

OUR APRIL MEETING

We met at Mohawk Country Club on Monday, April 7, and, it being a nice day, 20 of our members took advantage of the weather and played golf. It was just a warmup for the season, there being no tournament scheduled, however, all who played reported the course in fine condition and as having a wonderful time. Al Hintz was our host and did all he could to make us welcome. Those who did not play golf enjoyed a very nice social meeting in the club house. Dinner that evening was chicken served family style and was much appreciated by all who participated. At the meeting following, Wes Updegraff, Educational Chairman, introduced Mr. Joe Nathan who gave us a talk on electric carts. Placement Committee Chairman, Ray Gerber, announced that there was a Superintendents position open at East Lake Country Club, Atlanta, Georgia, and also that a new course, in Nashville, Tennessee, was in need of a Superintendent. Research Committee Chairman, Walter Fuchs, announced that his committee had met with the assistant director of Morton Arboretum, Tony Tizna for the purpose of determining if it was possible to establish a turf garden there. The committee was shown a 30 plot demonstration area near the administration building and an 80 acre area that could be used for experimental work. The committee enthusiastically approved the location of the proposed areas and of the preliminary talks on the subject. It was the desire of the committee that a definite understanding be reached as to the length of time that the plots could be active and the part the Midwest would be able to play. It was suggested that the Arboretum would establish the lawn grasses and that our Association would, if it so desired, establish the plots of fine turf. Walter said it was an encouraging meeting and that our dream of turf gardens in the Chicago area may soon come true. Door prizes were drawn and the meeting ended in good order.

DOOR PRIZE WINNERS

1. Dick Hedberg, 2. Roy Robinson, 3. Harry Drafke, 4. Jock MacIntosh, 5. Elmer Lemke, 6. Bill Brenner, 7. Bob Breen.

We received a card the other day from Cyril Tregillus, who many will remember as a long time member of our Association and past President of our group. Cyril has retired and is now living in Clearwater, Florida. He says he is quietly settled and enjoying life. He sends his best wishes to all his former associates. And best wishes to you, too, Cyril and may you enjoy your retirement for many years to come.

The United States weather bureau in its 30-day forecast from mid-April to mid-May calls for temperatures to average above seasonal normals over the northern half of the nation with greatest unseasonal warmth over the Great Lakes region and upper Mississippi valley. Subnormal rainfall with considerable sunshine is indicated over the northern half of the nation.

This spring, has without doubt, been one of the driest in the last 20 years. There have been reports of desiccation on certain types of putting green turf. Examination shows that most of it is on severely matted turf which has practically no root system at this time of the year.

CHICAGO AREA NEMATODES

By Jim Holmes USGA Green Section

It is becoming apparent that nematodes are serious turf parasites. It is possible that superintendents have learned to live with nematodes, especially on greens, by following excellent cultural practices or in general, "babying" turf on green areas. This brings-up a rather ironical twist; although certain nematocides may effectively control parasitic nematodes, the treated area may not improve visably, because of the extensive, thorough, practically individualistic cultural practices followed.

The question can then logically be asked; what is actually gained through treating with chemicals for control of parasitic nematodes? And, is such a practice reasonable even if nematodes are controlled? In order to help answer these questions, test plots were set out at Butterfield Country Club (No. 18 green) and Midlothian Country Club (No. 10 green) in September 1957 (Thanks to the cooperation of Bert Rost and Ed Duehr). Two nematocidal chemicals, VC-13 and Nemagon were applied at recommended rates on areas of 400 square feet. Prior to the treatment, soil samples were sent to Mr. Vernon Perry, Nematologist, at the University of Wisconsin for screening. In both cases large populations of parasitic nematodes were detected.

A number of superintendents in the Chicago area are of the opinion that parasitic nematodes may be active in some of their greens. In any event, the turf on some greens show symptoms similar to those where large populations of parasitic nematodes are found. Because of the increased interest in this subject sufficient quantities of VC-13 and Nemagon have been obtained to treat a number of test plots.

Before the first of May, I plan to contact as many clubs as possible, which have subscribed for Regional Turf Service in order to:

1. Obtain soil samples and send them to Perry for screening.

2. If parasitic nematodes are detected in large numbers, give the superintendent sufficient nematocidal chemicals to treat representative test plots.

With this many test plots it should be possible to determine if any benefits result from the use of nematocides. Benefits expected are, 1) a more healthy profuse root system, 2) more vigorous turf which is less susceptible to disease and 3) turf which gives superior performance during extended periods of high heat and humidity. In other words, a general all around improved turf which requires less "babying", and is easier to maintain, is expected.

It probably will be late July or August before any noticeable results are evident: if indeed any noticeable results are evident at all, on these test plots.

I would like to thank Messrs. Oscar Borgmeier and Paul Burdett for supplying the research quantities of VC-13 and Nemagon, respectively.

WISCONSIN NEWS

The Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association held its first meeting of 1958 at the Bavarian Club 5423 N. Port Washington Road, Milwaukee, Wis., on April 14, 1958. The main order of business was the organizing of the various committees.

Membership Committee—Lester Verhaalen, John Stampfle, John Taylor; Golf Committee—Ray Mertens, Howard Gabby, Arnold Wessel; Educational Committee—Cy. Graham, Bob Howe, Cliff Decker; Picnic Committee—John Crew, Fritz Reinhart, Martin Mikulski.