

THE BULL SHEET, official publication of THE MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS.

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M.A.G.C.S. OCTOBER EDUCATIONAL REPORT

The topic "Preparing Your Course For Winter" was thoroughly discussed by a panel of Golf Course Superintendents at the October meeting.

The distinguished panel members, Ray Gerber, Peter Bild, Ed Wollenberg, Mike Bavier, and John West, all gave a report covering the preparation of their courses for the winter months. Then the session was opened to the audience for questions and discussion.

Some very important points and observations brought out by the panel were:

1. Make last fertilizer application no later than late September to allow turf to harden off for winter.
2. Aerifying, spiking, verti-cutting, should be done in early fall so holes or slits will heal over before winter sets in.
3. Before draining irrigation system for winter, water all turf well.
4. While irrigation lines are still under pressure, crack all drain valves to see if they are functioning, before draining system.
5. Topdressing applied very late in fall will help to protect turf from winter damage.
6. Spray for snowmold as late as possible so a late fall rain will not wash it off.
7. If placing straw, brush or plastic on greens, for winter protection, apply a fungicide first. Then follow up with brush or straw after the ground is thoroughly frozen.

Other questions and observations raised by the audience were:

1. Be sure potassium levels are adequate in turf, before going into winter.
2. Anti-Desiccant materials did not seem to prove helpful in combating winter desiccation in 1969.
3. Can irrigation systems be installed below the frost line so they can be activated during winter dry spells?

The general feeling of the panelists and the audience were that, winter desiccation seems to be more of a problem now than in years past. It appears that thatched turf suffers desiccation the most.

Could our stepped up fertilizer programs to combat turf wear from heavy play, and heavy and continuous play not allowing us enough time to apply proper cultural practices, be the partial cause of our winter problems?

Submitted by Ted Sokolis

The President's Message

For the past year it has been my privilege to write the President's Message. In this last message which will appear on about the eve of my termination in this office, I would like to express my gratitude to the board that has worked with me.

Also the many members, in one way or another, who expressed their appreciation for what I have written that greatly encouraged me to continue to write a message every month. It was these pleasant comments that made this past year one I will always remember, and overshadow the things I would like to forget.

Looking back on the past year, I sometimes wonder how I had the courage to accept the presidency — being in a position to know my capabilities better than anyone else. But then I guess whatever you do in this world takes courage. No matter what course you decide upon, there is always someone to tell you you are wrong. And there are always difficulties arising which tempt you into believing that the critics may be right.

To decide upon a course of action and follow it to an end requires courage. And there is no important decision or day of life that doesn't require some sort of courage. It takes courage to be different, to side with someone who is unfairly abused, or to befriend someone who is a popular disfavor, or to speak out in favor of an unpopular proposal. But then anyone who stands for anything, who says anything, who does anything that amounts to much, must face the critics — and that requires courage. Life itself with every important decision, requires courage.

I am really not sure that I have any courage at all, and would like to believe that because I like people, I have been accepted by you.. And because of our vocation and professional ability, we owe each other much. Even if for little else, we owe something to each other for the privilege of companionship. Oh, I know we have caused problems for each other at times. But virtually all people disappoint us at times (as we even disappoint ourselves.) But despite faults and imperfections all of us need each other. For better or for worse, constructively or otherwise, we all play our part. And in all this give and take, this appreciation and disappointment, what do we look for?