

Dear Ray:

It has always been my nature to vent my feelings whenever something has perturbed me. That's why I haven't got ulcers---yet. Somerset Maugham in his novel, "Cakes and Ale", wrote that the only free man is a writer. For whatever and whenever anything bothers a writer he can immediately get rid of it by writing out his feelings on a piece of paper. I shall now do the same.

My response to a recent editorial by board member Don Hoffman, "Where Have All The Members Gone", is this - the majority of our members who superintendent top-notch private golf courses do not want to give up their golf courses for a Midwest golf outing and monthly meeting. It isn't that they can't, they won't. (Though there are some extreme situations at some private country clubs where it may be prohibitive).

The usual response from a superintendent of a private club where we would like to have a golf outing and a dinner meeting is, "It's impossible". Then he usually goes on to give us some weak excuse why, "it's impossible". Well, I don't buy this and never will, because my observation has been that if the managers, professionals or general managers want the course for their outing the same superintendent will bust his butt to comply. If it wasn't for some of the fine semi-private and out of the area golf courses we wouldn't have a club some months for a Midwest meeting. Of course someone will immediately respond by saying, "Well, this year's board isn't trying", "if we had a strong board and strong people running it we would get outstanding private clubs." My reply to this is baloney. (And I happen to think this year's board under Bob Breen is super). The Midwest always tries to get top clubs for our monthly meetings. Agreed some years it's better than others, and some arrangement chairmen are more aggressive and know more superintendents than others, but they always try and my thanks goes out to them for the hard job they sometimes have to do of almost begging some superintendents to give up their club just for one lousy meeting. (I was arrangements chairman for many years and I know how tough the job is). My recommendation to the Midwest Association is to now follow the progressive example of other chapters in North America which is, that every member give up his club for one meeting. Once every fifteen or twenty years or whatever. It should not be hard to figure out. Let's start with the ones who never have given us their clubs. Some of them are our biggest critics, complainers, golf enthusiasts and have even served on the Midwest board but I am tired of "sacred cows" in our Association and maybe the solution to the problem is this. I will make a motion at the Midwest annual meeting that every member give up his club for one Midwest meeting. Let's put it in our by-laws if it can be done legally. Let's also print the names of every club we have been at in the last twenty years and the names OF ALL THE CLUBS THAT WE HAVE NOT BEEN AT. Secondly, I don't really think that we need a golf outing every month. Why not just have a dinner meeting and an education session in the months of July and August. The emphasis and competition on maintenance is so great in our area that we can't all get away during the heavy stress pressure months of July and August. So why not just have a golf game in May and June and then again in September and October? There are outstanding private clubs that we haven't been at with large accommodating dining rooms that would give us their facilities for a dinner educational meeting during the hot summer months on

other days than Mondays if we don't ask for golf.

Well, what do you think? Let us hear some comments. Remember I will make that motion. The only question is can it be legally instrumented and will I get any support? Otherwise let's quit complaining.

Paul N. Voykin, Supt.  
Briarwood C.C.

## LAWNSEED COVERAGE

Autumn is the ideal time of year for seeding new bluegrass lawns, or for bolstering turfs of lesser grasses with improved cultivars of a newer stripe. What coverage can you expect from selections such as Glade and Fylking Kentucky bluegrass, and what when compounded in mixture with supporting kinds like Citation perennial ryegrass?

When bluegrass is planted alone to a good soilbed, approximately two pounds of seed to the thousand square feet, evenly distributed, is about optimum. Much more than this wastes seed unnecessarily, because bluegrass plants spread so well even from light sowings. Much less and the stand will fill more slowly, giving weeds a better shot at a toehold. About five pounds of perennial ryegrass seed is ordinarily suggested. Even though ryegrass is more aggressive than bluegrass, it doesn't spread, and a pound of seed contains only about 20% as many individual seeds as does bluegrass (i.e. the seeds are bigger, therefore fewer).

Nick Christians, at Ohio State University, showed Fylking bluegrass to run a shade under one million seeds to the pound, not a bad bargain. But Glade bluegrass had even more seeds to the pound, about 20% more. Both of these cultivars boast robust, potent seeds compared to many other bluegrasses; Merion, for example, contains about 2 million smaller seeds to the pound. Thus both Fylking and Glade can be expected to start speedily and establish well, although a slightly higher seeding rate might be desirable for them than where Merion is the piece de resistance.

The difference in seed count among bluegrass cultivars is really not too significant, considering how much chance enters into such matters as spreading of the seed, preparation of the soilbed, and adequacy of temperature, moisture, and mulching for sprouting. With either Fylking or Glade, if you can manage to spread two pounds of seed to the thousand square feet evenly onto well-prepared ground, first-rate coverage should result with no delay in gaining a full stand of grass.

When a relatively unaggressive perennial ryegrass is mixed with Fylking and Glade, considerable leeway exists in the percentage of ryegrass vis-a-vis bluegrass that can be allowed. Even a small quantity of bluegrass will make its presence felt in time. But normally only about 20% of the seed mixture would consist of ryegrass, which dilutes seed count only slightly. Perhaps you would want to sow three pounds of such a mixture to each thousand square feet of new lawn, or use half as much for bolstering a thin turf (that is, for scratching it into the surface of an old lawn, most easily executed with a powered scarifying machine, - a turf "thinner" or "dethatcher").

Doyle Jacklin  
Jacklin Seed Company

## GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT

Position open - 18 hole municipal course, Northeastern Illinois. 5 years minimum experience required. Salary range - open. Forward resume in confidence to: Search Committee, P. O. Box 25, Burlington, Wisconsin 53105.