

Prevention

Primary in control of interfacing problems is prevention. Before installing turf on disturbed sites (seed or sod), the subsoil should be thoroughly tilled to alleviate compaction. Topsoil should be added to a depth up to twelve inches for proper root development. Or, the topsoil should be thoroughly mixed with the subsoil to form a gradual transition from one to the other.

Sod soil should match the site's soil as closely as possible. If dissimilar soils must be installed, the resulting interface must be handled immediately.

Vigorously core-cultivate the sod when it begins to knit, then repeat this while the interface exists. Core cultivation will remove cores of sod and soil and deposit them on the surface.

The mineral portion of the core should be mixed with the sod by dragging it into the turf. This modifies it to closely resemble the soil beneath. Roots of the grass will grow into holes left in the soil.

Every precaution should be taken to preserve the earth worm population, or to re-establish it if the worms have been killed.

To prevent compaction, do not work the lawn when soils are wet. Use high flotation equipment or hand mowers wherever possible.

Elimination of the existing interface is equally important. When thatch accumulation has developed, power raking often results in removal of the lawn. Repeated core cultivation will bring the thatch under control.

Thatch prevention

Thatch accumulation and resulting interfaces can be prevented. Do not stimulate the grass growth beyond the ability of organisms to decompose it. Do not interface with the earthworm population. Avoid using chlordane or arsenicals. Avoid compacting the soil.

If thatch has not accumulated, slicing will prevent compaction, and will fracture interfaces so roots can penetrate.

Many rumors and accusations have surfaced in the last few years as to who is to blame for the "Fusarium problem." It is hoped that the above information will help shed some light on the problem and lead to its resolution. A leading national turfgrass expert has repeatedly said, "You must grow the grass as close to the ground as possible." Golf courses spend a great deal of time and money doing just that. If we want high quality turf on our landscape plantings, shouldn't we be doing the same?

**James Fizzell, U. of I. extension service
"Landscape Contractor", May 1983**

Hi Fred,

"NOVEMBER BLESSINGS"

November's Leaves of many colors,
Pay Homage to the Year.
Though Their beauty is short lived,
Their Essence demand a cheer.
Ice and Snow will fill their void,
And Winter winds will blow.
Why this Phenomenon occurs,
Seems Nature deems it so.
Let's enjoy Fall's blessings,
As long as they will last,
For Their memory will warm our Heart,
In the midst of Winter's blast.
Superintendently,

Kenneth R. Zanzig

The Ray Gerber Editorial Award for 1983

David Ward, Superintendent Ravisloe C.C.

His article appeared in the October 1982 issue

"Sand Topdressing: Something Old, Something New, Mostly Borrowed, Never Blue"



Left to right: Marshall Dann from Western Golf Association; Roy Damer, Chicago Tribune; Peter Leuzinger, President MAGCS; Fred Opperman, Editor

The above picture represents the Editorial Review Committee for the "Ray Gerber Editorial Award". A traveling plaque will be given each year and an individual plaque will stay with the winner of this award. The winner is one of our MAGCS Superintendents who writes an article for **The Bull Sheet** and meets the following criteria:

- Article provides useful technical data or information.
- The article is clear and easy to comprehend.
- Illustrations, tables, photographs, charts, etc. help explain or support the text and add to the article's value
- The article is timely (information is current and is presented at the appropriate time of the season).
- The article is useful to the Superintendent in the performance of his duties and responsibilities.

'OCTOBER GLORY' HEALS SLOWLY

Scientists at Ohio State University's Shade Tree Evaluation Plot compared wound healing in three cultivars of red maple, **Acer rubrum**. Results indicate that 'October Glory' closes wounds more slowly than 'Red Sunset' and 'Autumn Flame'. Growers and nurserymen report that graft incompatibility is also more of a problem with 'October Glory' than with 'Red Sunset'. 'October Glory' is often killed by severe winters, when temperatures drop below -20 degrees F, and has exhibited more wind damage at the Shade Tree Evaluation Plot than any other red maple.

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