

THE BULL SHEET, official monthly publication of THE MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS. Editor, William H. Stuppel, 543 Michigan Ave., Highland Park, Ill. Associate Editor, Joe Dinelli.

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### THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our last meeting, held at the North Shore Country Club, was well attended by both Midwest members and our guests, the Wisconsin group. It was certainly a pleasure to see such a large turnout. I am sure everyone enjoyed the fine talk given by Jim Watson. The Midwest boys are to be congratulated for again winning the golf trophy.

To those of you who are not members of the National Association, may I urge that you do join. It is necessary for our association to have 60% of its members belong to the National in order that we may have a delegate represent us at the Convention in February. It certainly seems a shame that Midwest, the largest organization in the National, is unable to support a delegate. Let's do something about this and soon, for it is important. I would suggest that each one of us appoint himself a committee of one to secure more members for the National.

Be sure and sharpen up your golf game for the annual tournament to be held at Medinah on October 7. Will see you all then!

AMOS E. LAPP

President

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### OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING

Our September meeting was held at North Shore Country Club on Monday, September 9. This was our Annual Joint Meeting with the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association and we had a very good turnout. There were 104 golfers and 140 for dinner that evening. Ray Davis was our host and did everything in his power to make the meeting enjoyable for all. Dr. James Watson was our Guest Speaker and as always, Jim was there with a lot of helpful information for us all.

In the play for the Midwest Wisconsin Trophy, Midwest was the winner for, we believe for the sixth consecutive year.

As usual, the men from Illinois and Wisconsin had a wonderful time together and we will be looking forward to our meeting next fall which will be held in Wisconsin.

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### THE OCTOBER MEETING

Our October meeting will be held at Medinah Country Club on Monday, October 7. Jerry Dearie will be our host. This will be the occasion for our Annual Fall Tournament. Tournament Chairman Dave Mastroleo has been busy accumulating a fine assortment of golf prizes and you will not want to miss being on hand to get yours. Jerry has been doing a lot of work on crabgrass control on his courses and it will be interesting to walk over his turf and see his results. As far as we know, there will be no speaker that evening, but if you have any questions, we are sure you will be given an opportunity to ask them.

## PROBLEMS OF TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT CREATED BY EXCESSIVE RAINFALL

Dr. J. R. Watson, Jr.

The annual distribution of rainfall plays a major role in turfgrass care and management. The ideal situation with regard to annual rainfall would be periodic rains of a gentle soaking nature. Seldom, if ever, does Mother Nature cooperate to this extent. The average rainfall for a given area may remain more or less constant, but the distribution as well as the intensity varies from year to year, and particularly from season to season. It is the seasonal variation in intensity and distribution that creates problems for the Golf Course Superintendent. He must continually adjust his management practices to fit the prevailing weather conditions. The techniques employed to counteract the adversities of weather, whether they be drought or excessive rainfall, will to a large extent influence the quality of golf course turfgrass. There will be certain conditions brought on by adverse weather over which the Superintendent will have no control; there will be others which would create special problems, providing adequate materials, equipment and facilities were available. In many instances, however, the Superintendent will be able to counteract the adversities and prevent serious damage to his course. Careful planning and programming based on the facilities available to him, as well as a knowledge of the special features and conditions on the course, will enable the Golf Course Superintendent to produce satisfactory turfgrass in spite of adverse weather conditions.

Excessive rainfall may be classified into two categories: (1) frequent rains, mostly of low to medium intensity; and (2) floods, whether arising from prolonged rainfall or from heavy intense rains of relative short duration. For convenience, the problems associated with these two conditions may be discussed from the standpoint, of the effect they have on (1) Soil; (2) Growth.

Soil. The most obvious condition created by excess rainfall is that associated with drainage—both surface and internal. Surface drainage is the most rapid and effective means of removing excess water. When the soil is saturated from continuous rainfall and the topography is such that water does not move off rapidly, then the excess water will accumulate in the low areas. If the water remains "ponded" for too long a period, turfgrass will be destroyed. The length of time water may remain ponded without killing the grass is a function of the temperature and the species of grass. High temperatures will cause severe damage in a very short period of time, whereas if the temperatures are cool the grass will survive for a longer period. *Poa Annua* appears to be quite susceptible to damage from ponded water, while bentgrass is more tolerant.

Surface runoff may cause washouts and severe erosion, especially on newly seeded areas or on steep slopes with thin cover. Floods, particularly along rivers and streams, often leave heavy deposits of silt which may destroy the turf and leave layers that would create future problems. Heavy silt deposits often must be removed in order to restore the flooded area for play.

Heavy slowly permeable soils, when subjected to frequent and prolonged rainfall, become saturated and may remain at or near this level of soil moisture for extended periods. Under such conditions there will be a deficiency of oxygen and a build-up of reduced compounds which are toxic to turfgrass.