

BROOKSIDE SOIL TESTING and IRRIGATION WATER ANALYSIS

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

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TimberLine, Inc.

WE OFFER FAST, DEPENDABLE SERVICE — EXPERIENCED IN EXPANSION & RENOVATION OF TEES & SAND TRAPS, IMPROVEMENT OF PATHS, EXCAVATING, BACKHOE WORK, DIRT HANDLING & LEVELING.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR NEED REFERENCE OR TESTIMONIALS PLEASE CALL BUSINESS AND ANSWERING SERVICE 963-9088. HOME 963-4510.

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DECORATIVE MULCHES—chunk bark & shredded mulches, bag or bulk

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KEEP THE F-AIRWAYS OPEN

How important is communication? What good is it? Why have it? These are some aspects of communication I would like to expand on and show the importance of each of these questions to our profession.

The first question, "How important is it?" Without being able to talk and reason with people our profession is dead. If your green chairman comes up to you and asks you a technical question, you better be able to come up with an intelligent answer or tell him you are not sure but will find out. Nothing turns someone off more than when an employee answers a question with an "I don't know."

If there is a weak link in the chain of command of a club it stems from lack of communication. If the pro doesn't tell the superintendent that he has 100 players on Friday morning for a 9:00 A.M. shotgun start, the superintendent could be a real bind. All these type problems could be avoided with a phone call or a memo between the pro shop and grounds department.

Why have it? Without a good line of communication between manager, pro, and superintendent, trouble usually will arise. Maybe the best way to have a good line of communication is through a staff meeting. Include in that meeting the club president, the manager, the golf professional, the golf superintendent, and the pool manager. Let the club president chair the meeting and clear the air of any ill feelings between departments. If all departments of a country club can work together, it sure makes everyone's job involved, much easier.

Another way we as golf course superintendents can improve our own line of communication is through playing with members. I am sure that some clubs will not allow this but at those clubs that encourage it, the superintendent should make every effort to play at least 1, 18-hole round per week with a group of members. Get a view of the golf course from a playing standpoint instead of an agronomic one. Let the members question you about why this and that looks or performs the way it does while on the golf course, not in the shop. How often does your grounds chairman come into your office and ask you a question about a particular area on a certain fairway? If you were playing, you could see the problem, explain why you have it, and what you are doing to alleviate the problem. Take some of the guess work out of your job.

In summing up "our" problem, I can't express the importance of having an open line of communication between club executives, department heads, and between the department head and his people working for him. One thing to always keep in mind is "a superintendent is only as good as the people working for him." Hire good people, communicate your desires to them, follow up by observation and the job should be done the way you explained it in the shop.

Joe Williamson

1983 UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS TURFGRASS FIELD DAY

Our annual turfgrass research field day will be held on July 27, 1983 at the Ornamental Horticulture Research Center located on South Lincoln Avenue, Urbana. This year, the field day will include a tour of the turfgrass research plots and a tour of the ornamental horticulture research being conducted at the site. There will be a catered lunch available on a reservation only basis. A complete schedule of events and a reservation form for lunch will be mailed to you at a later date.