

### PAUL W. BURDETT PASSES AWAY

Paul Burdett, Jr. passed away on Friday, October 8th, 1965. He was part of the sales force of the Paul E. Burdett Company. He grew up in the business with his Dad and brother Jim. Even though most of his time was spent on the North Side we all know him as part of a team. We will miss him. The members of the Midwest Association join in extending our deepest sympathy to the family.

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## MINIMIZING WINTER DAMAGE

Dr. W. H. Daniel

Department of Agronomy, Purdue University

Turf managers in Chicago have long known the problems of wintertime turfgrass damage, and they are as experienced as any group in the ideas and practices for modification. Perhaps a review would be helpful.

I recall in the spring of 1960 when extensive damage was observed at one golf course, slight damage was observed at the neighboring golf course and most others in the vicinity were undamaged. The next spring two golf courses in Massachusetts reported severe damage, but those greens facing west had less damage. Two years later severe damage was experienced on numerous golf courses in the Chicago area, but by then the cause was better understood.

Unfortunately damage was widespread in the northeast in the spring of 1964. The observation at Mount Pleasant, Mass. three years before gave the clue.

Excellent work by Jim Beard at Michigan State attempts to accomplish difficult work, i.e., to duplicate unusual weather circumstances. What is meant by unusual?

Turf can be damaged when the rootzone freezes while wet, then snow and ice freeze above the plant; thus, under these conditions the plant cannot get needed air exchange from the ground, or from above it — takes both conditions to damage. Interpretation?

Should the weather on your golf course begin with rain and sleet, with temperatures dropping so the rain freezes, this turns to sleet and snow which is followed by sunny, cold weather which seals over the snow, then suspect trouble. If the weather persists for more than ten days and remedial work possible — scraping — punching — would be desired.

Good snowmold control, fall aeration, healthy turf, good surface drainage, all help to reduce the problem. Fortunately bluegrass is most tolerant, bentgrass is medium, and Poa annua is least tolerant to winter damage. Fortunately such conditions occur infrequently.

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