

wet and shady areas. It was a shallow rooted grass and really nothing more than a glorified poa annua.

AERIFICATION AND TOPDRESSING: The mechanical aerifier didn't make its appearance on the scene until late 1940's. Prior to that time we used garden forks or pitch forks to open the soil on local hard spots and green collars. A very tedious and time consuming effort. When the power aerifier did make their appearances, many were crudely built and very slow and only stayed on the market a short time.

We had no power topdressing machine then like we do now, so all topdressing was done by hand with scoop shovels. This was an art, mastered by only a few employees with consistency. Greens were topdressed on an average of every 4 to 5 weeks during the playing season. Using steel mats, backs of wooden racks or a 3 foot stiff bristle brush were used to work the topdressing into the turf. It's a lot easier today.

These are then some of the things that were done on golf courses in years past. So, the question asked me by my junior colleague friend, "Were the golf courses better in the "good old days?" All I can say in a nice way is, "Bull Feces". Today for one, we are working together, sharing ideas, plans, experiments, results good or bad, not only with ourselves but we have the help from universities and manufacturers. Years ago nothing was shared, and if you asked a question you were given the opposite answer. The self implied adage was, "Find out for yourself, I had to".

The golf courses are show places today compared to yesteryear. The golfers have never played on better golf courses than they are playing on today. The golfer or person who says the courses were in better condition years ago, is only thinking of it costwise. Yes, they did play for a lot less in the "good

old days", on golf courses that also offered a lot less than they do today. We have the best today, believe me, I've been around a long time.

VANDALISM

By Patrick Klein
Hillcrest C.C.

With summer fast approaching, the weather beginning to warm and schools letting out, numerous incidents of vandalism will once again be with us and we will all be trying to come up with ideas to control it. At Hillcrest Country Club which is a tract course built through a housing development that does not permit fencing, we are very open and susceptible to vandalism.

Last year as things began to get out of control, our Greens Committee decided something would have to be done — but what? After much thought and many ideas (most of which were either cost prohibitive, against local ordinances, or totally unfeasible), we thought we would try something different. We decided to host an open house cocktail party for everybody living around the course.

Invitations were made and hand delivered wherever possible. That night after everyone arrived, we started an informal discussion on the problems we were having and then turned it over to the people, letting them inform us of problems that they might be having — whether it was complaints against the Club or whatever. We tried to resolve any complaints that were brought up. At the close of the evening we asked one thing in return — if they saw anything happening that was out of order they should let us know. After that night vandalism was down to almost nothing and if anything did happen I was informed immediately.

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After the great success we had last year, we soon will be scheduling another open house for all our good friends and neighbors just to say thank you for all their help.

ON THE GOLF COURSE SUPER-INTENDENT

"The golf course superintendent is more of an artist than he realizes. I think he's tremendously important in providing the 'golf garden view' to the members as an escape from the concrete and steel that overpower us in today's world.

"He's got to do this with a budget that is often too small, with challenges that were never there before — like water shortages and environmentalists — and the guy who pulls it off has gotta be a genius.

"I think we owe him a lot more praise than he's used to getting and I know it's going to happen. I can think back to when my own profession didn't get the appreciation it deserved. The reporter was supposed to be a rather devil-may-care underpaid guy and not generally given profound respect, if any at all. But times are changing. When you heap responsibilities on people you've got to give them respect, you've got to give them bucks and you've got to give them privileges.

"The television guys still haven't learned to point out the beauty of a golf course or the work that went into it, months and months. People accept the beautiful greens and fairways instinctively. I don't say the superintendent has to be interviewed at length but they can mention his name and let him share a split-billing with God!"

Herb Graffis

INTEGRADED DISEASE CONTROL

Grass diseases are managed by a series of cultural practices, by growing blends and mixtures of disease-resistant grass cultivars and species, and by timely applications of fungicides and nematocides. Integrated disease control involves the use of all these management tools aimed at (1) making the grass plants more resistant or immune to infection (2) making the air and soil environment less favorable for the pathogen(s) and more favorable for the growth of the grass plants, and (3) killing or preventing the pathogen(s) from reaching the grass plant and producing disease.

The specific cultural practices that keep disease losses to a minimum, and the diseases each helps to control, vary somewhat on whether northern or southern grasses are grown, rainfall and temperature distribution patterns, and the region of the country.

The ideal method of controlling plant diseases is to grow resistant cultivars (varieties) and species. Unfortunately, there are no turfgrasses resistant to all major diseases. Grass cultivars considered highly resistant in certain regions, where specific diseases have not been observed, may prove to be susceptible when grown in another area because of temperature and moisture conditions that are more favorable for disease development or the presence of genetically different strains (or physiologic races) of the pathogens. Races of disease-causing fungi differ greatly in the turfgrass species and cultivars they attack, the virulence of the pathogen, and the temperature range at which infection and disease establishment occur. For example, when Merion Kentucky Bluegrass was first generally available about 1950, it was believed highly resistant or immune to all diseases. Now, after being widely grown throughout much of the northern half of the United States it is moderately to highly susceptible to Fusarium blight, powdery mildew, leaf and stem rust, Sclerotinia dollar spot, and leaf smuts. It is no longer considered a highly desirable cultivar.

Perhaps the best insurance against turfgrass disease is to plant combinations (blends) of compatible cultivars. This should provide a broad base of genetic resistance and a better adaptation to local conditions. There are a number of improved Kentucky bluegrass and perennial ryegrass cultivars that are reported to have moderate to excellent resistance to one or more diseases, are widely adapted, and suggested for growing over much of the United States.

The performance of a blend or mixture will depend to a large extent on the intensity of the turf culture. For example, low nitrogen rates, especially on closely clipped turf, increases the susceptibility to Sclerotinia dollar spot. High nitrogen rates and close mowing, especially during the spring, favor the development of Fusarium blight and Helminthosporium disease on susceptible cultivars. A sound understanding of these inter-relationships is essential in making recommendations and decisions about cultivars and management for any turfgrass area.

Malcolm Shurtleff, U. of I.

BROCHURE AVAILABLE ON GOLF MASTER PLANNING

A brochure on master planning a golf course, which contains information for those planning a new course or remodeling an older one, may be obtained by writing the American Society of Golf Course Architects, 221 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL 60601.



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