

Summary of 20th Annual Truf Clinic OF THE MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

By Lee Record

Mid-Continent Director USGA - Green Section

The theme for the 20th Annual Turf Clinic could not have been better put during the past two days, "A Better Understanding." An understanding of oneself, an exchange of ideas during a question and answer period, or over a drink after the sessions had been concluded for the day. It made no difference as to age, as the young and the seasoned superintendent shared their views. New light, new direction, new avenues of promise were stimulated by each and every speaker regardless of his topic.

Water, loved by all, fought for in developing an irrigation system, enlarging a storage area or bringing in a well, still remains and may always remain an unsolved problem in how to use it properly. More jobs have been lost through the misuse of water than any other cause. And yet Mother Nature has had no feeling for job security and the golf course superintendent in the greater Chicagoland area these past few months, as fairways, greens and tees remained under water for countless days in many instances.

Today, we cannot look back, but ahead to the coming year and our cultural programs. Standard programs of the past may only be a memory in 1973, as 1973 may well separate the men from the boys. It will take a keen eye and added responsibility to compensate for past mistakes or cultural programs that have been neglected. Tomorrow can never be made up for today.

Low temperature kill, desiccation, fungi, compaction, leaching, soil temperature, depth of roots and most important of all, management of men, will be your day of judgment in the months ahead. Flexible programs without question will be the rule rather than the exception.

And with all this, standard pesticide products of the past will be used to upgrade and improve playing conditions for the great game of golf. Regardless if you are hosting a major national tournament or a local on the spot tournament that all so often arises, "The better the condition of the course, the better the champion can play." This is your responsibility.

Turf research is a slow, challenging process, but one that continues with much enthusiasm by our researchers. Not always do we have to look to our universities for results, as commercial organizations have contributed more than their share to the golf course superintendent. New, improved grass varieties, pesticides and equipment only begin to tell a little of their accomplishments for your success.

It's true mechanical and physical breakdowns occur. There is, however, a reason as to why this happens; lack of communication, old equipment, poor supervision or a "what the hell" attitude. Understanding and the maturing of each individual, employer or employee is important to the success of your operation. Mechanization, Men and Management will truly play a more important role in the coming decade and the decades of the future. But one must not, and cannot overlook the prime importance of the golf course superintendent, the prime role that he plays as a manager of turfgrass. An individual who must have the tools and accept the responsibility of maintaining and managing a golf course, regardless of

climatic conditions, vandalism or damage from the maintenance equipment, which he must use to meet the standards that are expected of him.

Today, our terminology deals with ounces, pounds and acres. Tomorrow, and our turf clinics in the future will have a new dialogue. "Hurry up and finish with that tile line; you have four meters or 39.93 decimeters to go." "How many hectares of fairway have you?" one superintendent was asked. "Let's see," he replied, "I have 160,000 square meters or 16.9 hectares; that's right, 40 acres." "You know," he said, "I used a little over 300 kilograms per hectare; that's a little over $\frac{3}{4}$ pounds per 10 square centares."

Only this morning my son said, "It's -5°C." "Come on," I said, "it can't be that cold." He smiled. "It's 23°F," he replied, "you had better check up on your conversion tables."

Our guest speakers gave to us their time and their thoughts dealing with so many topics. It's now up to you to evaluate and pursue the directions which will help you the most in improving your profession.

It was so well put by Ted Woehrle, "The finest Chapter Turf Clinic in the country." I can attest to that statement, as I have taken part in all types of clinics and conferences.

For me, it is an honor to be a member of your organization and to have taken part in your 20th Annual Turf Clinic. I hope you have learned as I have during the past two days, as your theme is the by-line for the coming year, "A Better Understanding."

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