



## RECORD'S RECORD

By Lee Record  
USGA Green Section  
Mid-Continent Agronomist

March went out like a lion! Rain, snow and sub-freezing temperatures of late March and early April kept turf loss at a minimum. Moisture stress was getting critical, few irrigation systems had been turned on. Heaving and thawing of the soil was normal and as always, too many greens were being played. Temporary greens for play in late fall, winter and early spring, must become the rule rather than the exception.

This fall I will write an article for member education on temporary greens, ice damage, desiccation, etc. A little more knowledge for locker room debate. May the strong at heart win out.

Why is it, the first warm days of March excites man's adrenalin? Nature is not meant to turn green over night. Why the early adrenalin-nitrogen race? For color? Color in turf is like beauty in women, leaf deep and deceptive. Force the plant too early in the season and lose a good percentage of it in the summer.

Ninety days of ice remained on greens in the Des Moines, Iowa area from December 17 to March 17. Ice damage? Not on Norm Westfall's (recently retired superintendent) Wakonda golf course. I talked with Norm while in Des Moines and asked what his secret was. Last November an automatic watering system was installed around greens. During the first snow in December, the watering system was running to see if any leaks had developed during installation. Norm said, "the greens got soaked real good."

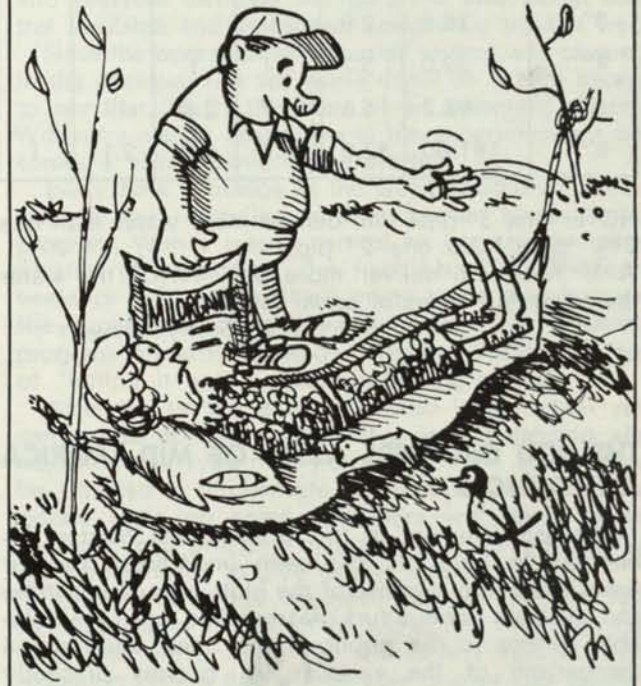
Any snow mold damage on Norm's greens? A couple of spots, but you had to look for them. Preventive snowmold fungicides have not been applied for years. The greens at Wakonda consist of South German, Metropolitan and Washington, and a one year old Penncross green.

What about **Poa annua**? A spot or two, something you wouldn't look at twice. Norm is one of few who have conquered **Poa annua** on greens. This has to be the success story of reducing ice injury.

Watch out for Paraquat and Diaquat! From the Suffolk County Farm News, New York, "Paraquat and Diaquat are known to trigger an unknown irreversible lung deterioration. Once this action is initiated, death appears almost certain as there is no known antidote. Death may result in a few days, a week or two or three weeks.

"Breathing the mist is believed to be more serious than low level ingestion. All who work with these compounds should handle them with considerable care using respirators, goggles and other protective clothing."

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