

FROM THE DIARY OF CEC KERR

The other day while visiting with Pete Vandercook, I suddenly exclaimed, "Pete, I visit golf courses throughout the United States — leading distributors, outstanding university scientists, and green house growers. I learn something new each day from each individual and still get paid from Mallinckrodt. I feel almost guilty drawing a pay check." It's great to enjoy your work. I believe you superintendents enjoy your work. It shows by the many improvements you continue to initiate in your program.

I have had the privilege of speaking on Public Relations to 1,400 superintendents at Dr. Joseph Troll's Massachusetts Turf Conference telling of fine practices of Bruce Williams, the greens aere aerification program of Bruce Searing, James John's rustic name plates identifying each employee's parking place, John Ebel's well-maintained shop and so many other activities by you superintendents here in Chicago.

I have had the chance to hold small group seminars throughout the midwest meeting at Illini Country Club and sharing ideas with men such as Mike Vogt, well trained by Mike Bavier, and superintendents in Ohio led by Paul Mechling and Warren Bidwell's son, Walter Simon, President of Northwestern Ohio Superintendent's Association.

The rare opportunity of attending the recent Chicago District Golf Association Green Seminar and hearing professional talks given by our own members, such as Carl Hopphan, discussing turf update with Dr. Wehner's water improvement studies, excellent discussion of sand topdressing presented by Dave Ward and the mowing studies conducted by Bruce Williams and Oscar Miles.

I have had the the pleasant task of speaking throughout the country about our new product, Vorlan, which was developed eight years ago in Germany. In eight years of usage, no resistant dollar spot has developed. This product is also approved for Fusarium nivale, leaf spot and red thread. We have seen 39 days control of dollar spot with Vorlan applied at 1 oz/1,000 sq. ft. by Tom Rodems at Kankakee Country Club. Seventeen university specialists have tested Vorlan showing superior dollar spot control to most competing products. It's fun to sell a winner!

Recently Bill Small, Dr. Fickle, Dr. Vargas and I visited snow mold plots at Boyne Highland Golf Course in Northern Michigan. Calo-clor was excellent at 3 oz/M ft₂ and is still the premier product along with Calo-gran. Scott's FF-11, a mixture of PCNB and 12-3-3 fertilizer, performs well. The addition of fertilizer greatly masks damage normally attendant with PCNB usage.

The data collected are controlling *Typhula incarnata*, *typhula ishikariensis* and *Gerlachia nivalls*. Very little snow mold activity has developed in the midwest except in Northern Michigan. Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota have been blessed with little snow mold activity.

Many superintendents in the midwest have been mowing fairways with the Toro 84 and picking up the clippings — reporting intense labor but resulting in fine turf.

Jacobsen HF5, the new generation of lightweight hydrolic fairway mowers, has made its debut at several prominent golf courses in the Chicago area. This mower has a lighter footprint than a riding greens mower.

There are at least fifteen courses in the midwest states that are aerifying fairways with a Ryan Greensaire II. This is an expensive labor program and yet the end result may justify the means. The development of the Terra 200 by Ray Christopherson may be an improvement. Aerification of fairways is a must!

The weather has been in the fortys during April with intense wind. Greens are drying out. They are difficult to rewet. Poa is yellow. Washington bent has been purple. The sand top-dressed greens have experienced severe localized dry spots. Poa annua is standing still throughout the midwest. I just visited with Wayne Otto of Ozaukee Country Club, who is praying for warmer weather and warm rain. Aqua Gro is helpful in rewetting sandtop dressed greens. Thank goodness it is starting to rain!

Oscar Miles, Superintendent Butler National, experienced cold weather Pythium on his new Penneagle greens. With the help of Dr. Wilkenson and Cindy Brown of Michigan State University, both scientists isolated 100% cool season Pythium. Oscar is a true professional! He realizes the need of seeking aid from trained pathologists. Oscar applied 3 oz. of Upjohn's Banol to 10 gallons of water per 1,000 sq. ft. to literally drench the crown.

Cool weather Pythium and cool weather brown patch have been very common this spring. In the past these diseases seemed to occur only during hot humid weather. Dr. Wilkenson has observed cool weather brown patch in Illinois this spring. Symptoms on Kentucky blue grass appear as circular patches of light tan or brown grass. The centers may give the appearance of a "frogeye" similar to Fusarium blight. Leaf lesions may occur like Rhizoctonia brown patch during warm weather. In many cases, reddening of the leaf tips is associated. Dr. Wilkenson reported another disease late last July to early September on bluegrass thatched lawns called yellow ring in the family *Basidiomycetes* and species *Trechispora* spp. The disease appears as a yellowing in the grass in a ring pattern. It hasn't occurred yet this spring.

Several superintendents have excellent sand topdressing programs. Thursday I visited an outstanding program of Jim Mitter's at Calumet Country Club.

It has been an education to observe the rebuilding of greens in the Chicago area after the C-15 problem. Several different programs have been followed. Julius Albaugh fumigated and sodded the entire golf course to Penneagle at Westmoreland. Pete Leuzinger at St. Charles Country Club fumigated, stripped 3/8" off, verticut and then seeded to Penneagle. Bruce Birchfield, formerly of Hillcrest Country Club, fumigated, stripped, aerified and seeded to Penneagle. Dudley Smith of Silver Lake Country Club fumigated, stripped and sodded to Penn-cross bent, doing half of the golf course at a time to keep the course in play.

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1983 CHAMPION The Pleasure of Victory

Golf Course Superintendent, Peter N. Voykin, from Twin Orchard Country Club was victorious in winning the Second Annual Charity Gin Tournament. The fund raiser was held at Hackney's Restaurant in Wheeling, Illinois.

Brother Peter easily breezed through his first few opponents with keen wit and strategy. We will not mention any names, but Peter's first opponents played as if they were playing FISH. In the final round it was Brother Peter against, "Quick Call", Mike Bavier. In the end, Peter's great skill, technical knowledge, and mostly LUCK had prevailed.

Many thanks to those who found the time in their heart to participate in this special fund raiser, and especially our friends at Hackney's Restaurant. Approximately \$1,000.00 was raised and donated to the Merry Ville Academy. Paul Voykin, typical of himself, lost in the first round.

Submitted by
Paul N. Voykin, Chairman