

## BOOM!

On Wednesday, July 21, 1965, the roof began to fall in on good turf maintenance. The humidity began building up in the afternoon hours with the temperatures beginning to rise. By the next morning the early temperatures were already as high as they were the preceding day and they continued to rise until they hit 93 degrees. During the same period, the humidity also climbed to tropical extremes. This condition prevailed for two days and three nights with the end result of turf becoming sick and dying from our old enemy of last year, Pythium.

Our courses turned from almost perfect on Wednesday to almost dead on Sunday. This of course hit the fairways the hardest. Some of the finer courses with poa annua and Bent fairways which are watered frequently were hardest hit.

Let's hope that the humidity drops pretty soon so we won't get wiped out like last year. Temperatures on the South Side of Chicago never went below 68 degrees since the morning of July 21, as compared to temperatures at O'Hare which dipped as low as the upper 50's on three separate occasions during the same period. Temperatures must drop below 68 degrees to stop Pythium.

## BIG CHANGE AT ITASCA

For years John Coutre, Superintendent of Itasca Country Club has been suspecting problems concerning his irrigation water in relationship to its source. He is obtaining his water from the Salt Creek which is adjacent to his course. After analysis he was amazed to find out that the water has been affecting his turf management program a great deal more than he even suspected. The turf always looked sick.

It was decided to investigate this a little further. After a close examination of materials and equipment available for treating his problem water the Club decided to purchase the equipment and materials necessary to purify his water. After installation, he noticed a marked improvement almost immediately. It is worth the time to drive over and see for yourself.

Here is a little more on this water problem as written by A. H. Smith, of Smith Equipment. He carries an ad in the Bull Sheet.

## DISSOLVED MINERALS IN IRRIGATION WATERS

Surface waters from streams and waters from ground wells contain dissolved minerals and gasses obtained from soil contained deposits. Waters vary in amounts of elements according to the particular location from which the water is obtained. Of the minerals, sodium is most caustic to plant tissue, and of the gasses, carbon dioxide presents the greatest problem in "fixation" of minerals to carbonate compounds. On exposure to atmosphere, the carbon dioxide picks up oxygen to form carbonates of mineral elements. As carbonates, the sodium, magnesium, calcium, etc. are precipitated as the water evaporates. The precipitates are water insoluble and not plant usable minerals. As such these "hardness" elements accumulate with each successive watering until a plant tolerance amount is exceeded.

Carbonate salts of minerals being water insoluble, have their greatest concentration in the top several inches of soil. As they tend to co-agulate and draw together, stratified layers of soil become cemented hardpans, that resist air and water infiltration and drainage. Slick spots and surface puddling result. Carbonates are corrosive to plant tissue and can

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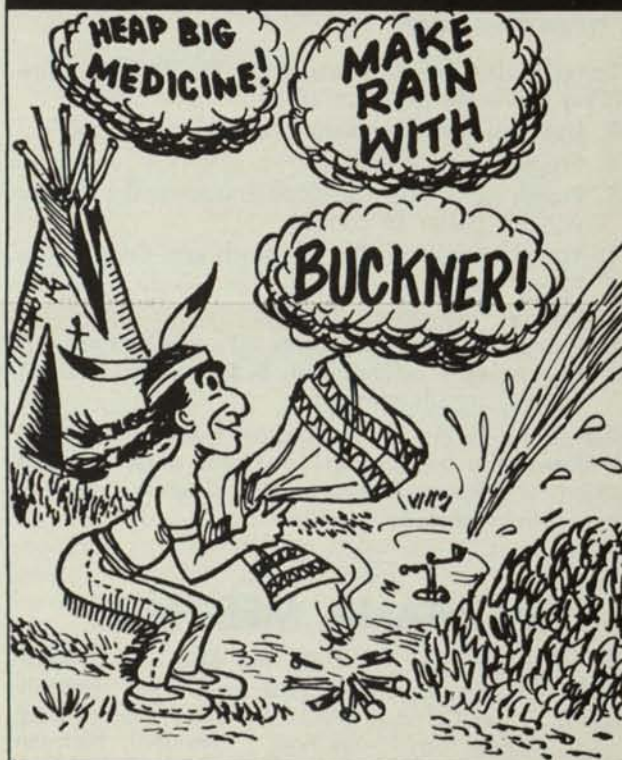


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