

DESICCATION 1982 STYLE

It all started last fall with some freezing rains and continuous depressing cold weather with some slight thaws but again with more rains and a build of additional ice layers with no let up.

In mid February we had some thaw and in walking the course the Greens had a very severe COPPER COLOR to them, this bothered me very much and at that time I felt that I was in real trouble for the coming spring. Sure enough the nightmare became a reality of total despair. The only consolation that I had is that I knew that I was not alone in this dilemma. Anybody who had a large percentage of Poa belonged to the club of WINTER KILL OF POA Chicago style. With wind chill factors of -81 degrees and long term ice cover.

When Spring finally decided to make her entrance even she was reluctant to help very much. With continuous bad weather as we all remember, compared to a year ago.

At Chevy Chase I had from 5% to 30% grass on most of my greens. Each day brought on more despair along with an empty bottle of Scotch.

To get the flack off my back the first thing that I did was to pull a CUB'S Park Special, I got the sprayer out and the Aura-Green Dye and just painted them green; hoping that the dark color would pick up some of the sun's warmth and get things going. It seemed to help a little bit along with some Iron sulphate.

The next step was to spike and overseed, top dress and fertilize and a shot of Grozzyne. With little to no rain the night watering also had to become part of the program to bring these greens around.

Four of the greens were in the 5% category and I decided to Shattercore these greens seed, fertilize and top dress. At this point I am about 80% healed in and should be 100% within the next two to three weeks.

Now for an interesting observation ... The one green that was predominately sand had no desiccation at all although it was a new green compared to the balance of the course. The nursery also had absolutely no desiccation and it was sod from an old green that was loaded with POA. But it had a heavy sand content also.

On #1 Green a patch was made last October using some additional sand with the 1-1-1 mix and this portion of the green had no desiccation to it either.

This observation of sand content areas began to make me wonder about the benefits of a 1-1-1 mix that so many of us have used over the years; being preached to that it was the best way to go. Now I am beginning to wonder if the peat content seals up the green? Therefore holding the water on top and killing the POA along with the sub zero cold factors. Whereby the sand content areas lets more of this moisture thru and the POA survives?

I got on the phone to John Krutilla up at Lakelawn and he has been on a sand program for a few years and had ZERO desiccation.

This being the case just maybe this sand program may have some validity to it! Either way it has me wondering and asking more questions. These new fine sands from OLD DUTCH SAND CO. are readily available and very uniform in screen size to meet all specifications that were given out at Purdue. They appear to work from my observations.

It has also been mentioned that in using a program of this nature that your POA population percentage gradually decreases. This I do not know for a fact to be true or false. But if true it surely becomes at least one extra benefit for the Superintendent. With no extra cost in his budget and just maybe a few more nights of sleep.

In conclusion, just maybe this desiccation was a blessing in disguise to give us a real evaluation of the POA population that exists and the opportunity to get some bent grass started.

Leonard Schnepf
Chevy Chase G.C.

JUNE GOLF

Sixth players set it up at Marriott Lincolnshire when, as usual, a great conditioned course awaited our hocking and straying. A day that was supposed to rain turned out hot and sunny, and, I'm sure, a good time was had by all.

In order to avoid some confusion, all members who play golf are required to pay the prize fee.

The golf committee is still working on getting everyone's handicap. If you don't have one, get us some scores.

ALL events will be played as summer rules and the normal back tees will be used.

June Winners

Low Grass 77	G. Dorsch
Long Drive Sr.	J. Potthoff
Long Drive Reg.	D. Taggart
Close to Pin	V. Rascher

Bogey Winners

J. Reed	75
E. Smith	75
J. Dinelli	79
J. Bararducci	79
F. Krueger	79
B. Heal	79

Callaway

P. Talor	71
B. Miller	72
T. Robinson	72
P. Voykin	72
B. Kronn	72
B. Krafft	72
B. Saielli	72

John Stephenson Golf Chairman

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includes complete report, and recommendations for producing quality turf on golf courses.

ADVANTAGES:

- Improve the environment of the grasses and eliminate turf diseases
- Decrease the money spent on pesticides
- Reduce thatch and eliminate fairway renovation
- Less money needed for high cost fertilizer
- Healthy turf attracts more golfers and increases income

Contact:

V. J. Zolman
2618 Harvey Avenue
Berwyn, Illinois 60402

Phone: (312) - 788-4565