

RESULTS OF NEMATOCIDE TESTS IN THE CHICAGO AREA

By: Jim Holmes, USGA Green Section

The summer is over and very few greens were "lost" during July and August. Many superintendents reported that weather conditions were more nearly ideal for healthy turf on greens than during any season in their experience. As suggested in our report on, "Chicago Area Nematodes", which appeared in the May, 1958, issue of *The Bull Sheet*, this would tend to reduce visible responses from treatments with nematocides, as all turf would be extraordinarily healthy and vigorous. And as expected, this is just about what happened.

Information which is available at this time indicates that a response may be observed from nematocide treated turf areas for up to three years and perhaps longer. Therefore, if weather conditions are severe next summer the treated areas may yet show a visible response. In any event, superintendents at courses where plots have been treated will continue to observe these areas.

Despite favorable weather for turf growth, the following information was obtained:

1. It has been established that parasitic nematodes are present in greens at ten country clubs in the Chicago area.

2. A visible response was evident on nematocide tests areas on number eighteen green at Butterfield Country Club, this spring and just prior to healthy vigorous growth of turf. The treated area "greened-up" sooner and more completely than did the remainder of the green or the non-treated area.

There has been no visible response on treated plots at Midlothian Country Club, Oak Park Country Club, Indian Hill Country Club or Lake Shore Country Club; in the spring, during the summer or yet this fall.

3. Quite to the contrary, root samples were taken at Midlothian, Lake Shore and Indian Hill and in all cases it appeared that more roots were present on the treated areas. The difference was pronounced on the samples taken from number three green at Indian Hill. Soil on the Indian Hill samples was washed away, leaving the roots intact. Root development in the treated areas was considerably more profuse than root development in the non-treated areas. Color photographs were taken of these samples.

4. Because greens are so well cared for or "babied" it was decided that a greater visible response may be obtained if areas on fairways were treated.

Dr. Vernon Perry, nematologist at the University of Wisconsin, confirmed that a large population of parasitic nematodes was present in the number ten fairway at Midlothian, from soil samples which were sent to him. Dr. Perry and Mr. Ed Duehr set out test plots on the tenth fairway on October 3rd. In this case the nematocide, Nemagon was used with Milorganite as the carrier. These plots will be observed for visible response and soil samples will again be taken next fall for determination of control or reduction of parasitic nematodes.

In summation it might be said that visible responses from nematocide treatments were not outstanding. However, when considering "the good greens growing weather" expected results were obtained. As a matter of fact Bill Saielli at Indian Hill, is reported ready to treat all greens "If I can get roots like that". As in all new developments - time will tell.

DUTCH ELM DISEASE IN KANKAKEE

Herman Woehrle, superintendant at the Elks Golf Club in Kankakee, Illinois reports on Dutch Elm Disease damage at his course in Kankakee. The disease was first detected there in 1955 and Herman removed 5 trees that year. In 1956 he lost 15, in 1957 - 38 and in 1958 he has removed 32 trees and still has 60 to take out.

SPREADING IT THIN

Emil Cassier, whose Sycamore Park District Course suffered a flood disaster in July, says that the turf on his greens has fully recovered and that other parts of the course which had to be reseeded are coming along in fine shape. Emil will also be a grandfather in the near future.

Marv Gruening has been one of the busiest men in the business this summer. In July, a new nine holes was opened at Midwest Country Club, completing the 36 hole layout. During the summer, Marv completed five new greens, part of the master plan drawn up by Architect Bob Harris for John Polacavic, the owner of Midwest three years ago. The plan to rebuild every green and tee on the original 18 holes is now over half completed. Marv says that he is getting gray haired on the job, but is getting a lot of satisfaction out of the work.

Amos Lapp says that he babysits for 5 grandchildren now. Paul Burdett is consulting Amos on some of the fine points of grandfatherhood.

Dick Hedberg is engaged to be married to Miss Carp Behlmeier of Chicago. The big event will take place sometime next May.

Don Stewart of Joliet Country Club will be the new Superintendent at Brookwood Country Club as of December 1.

Don and Marge Strand recently set out on an extended early fall trip thru Wisconsin and Michigan.

Gabriel Rosset was recently reported in the Hospital for several days for observation.

Joe Dinelli was scheduled to enter the Hospital for an operation the middle of October.

Clarence Mitchell of Anderson Field, the city course at Streator, was at our meeting at St. Charles. Clarence says that he has recently rebuilt 3 greens and six tees on the course. He planted C-15 bent on the greens and used the old turf from the greens for the tees.

Elmer Lemke enjoyed his first summer at Tam O'Shanter without a tournament. Elmer says it made things a whole lot easier on him.

Chet Randby recently finished rebuilding the 17th tee at Edgewood Valley made necessary by the toll road. One half of the tee was planted to Zoyzia and the other to Penn-Lu bent. Chet intends to make a report on the results of this combination next year.

Floyd Sander reports that Ridge Country Club is building him a new 40' x 100' service building. Floyd is still busy with his remodeling of greens and tees on the course.

Harry Kuelczo is extending the watering system at Hickory Hills.

Ray Gerber is installing 4 new trap guns at the Gun Club at Glen Oak.