

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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To have the privilege and honor to congratulate a fellow professional for achieving outstanding rewards I now take with great pleasure.

Robert M. Williams was presented the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America 1977 Distinguished Service Award at our recent National Conference and Show in Portland, Oregon. I attended the Opening Ceremonies when Bob received this award and believe me I have seldom been more impressed nor have there been occasions in my lifetime that I have felt as much pride and honor for a truly professional friend. The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents officially submitted Bob's name for this very high award and it was felt that no one in the history of our profession could be more worthy. His leadership, career accomplishments and professionalism have always stood out as the finest.

To keep the honor parade rolling along with all its brass and shining color, Mike Bavier followed up two days later by winning a directorship on the National Board. He showed the entire nation just what kind of mettle Mike is really made of. We in the Midwest have always been aware of this -- some others were just a little slow in recognizing it. I know he will be a great credit to our Association and do a super job as a G.C.S.A.A. Director.

Good luck Mike, and I still think you looked beautiful in your **custom fitted** tuxedo sitting up at the head table!!!

HOW'S YOUR TURF IQ?

1. What are some of the problems that result from an excessive accumulation of thatch? _____, _____, _____, _____, _____.
2. Can you come up with some good points in the favor of thatch? _____, _____, _____.
3. Name three things that would increase thatch accumulation rate. _____, _____, _____.
Either cultural or environmental factor may be used.
4. The microorganisms that are responsible for the thatch decomposition will be most active at pH's near _____.
5. The accumulation of thatch is usually more rapid on coarse textured and well aerated soils. True or False? Answers to the above questions will be found on another page.

LET'S PUT OURSELVES IN THE SHOES OF OUR EMPLOYER

It's called empathy, and it's the ability to see things from the other person's point of view ... to put ourselves in someone else's shoes.

Most of us have no trouble putting ourselves in someone else's shoes when the someone else is an individual like us ... a friend, relative, neighbor, co-worker. But when it comes to our employer—the company—that's another story.

For some reason it's easy to lose empathy when it comes to "the company". Often, because "the company" is so big and so varied, we fail to see things from its point of view.

The result is that sometimes we allow a little waste to creep into our jobs. We miss a few details now and then. We lose a few minutes here and there. And very often our reaction becomes ... "Well, the company can afford it".

Yet the people who get ahead are the ones who do what's best for the company. Your immediate boss may not be the owner, and yet he—or she—certainly represents the owner. Everything stems from the top. You represent the owner, too. No matter what your job is—president or worker—you represent your organization. Do what's best for it—and you're bound to come out a winner!

It's easy to think that a big organization can afford a day off for you here, a few copies on the copy machine there, and yet, think of it: How would you feel about it if **you** were paying the freight? Big companies and institutions make less profit than we sometimes think—it's a competitive world out there—and if we watchdog our employer's pennies as we do our own, we'll be doing the right, fair thing.

Put yourself in your employer's shoes ... and when it comes time for raises and promotions ... he'll put himself in yours!

EFFECTS OF PREEMERGENCE HERBICIDES ON TURFGRASS THATCH DEVELOPMENT

Extensive use of preemergence herbicides in recent years to prevent annual weed development has been suspected of causing reduced turfgrass quality. A study was conducted at the University of Illinois Agricultural Exp. Station to determine whether repeated use of preemergence herbicides resulted in thatch development and other effects associated with turfgrass deterioration.

Six preemergence herbicides were applied annually for four years to 'Kenblue' - type Kentucky bluegrass growing on Flanagan silt loam.

Calcium arsenate and bandane applications resulted in increased leaf spot disease, higher wilting tendency, reduced shoot and root growth, and substantial thatch development. The thatching tendency was associated with a complete lack of earthworm activity in the underlying soil. Bandane residue was largely confined to thatch, while calcium arsenate was more generally distributed throughout the upper thatch soil profile. Verdure was significantly reduced in plots treated with bensulide, while benefin, DCPA, and siduron treatments produced no measurable effects.

("Thatch Development and Other Effects of Pre-emergence Herbicides in Kentucky Bluegrass Turf," by A. J. Turgeon, R. P. Freebork, and W. N. Bruce, Agronomy Journal, Vol. 67, No. 4, July-August 1975).

Clifford G. Warren
Extension Turfgrass Specialist

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ANSWERS TO YOUR TURF IQ

1. Some problems would be: Increased disease and insect damage, localized dry spots, chlorosis, proneness to scalping, foot printing, decreased heat, cold, and drought hardness.
2. Some good points would be: A resiliency for the proper ball bounce or to hold, the wear tolerance of a turf would be greater with a thatch, and thatch would also tend to help insulate the soil against temperature extremes.
3. Some major factors to thatch accumulation would be: Vigorous growing turf, acidic conditions, poor aeration, excessively high plant nitrogen levels and infrequent or excessively high mowing.
4. A neutral pH is best for the microorganisms to decompose thatch. It is possible for the soil pH to be neutral, yet the thatch pH could be acidic due to acidification during decomposition and leaching on irrigated turf. Frequent light lime applications will greatly help to neutralize the thatch.
5. False. The rapid accumulation of thatch would be found on poorly drained soils and ones with fine textured soils. A lot of the microorganisms responsible for the decomposition of thatch are aerobic and thus soils with coarse texture and well aerated will not have the rapid build-up of thatch.