this year? Some Government wheathermen say this is probable. They think 1953 may be pretty much like last year, extremely dry in various parts of the country. These weather experts believe the country is in the middle of a 3-year spotty dry cycle. The U. S. Weather Bureau shies away from making weather predictions more than 30 days in advance. But it has weather charts that some of its experts interpret as indicating the dry cycle still has at least a year to go. They say, however, there is no way of predicting where drought might occur this year.

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DAVIS OPEN HOUSE

On Thursday, March 5th, over 500 Golf Course, ark and Cemetary Superintendents visited the Davis Open House Party. The boys there reported business especially good at the lunch and refreshment counters. Did anyone mistakenly take a grey-brown top coat? The one left behind doesn't fit the guy who left late.

These boys had their names drawn for Door Prizes: Dave McIntosh, Jr., Oak Hills G. C.; Robt. M. Williams, Beverly C. C.; Ben Gee, Nordic Hills C. C.; Carl F. Hesterman, Hammond Park Dist.; Stan Arendt, Inverness C. C.; A. R. Groeser, LaGrange Park Dist.; Joe Jemsek, St. Andrews G. C.; Robt. Everly, Glencoe Park Dist.; Richard Moulds, Lombard Park Dist.; Alton Fisher, Mt. Emblem Cemetery.

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ASSOCIATION ELECTS HONORARY MEMBERS

At the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents Directors meeting of February 2, the following were elected to Honorary Membership in the Association.

Dr. Fred Grau, Dr. William H. Daniel, Dr. Ralph Voigt, Dr. O. J. Noer, Herb Graffis, Joe Graffis, Leonard Strong, Pres. National Golf Course Superintendents.

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It is very gratifying to note the number of sons of Superintendents that are making Greenkeeping their life's work. David Mastroleo, son of Frank, is the new Superintendent at Arrowhead Country Club. Dave worked for a number of years with his father at Geneva Country Club. Joe Dinelli, son of Frank Dinelli, is the new Superintendent of Chevy Chase Country Club. Joe was raised on the course at Northmoor and has been a very promising pupil in the art of greenkeeping. Don Stewart son of the late Pete Stewart, is assisting Matt Bezek at Butterfield.

Marvin Gruening, who was assistant to Pete Bild at Woodridge Country Club goes to Midwest Country Club as Superintendent.