

RECORD'S RECORD

By Lee Record
USGA Green Section
Mid-Continent Agronomist

"Should regular greens be played during the winter month?" This question was asked frequently during the past season by Green Chairmen and club officials.

There are two critical times when injury may be severe. Early or late in the season when the grass has been growing and frost occurs, foot traffic on frosted greens will cause serious footprinting. Ice crystals within the grass blades are distorted and rupture living cells, causing death. Later in the day when the ice crystals have thawed the same amount of traffic will do limited damage. Syringing greens in early morning before traffic is allowed on the course will help solve the problem; water melts the ice crystals.

The most serious damage occurs after the soil has been frozen and the upper portion of the green has begun to thaw; the surface layer of the soil is overly wet and slippery. Foot traffic at this time will cause severe compaction, tearing of the roots at the point where they penetrate the still frozen area. The surface of the green will be susceptible to serious footprinting which in turn will affect the quality of the putting green surface throughout the following season.

It has been demonstrated in test plots that trampling on melted snow, with subsequent freezing will result in total turf destruction. This is a strong argument against using slopes on the golf course for sledding, skiing, and the use of snow mobiles.

When the soil is partially thawed injury is serious and long lasting. This condition is always associated with beautiful late winter and early spring days when the air is warm and the soil is cold. It is very difficult to convince golfers they should not play.

Dr. Fred Grau, prominent turf authority, proposes that this sign be displayed at the golf club. "In the interest of all the members, and in an attempt to preserve the high quality of our greens, the course is closed to play until conditions warrant resumption of traffic."

"Every effort is made to keep the course continuously playable, but when Nature fails to cooperate and brings frost or floods we have no choice but to limit play. The understanding and consideration of the members are greatly appreciated."

Speaking from an agronomic point of view, we would say without reservation that it is best to keep winter play off regular greens and to use temporary greens.

Bob Williams, Superintendent at Bob O'Link Golf Club, and his wife, Bobbie, are vacationing and enjoying the sunshine this winter in Crystal River, Florida.

GLEN OAK STORM DAMAGE OF JULY 17, 1972

After the storm we had 8 trees uprooted and ended up cutting down 23. This winter, due to the storm, it was necessary to prune/trim 72 trees and take down 6 additional trees.

From Office of Agricultural Communications
College of Agriculture
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois 61801
Urban Pesticide Clinics Scheduled

At Nine Illinois Locations

Here's the schedule for the 1973 Urban Pesticide Clinics, sponsored jointly by the University of Illinois Cooperative Extension Service, the Natural History Survey, and the Illinois Department of Agriculture:

Date	City	Locations
February		
26	Rantoul	Redwood Inn
27	Springfield	Heritage House, Rt. 66 South
28	Belleville	Augustines, Rt. 460 & Rt. 158
March		
1	Marion	Holiday Inn, I-57 & Rt. 13
5	Peoria	Heritage House, Rt. 88 North
6	Rock Island	Deere & Co., Admin. Center
7	LaSalle	Holiday Inn, I-80 & Rt. 51
8	Rockford	Holiday Inn, Rt. 51 South
15	Arlington Hgts.	Arlington Towers

Registration for each meeting will be from 9:30 to 10:55 a.m. The meetings will adjourn about 3:00 p.m.

Advance enrollment is required for the March 15 clinic at Arlington Heights. To advance enroll, contact James Fizzell at the Cooperative Extension Service Office, Room 3, 662 Graceland Avenue, Des Plaines, by Feb. 23. If enrollment is large enough another meeting will be scheduled at a later date.

The 1973 clinics will be geared to "small package" or home and garden pesticide dealers. The clinics will also include topics of interest to custom applicators who apply pesticides to trees, shrubs and lawn areas.

Representatives of the Illinois Department of Agriculture, Division of Plant Industry, will discuss the Illinois Custom Spray Applicators Licensing law and administer examinations for custom spray operator's licenses at the end of each meeting.

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Editor's Note
Thanks Charlie

Dear Oscar:

We just established a grant for \$1500.00 at the University of Florida to check out potassium reserves in their fine sandy soil. It is a start towards O. J.'s long time wish to develop some semblance of order in the chemical soil testing field.

A big part of this is to find out what happens to nutrients after we apply them on turf. The beauty of the Florida work is that the plot area has been under turf and light to very heavy potassium fertilization for the past 10 years. Dr. Gaylord Volk (former Wisconsinite) and soils professor will undertake the study.

From this we should be able to expand to depth of sampling, extractants, other elements, etc., so that someday soil testing will cease to be a gimmick and return to its rightful roll as a good tool for the professional turf grass growers.

I believe that with this check the Noer Foundation expenditures will have exceeded the \$60,000.00 mark. It never could or would have happened had it not been for you. You will also be pleased, as Chuck has undoubtedly told you, that the Oak Park Trust is doing a good job of managing the funds.

Very truly yours,
Charles G. Wilson
Research Director