

SNOW MOLDS THEIR PREVENTION AND CURE

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In any part of the United States where there is likely to be a snow cover of one to three inches, for longer than a week, Snow Mold is a potential threat to fine turf. The greatest damage from the disease, of course, is found in the northern areas where a heavy snow cover for a long period is normal. The majority of destruction caused by Snow Mold can be avoided if proper control practices are followed.

Snow Mold is a disease caused by fungi which live in the soil, and except for the time during and just after the melting of the snow, do not damage turf grasses. Unlike such diseases as Dollar Spot and Brown Patch, Snow Mold can be caused by several different soil-inhabiting fungi, either working separately or together. In one location only one of the molds may be the culprit, and in another location two fungi may be operating while in a third location a single one, but not the same as the first, may be doing the damage. This situation can account for the fact that some tests of fungicides show that one chemical is effective in one state and not in another.

Since it has been shown that these fungi do their damage under the melting snow, the problem of control is to have the fungicide under that snow to protect the turf before the snow melts. Thus, fall applications of fungicides has been widely adopted with marked success. Because of the long period between the application in the fall and the start of the disease under the melting snow in the spring, the chemicals are applied at at least twice the strength used during the golfing season to control other diseases.

The visible signs of the injury from Snow Mold fungi are roughly circular spots of dead or dying grass with a margin colored according to the type of fungus growing in the turf. This moldy halo may be pink, white, gray or even black. The spot is first noticed when it is about two inches in diameter and these spots may enlarge and grow together until almost all of a green area is involved. If the snow melts rapidly, and the weather becomes dry and warm, the disease is stopped but the individual plants killed can never regenerate.

Because it is possible that the conditions of warmer weather and melting snow may occur before spring, additional applications of the fungicide should be made during a mid-winter thaw, not to cure, but to maintain the protection for the thawing out after the next snow covering.

Control of the Snow Molds is primarily a matter of the application of a protective chemical spray in the fall. This application should be made just prior to the first snowfall. Until weather predictions are more accurate than they are today, each superintendent will have to be his own weather prophet and pick the time to spray on his own course. If he should miscalculate and snow comes before the application, it can still be done through the snow if the depth is not more than two or three inches.

In areas where mid-winter thaws occur, a repetition of the application will maintain the protection for the later spring thaws. If late spring snow and cold weather persist, a spring application may further the control of the disease.

The most tested and proven chemicals for the control of Snow Mold are the inorganic mercury compounds such as a calomel-corrosive sublimate mixture.

Newer chemicals have been, and are being tested as Snow Mold control agents and several are offered for sale. No material will be effective in controlling the disease if it is not applied at the right time, in the right amount, and in a manner to get effective coverage of the turf. Specific directions of the manufacturer should be followed in the use of each chemical. These directions are usually based on extensive tests by State and Federal experiment stations.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

To the officers and members of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents.

We submit for your consideration the following nominations for officers and directors of the association for the year 1954.

For President George Roloff
For 1st Vice President Robert Williams
For 2nd Vice President Walter Killmer
For Secy-Treas. Al Johnson
For Directors (2 year term) ... William Krafft
Dom Grotti - Ray Davis

Nominations can also be made from the floor.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Dinelli, Stanley Arendt,
William Stuppel, Chairman

THE FALL DANCE

Our annual Fall Dance at Midwest Golf Club on November 5 was without doubt one of the best in a long line of successful parties of our association. The beautiful clubhouse at Midwest has to be seen to be appreciated. What we mean it is truly beautiful. 97 people gathered to enjoy themselves and we were received with open arms by Marvin Gruening and John Polocovich, our hosts. We had a wonderful dance floor, a ready and willing orchestra, a nice buffet supper and we all had a wonderful time. Our congratulations to the Entertainment Committee for a very nice party.

Door prize winners were as follows: 1 Mrs. Ray Davis, 2 Betty Kinney, 3 Mabel Dubrock, 4 Mrs. Ed Muzik, 5 Ed. Muzik, 6 Mrs. Walter Rosenwinkle, 7 Mrs. Archer Smith, 8 Bill Dubrock, 9 John Coghill, 10 Mrs. Christensen, 11 Ben Gee, 12 Elmer Heine.

Donations for door prizes were by Geo. A. Davis, Inc., Paul Burdett, and Archer Smith of Smith Equipment and Supply Co.

THE NOVEMBER MEETING

November 9 was a beautiful day and a number of our members took advantage of the weather to tour Clarence Mueller's beautiful Glendale Golf Club. In the evening there were assembled 45 for dinner, which by the way, was a wonderful roast beef buffet and was greatly enjoyed by all who were fortunate enough to be on hand to sample it.

One of the highlights of the meeting in the evening as the appointment of a Public Relations Committee, a committee to promote relations between the Superintendent and the public and to act as a liaison between our executive body and the press, magazines and other publications. President Davis appointed Gordon Brinkworth, Chairman, Ray Gerber and William Stuppel. This move also dissolved the publicity end of the Education and Publicity Committee. President Davis announced that henceforth that committee would be known as the Education Committee.

President Davis appointed an Auditing Committee consisting of Herman Woehrl, Chairman, John Boettger and Walter Donn.