

### HELP WANTED!!

This isn't the type of "Help Wanted" ad that you commonly see, this is a help wanted to solve some problems that I have been having on the golf course. I have three problems that seem to plague me and they are: aquatic weeds & filamentous algae in the pond we use for irrigation, localized dry spots on greens, and last, but not the least, a tee that can't take the wear.

Now to go into some detail on each of these on what I have done and am presently doing. Our irrigation pond lies along the 4th fairway and comes into play as a hazard if you happen to stray too far right off the fairway. The pond is about one acre in size and has an average depth of 4½ feet of water when full. The pond also serves as the main drainage area of the golf course for about 80% of the course drains into it. We have the capability of pumping into the lake for additional water when we need it for irrigation, and we are also able to pump out of this lake and into a river when the pond serves as the main drainage collection point. The problem is we have heavy accumulations of algae on this pond, sometimes covering 30-40% of it. Various chemicals have been tried in the past three years with no lasting results. We have used an aerator in this pond for over two years that has run 24 hours a day year round. I notice no difference with or without it. Maybe the few fish have noticed a difference, but I sure haven't.

At times of applying the aquatic herbicide I have lowered the level of the pond to only 2 feet of water, removed all floating algae and then treated the pond and let it sit for x number of days before filling it back up to irrigate. Various specialists from universities and industry have been consulted and have come out and observed the problem, sampled the water, and the aquatic weeds and algae. Still no lasting results. Oh, we do kill the algae, but it only lasts for a week or ten days at the most, then it's back again and looks like hell. One other thing I will mention is that just up-stream from this pond is a sewerage treatment plant that dumps into the river that flows past this pond, and we feel we are getting some underground seepage from this river into our pond. DOES ANYONE HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS?

The second problem, (I'm sure a lot of other Superintendents have the same thing), localized dry spots on greens. With us it happens around the edges and on the areas where we don't usually cup due to the contour of the green. Usually these areas start to show up come July and August, but this year I was getting them in May. Here at Glen Oak C.C. we do not aerify greens or topdress them. There are only 4-5 greens that do get aerified, and then the plugs get verti-cut and the green gets topdressed from the remaining material. The majority of dry spots occur on the greens that do get aerified. Most of our greens have never been aerified or topdressed and there are no localized dry spots in them. We have tried aerifying the areas, spiking them, both by a hand spiker and by a machine. We have used wetting agents, hose & sprinklers with small nozzles and hand held hoses, plus any and all of the above combinations. In the past some of the dry spots have been aerified, plugs removed and the holes filled with terra-green. No positive results were seen. This year I have tried using vermiculite on two of the greens, but it is too soon to see results. ANY SUGGESTIONS?

The third problem is my 9th tee. The tee sits in a grove of oaks, is elevated from 4 to 8 feet, and is about 150 feet long and 30 feet wide. There are five trees on the south side of the tee that have all been trimmed way up and the crown of the trees have been greatly thinned out to allow more sunlight to get through. The tee never gets the full sun completely nor is it ever completely shaded at any one time. The tee was raised to it's present elevation 6 years ago to provide a better view of the hole and to maintain better turf on the tee. At the time we decided to use a shade tolerant bluegrass on the top. The tee was built in the winter, and it was only a year later that we discovered that the soil used was of a poor quality. Two years later we stripped off one foot of the top and replaced it with a 2 sand, 1 soil and 1 peat mix of about 12 inches in depth. We then sodded with C-15. This was done in the fall and the bent took off and healed in immediately. We waited till the middle of May of the following spring before opening it up. It was beautiful. But in no time at all it was showing tremendous wear from the torquing action of the golfers feet. It wasn't the divots that was killing the tee, it was and is still the foot action when the golfers swing. The tee has averaged about 5-6 pounds of Nitrogen per year, and seldom has it ever had any disease. When we change markers now we spread a little bent seed between the markers so the foot traffic will push the seed into the soil and most of this grass germinates and does fill in if the traffic is kept off that spot. The tee has also been aerified a couple times per year, with the plugs being verti-cut and dragged in. Now we notice that we have built up about a half-inch of the soil mix over the sod and the roots are not penetrating this layer of soil. Our roots are very shallow now and we have started to aerify about every other week and removing the plugs. We have also started mowing the tee at 5/8 of an inch this year hoping the increased height will help, so far it hasn't seemed to make any difference. At times we even hand water it so it won't get too wet. How can I improve this tee to take the wear?

That sums up my "Help Wanted", and I am hoping that someone will be able to come up with a few suggestions so my problems can be corrected and solved.

Fred D. Opperman, CGCS  
August Editorial

### MIDWEST MEETING DATES

|                |                                      |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| August 22 -    | Indian Lakes<br>Joint Meeting I.T.F. |
| September 22 - | Calumetic C.B.                       |
| October 17 -   | Wisconsin Joint Meeting              |
| November 9 -   | Annual Meeting?                      |
| November 19 -  | River Forest Dinner Dance            |

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