

# SPRING OBSERVATIONS

March 15, 1966

The weather can bring about some unusual situations and developments. Here in 1966 March has been a spring month. In 1965 March was a winter month with 24" of snow. The grass was as green in Chicago in March as it is in Florida, in fact after a freeze in southern Florida about February 1st, the turf in the Chicago area was greener. The Bermuda grasses in the south turned absolutely brown and did not recover for two or three weeks.

The turf in the Chicago area came through the winter in excellent condition. The danger of disease is not entirely past. According to Jim Holmes the eminent authority and second best bridge player in Chicago, some danger of snowmold from late snow falls still might occur, though it would likely be the Fusarium (pink) variety rather than the Typhula or grey variety which is hardest to control. Also, about this time of the year, leaf spot can be a pest and should be treated promptly.

Prices this spring on equipment and supplies in the turf industry, do not show too much effect of inflation. There have been some increases but not to the extent expected last fall. Generally, manufacturers have held the line largely because of competition. Some metals of course, have become scarce and subject to allocation, namely copper and mercury, resulting in much higher prices on mercuric fungicides and brass goods. Comparison of prices in the spring of 1965 and 1966 shapes up something like this:

Plant foods and chemicals .....	no change
Fungicides, Insecticides & Weed Killers .....	no change
Grass Seed .....	up 20-25%
Mowers .....	no change
Machinery and equipment .....	no change
Green and tee equipment .....	up 10%
Irrigation equipment .....	up 10%

As the season advances some shortages and delays on metal products will develop. The danger of inflation resulting in higher prices and wages has definitely not been abated.

C. O. Borgmeier

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