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 SUPERINTENDENT

"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 nematicides. 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 Schlerotinia 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.**

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## 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.