



## MIDWEST BREEZES

Just what is **Red Leaf Spot**? Is it a fungus disease that attacks only one strain of bent grass? Is it just C15 found at **Butler National Golf Club** and **Westmoreland C.C.**? Is it some other problem found at these golf courses with this certain strain of turfgrass? This editor has been living with various turfgrass diseases and various strains of grass for many years, so I am not ready to condemn a certain strain of grass. I know that there are many golf courses in the Chicago area with this same strain and they do not have this problem. I would suggest that before anything drastic is decided on, one should do a little research work. Take a sample of the soil from one of the problem greens, and a sample of the soil from a green at a golf course with the same strain of bent grass that has no problem. Have the soil analyzed to see if there is any difference. Check the maintenance practice such as fungicide, fertilizer, also send in a sample of the irrigation water. I know from experience that all strains of turfgrass will not accept the same chemical. This was proven several years ago on a Washington strain and cost the company several thousand dollars. This problem C15 strain has been on greens for over twenty years and has proven to be one of the best. Let us not be hasty in condemning this strain of bent until a diagnosis of the problem has been completed. We may also check if the fertilizer or chemical companies have added anything to their product.

Are the agronomists that were called in to give their professional opinion, in regards to this problem on certain C15 greens in the Chicago area, really sure it is Red Leaf Spot rather than some other element. If their diagnosis of Red Leaf Spot is correct, why can't they find a fungicide that will stop this disease? We have fungicides for the control of Pythium, Large Brown Patch, Dollar Spot and many other turfgrass diseases. If they are sure this is a disease and not trouble caused by some other element, some research work should be started at the earliest date possible. This problem is serious!

If you have anything of value to offer pertaining to this problem, please send it to me and I will publish it in the next issue. The deadline is the 10th of the month.

The M.A.G.C.S. July 7th meeting held at Medinah C.C. was enjoyed by over one hundred ten who played golf on #3 course. The super course condition was made possible by host Supt. **Don Pakkala**. The educational part of the meeting was very interesting, Red Leaf Spot was the main topic. Many Supt. along with agronomists from Illinois, Ohio, Michigan and our good friend **Dr. Daniel** from Purdue held the spot light for most of the evening. So far the Red Leaf Spot problem is not solved. More research work is necessary.

The M.A.G.C.S. August 4th meeting will be held at Randall Oaks C.C. Our host Supt. will be **Sterling Hamilton**. Bring your golf clubs and enjoy a day of relaxation. This will be a cookout and plenty of good food will be available. It will also be seniors day and they will be guests of the association.

On Sept. 18th there will be a field day on Clavey Rd. More information will come your way at a later date.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the **Leith** family due to the death of **Bill Leith's** mother. Bill is the Supt. at Elgin C.C.

**Joe Canale**, retired Supt. from Deer Park C.C., has been in contact with the hospital and will be checking back again in November. Joe says nothing serious!

**Peter Voykin**, Supt. at Idlewild C.C., reports his club is in the process of installing a two row Toro automatic irrigation system. I am sure Peter is one happy Supt.

**Ed Fischer**, Supt. at Butler National G.C., reports his club is changing the strain of bent grass on their greens from C15 to a new strain called Penneagle. This strain was developed by **Dr. Joseph Duich** from Penn State. **Dr. Duich** will also supervise the seeding of the greens around the middle of August. Good luck, Butler.

Dear Ray,  
Solace through a fantasy?

### "HELPING HAND"

When you're preyed upon by Fungi,  
And Insects choose your greens to chew.  
It would be nice to have a Genie,  
As a member of your crew.  
He could wave his magic wand,  
And your troubles soon would pass.  
To awaken from a dream so fond,  
Would surely be a blast.

Superintendently,  
**Kenneth R. Zanzig**  
Green Garden C.C.

## DISPOSABLE BUTANE LIGHTERS

The Georgia Highway Contractors Association, Inc. new report relates that in the last couple of months the Union Pacific has had two fatal accidents caused by butane lighters. The accidents occurred in welding areas when an employee was welding with a butane lighter in his pocket. A spark from the welding landed on the lighter, burned through the plastic shell and ignited the fluid in an explosion. One individual had the lighter in his shirt pocket and he was killed instantly. The other has his in a pants pocket and the explosion amputated his leg and he died later.

There is the same amount of force in a butane lighter when it explodes as there is an approximately three sticks of dynamite.

Golf course mechanics and others using welding equipment should be aware of the dangers involved with having flammable and combustible materials close to welding areas. Even the most seemingly innocent objects may be dangerous!

**The Georgia Turfgrass News**