

“HOW FAST IS FAST?”

In the English language, the word fast has many meanings, such as you can run fast, hold fast, go on a fast, have fast women and have fast greens.

The topic of conversation around the locker and grill rooms of golf clubs these days is “how fast are the greens today?” In some areas of the country it is referred to as “the roll of the green.” It all boils down to the speed of the ball on the green. Lost is the art of stroking the ball — today a tap is all that is required. I think some of the golfers want the ball to roll into the cup just by looking at it. At some clubs they post the speed of the green on the bulletin board for the day.

Are we becoming victims of the stimpmeter, fast greens and tournament play? When big tournaments are on TV all we hear about is how fast the greens putt, that they double cut the greens daily, even triple cut, and yes, on some greens quadruple cut to increase the speed.

Whenever a group of golfers or superintendents congregate, golf and turf are naturally discussed, greens speed for the average club is a favorite topic. Seven, eight, nine, ten or more feet is suggested.

Has the superintendent contributed to the dilemma? Yes, in a way. He probably has perfected his course to the point where only incredible fast greens will save par. Also the competition to have faster greens than your neighbor is not helping the situation in any way.

In any event, an increasing amount of pressure is put on the Superintendent to increase the speed of the greens. Every Superintendent has heard the following remarks: “Are the greens going to be mowed today?” “When are you going to lower the height of cut?” “The greens at such and such a club are faster than ours.”

Seriously, I am concerned about this trend of “fast greens”. Can we afford to maintain greens of this caliber — that require frequent topdressing; frequent verticutting; daily cutting or double cutting of greens; close, close mowing—even to the point of grinding the underside of already thin bedknives.

And in all my conversation and reading and listening, I have never heard anyone mention a thing about the little grass plant. How is it standing up under all this abuse? I was tutored under the late Professor Lawrence Dickenson of Massachusetts and one of his often quoted phrases was “Give the grass plant half a chance. It wants to live.” Under these conditions of shaving the grass plant to 1/8” or less are we giving it “half a chance?” I do not think so. We are giving it very little chance. Sooner or later we are headed for trouble.

We all know that the root growth of the grass plant is in proportion to the top growth. That the grass plant needs leaf surface for survival — for transpiration, respiration, the manufacturing of carbohydrates to maintain life and growth. It also needs nitrogen and other nutrients that we are withholding so as to increase speed by limiting plant growth.

I predict that in the not too distant future we will get back to the basics of a good putting green surface — that the demands of the grass plant will be given equal or more consideration than the demands of the golfers. A **firm, true, healthy green** with reasonable speed is much more pleasurable than putting on dead grass and plain soil. We will return to stroking the ball, not tapping it.

**Credit - Tee to Green, May 1983
Sherwood A. Moore, Supt.
Winged Foot Golf Club**

Gentlemen:

The firm of Killian and Nugent Inc. has had a long and gratifying relationship in the world of golf with you, our valued client. Ken Killian and Dick Nugent have worked together as an active partnership and then as a corporation for almost twenty years.

Now, because of changing times and circumstances, we find that our corporation also must change. We believe that we can best serve you by reorganizing our business structure and setting up separate corporations effective April 1, 1983. All of our existing contracts will be completed by the firm of Killian and Nugent in the customary manner. Any new contracts will be handled by either Ken Killian or Dick Nugent according to your wishes. Should there be a project which you feel demands the expertise of both of us, we anticipate being able to work a suitable joint venture arrangement. We value you, as our client, and we are confident that our reorganization will allow us to serve you more efficiently in the future.

Sincerely,
Killian and Nugent Inc.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

In the April issue, several turf products were highlighted along with research information. Golf Course Superintendent, Tom Rodems, and Kankakee Country Club are commended for their involvement in Turfgrass Research. Tom spent a lot of time and effort in collecting data, making applications, studying plots and writing the reports for product evaluation and providing information to us, the Golf Course Superintendents. Tom is congratulated for his work recognized by his peers.

THANK YOU TOM RODEMS

Superintendent Kankakee Country Club for applying and maintaining demonstration areas throughout the season. I want to publicly thank Tom Rodems for his cooperation with superintendents associations, the University of Illinois and Mallinckrodt.

Tom and I met several times planning suitable demonstration research areas. He picked fairway 13 - the fairway where dollar spot is usually more severe for the Vorlan demonstration. He picked a fairway for crabgrass control where the infestation is always a problem. We worked out different rates and suitable dates for application rates. He applied a strip with a Spray Hawk in order to achieve finer mist and more complete coverage. Tom was very precise in his calibration. Thank you for a job well done.

I would like to congratulate John Berarducci for having the foresight to initiate the grant program in which Mallinckrodt donated \$1,500 and other companies will duplicate this program each year. It is commendable when golf course superintendents, universities and industry can work together for a mutual success. We have many problems to solve needing sound research. We are fortunate to have men such as Dr. Henry Wilkinson and Dr. Dave Wehner and Dr. Tom Fermanian to be searching for solutions to our many and varied diseases and related problems.

Cecil Kerr