

THE BULL SHEET, official publication of the MID-WEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS.

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PRESIDENT' MESSAGE
SPEED — SPEED — SPEED

The past couple of years the Golf Superintendent has been drugged full of Speed. The speed is not actually a drug, but the physical reaction to the Golf Superintendent is much greater. Club members, national tournament golfers, other associations in the turfgrass industry, and even some of our own professional superintendents feel that it is very important to mow our putting greens short enough in order to see the crown of the grass plants. Some superintendents have gone out of their way to change the physical characteristics of a manufacturer's piece of equipment to achieve shorter cutting heights (around 1/8") trying to please other professional turfgrass organizations.

Watching tournaments on television and visiting some golf courses locally makes me wonder whose job it is to make conditions ideal for all golfers. Our clubs have to be made to understand that they are not to cater to the golfer who plays their course for just one week out of the year but are to make conditions desirable for their regular members who are there year 'round, year after year. The golfer today cannot enjoy playing on soil, brown grass or sand (for the purpose of smoothing out the roughness of the turfgrass) because for many years putting quality has been excellent on lush green putting surfaces.

We preach over and over again that during the hot humid stress periods for growing turfgrass that you do not lower the height of cut but instead you might have to raise it a little. It seems like every year there are more and more individuals that all of a sudden become the experts for turfgrass management. We are the Golf Course Superintendents and we already know how to grow grass. When we grow turfgrass, it is not just for one week. Our turfgrass management programs are designed for the best interest of our golfers year 'round.

If you are concerned about this problem, as I am, then write the G.C.S.A.A. (President Mike). Public Relations could be increased to stop putting the greatest priority on Speed. Communications has to get out to the golfers and the turf industry that the Golf Course Superintendent makes his decision based on the interest of the turfgrass. I do not see the trend to continue playing golf on soil or brown grass.

GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT POSITION OPEN

Idlewild Country Club 18 hole golf course, 6 tennis courts, landscape maintenance, automatic irrigation system, Bent & POA turfgrass and responsible to the Green Chairman. Available to start October 1, 1981 or sooner. Send Resume to: Idlewild Country Club
c/o Dr. Robert Salk
19200 Dixie Highway
Flossmoor, Illinois 60422