



HOLMES' CORNER

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A definite pattern can be observed regarding winter and spring desiccation or "top burn" damage to putting turf throughout the Midwest. The type or strain of bentgrass most severely damaged and, in some cases, the only type damaged, is that which I refer to as Washington. Or, that strain which goes off-color following the first frost in the fall. This off-color is evident as either a purplish or reddish cast. Further, this type of grass is the slowest to commence growth in spring, but once growth does commence, a thick, wooly, fluffy pattern usually develops. I plan to watch this closely this summer because this type of bent also may be the one which shows the most severe scalping symptoms during July and August. Numerous slides have been made which quite well picture this phenomenon and I believe a definite trend can be proved. However, under no stretch of the imagination do I mean that this particular type of bent, namely Washington, is the only one which suffered damage, merely desiccation is considerably more pronounced with this type. Consequently, older greens which were seeded to South German bentgrass have exhibited the most severe damage as this strain seems to have developed and spread.

A good example of this is Oakland Hills Country Club in Detroit where Ted Woehrle inherited 15 greens originally established with South German bentgrass; three greens have been recently rebuilt according to Green Section specifications. Extremely severe top-burn damage occurred, following a distinct "Washington pattern", on the 15 older greens; only limited or inconsequential damage was visible on the three new ones, which were planted with Old Orchard. When I visited with Ted a couple of weeks ago, sure enough, burned-off turf was showing fast recovery.

Even though turf burn was especially severe this winter, recovery is accelerated rapidly at this time. Golf course superintendents either vigorously spiked, aerated or vertical mowed desiccated areas and overseeded, but, it appears that turf recovery is coming from the old grass present as nodes did not winterkill and viability remains. This does not mean that soil opening and overseeding should not be done, but even with this program, turf which is filling in is that which existed previously.

Golf course superintendents who placed their water-

ing systems in operation and irrigated in early March, or the few who watered greens by tank, got by with the least amount of damage. A good example of this is Green Acres Country Club, Dave Burke, golf course superintendent, watered all greens the first week in March, using his spray tank and applying in excess of 500 gallons of water to high spots. As a result, putting surfaces at Green Acres are superb at this time. Now that hot weather has arrived, finally, I believe recovery will be complete on all greens by June 15th or 20th. It is important that areas which have not recovered to date completely be kept constantly moist. And, do not brush or vertical mow again until complete fill-in occurs. Greatest benefits will be derived through light, frequent topdressings. Now that high heat and humidity are with us, hand watering becomes more important. Through hand watering, high, browned-off areas remaining can be kept moist without the danger of over-watering low areas, thus increasing the possibility of serious disease activity. Efforts should be made to use the "safest" or least-burning turf fungicides as much as possible. Some of the "safest" or least-burning fungicides are Thiram, Dyrene, Kromad and Daconil.

A joint meeting of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents and the Wisconsin group is to be held August 12th at Tuckaway Country Club in Milwaukee. I have been asked to be speaker at this meeting and plan to show the Green Section movie on putting green construction. Those of you who are interested and have not seen this movie might make a note and attend this get-together.

Golf Report

JUNE 1968 MEETING

The second golfing event of this season was played at the Glen Eagles Country Club. President Walter Fuchs had the golf course well groomed and playing conditions were excellent. Twenty-nine players entered the Peoria handicap golf event (twenty-two members and seven guests). The excessive heat deterred many golfers from participating. The Chicago official temperature was 94 degrees and it was warmer in the Lemont area where Glen Eagles is located.

The winners of the Peoria handicap golf event were:

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| 1. Clarence Mitchell | 6. Albie Staudt |
| 2. Ray Schei | 7. Ron Bild |
| 3. John Hooper | 8. Bill Krafft |
| 4. Carl Hopphan | *9. Keith Fuchs |
| 5. Roy Nelson | *10. Al Wildeuradt |

* Guest Prize Winners

Albie Staudt shot a sizzling 72 for the day's low gross score.

President Walter Fuchs was presented with a gift from the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents in appreciation of being our host for this June meeting.

The next golfing event will be played at the Glendale Country Club on Monday, July 8. Entrees for the event will be accepted beginning at 11:00 A.M. at the Pro Shop.

Your Golf Chairman requests that on completion of the 18 holes of play you will please turn in your scores immediately. Many players finish after 6:00 P.M. and there is only a short time lapse between that time and dinner call. In that short period of time winners of the event have to be determined and the prizes have to be tagged with the winner's name. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Al Bertucci, MAGCS Golf Chairman