

THE BULL SHEET, official publication of the MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS.

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Golf	Chairman - Joe Williamson Committee - Mike Hart
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President
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
LET'S KEEP IT SIMPLE

Sometimes we take communications for granted in thinking that everyone knows what we Golf Course Superintendents do, or what challenges we have. I find greenkeeping unique in this vein, as everyone feels they have a participating knowledge in the art of growing things. One of the challenges we face as a group of professionals, is the people problem associated with growing grass for the recreational sport of golf. Keeping the golfer happy, as well as informed, can be just as rewarding as treating a difficult disease or insect problem. Not everyone can be a Golf Course Superintendent. It is a unique profession. By using the following simple example, I think we can keep things in perspective when we attempt to explain what keeping golf turf is all about.

The grasses we use grew naturally as meadow grass for grazing animals. It has adapted over the centuries to renew itself after it has been eaten by animal or harvested by man. Its growing point is at the base of the plant. Like human hair, it can continue to grow after it has been cropped. Other plants do not have this capability, because their growing points are at the end of the plants. It takes them much longer to recover when cropped. Out of years of trial and error came the turf we use for agriculture and leisure sport. With intense management, we have learned to cultivate species of grass to be used on the golf course. This turf, almost the same grass grown in meadows, has the capability to grow at extremely low heights of cut and perform for our artificial needs as green, tee, and fairway grass.

We grow turf on a green so that the golfer can roll his golf ball across this special area of turf and put it in the hole with as much consistency as possible. The greenkeeping talent is judged on how successful most of the players can do this. This hallowed area of ground is expected to sustain itself through periods of hot, cold, wet and dry weather. It should renew itself and sustain spike marks, pitch marking, daily mowing, and any combination of the above. I think it is amazing that we are able to get the ball into the hole as often as we do. The Superintendent has to balance all these variables each day to give consistent standards of play. These challenges lend themselves to giving us the reward of watching a long, curling putt drop to the bottom of the hole. These rewards come from using programs that mold fertilizing, cutting, and watering programs into something as beautiful as a golf green that is not only a pleasure to look at, but fun to walk and play on.

Pete Leuzinger, Pres., MAGCS