

rigation and fungicide treatments will improve seedling survival.

It is somewhat difficult to argue convincingly against a well founded overseeding program. Conditions of surface uniformity and consistency on greens can be improved. Greater competition on the part of desirable grasses can be gained against the encroachment of Annual bluegrass. Obviously, such results will not be realized by a one-shot effort, or by half-hearted annual efforts.

To be effective, a sound overseeding program must be carried out on a continuing and annual basis. The frequently asked question is, "For how many years should I continue the overseeding program?" I would suggest an overseeding program be initiated and continued for as long as the Annual bluegrass component of your putting greens continues to seed profusely each and every season. In other words, the time limit on overseeding should be open ended. Expecting the bentgrasses to compete merely on a vegetative basis against a plant that is such an accomplished seed producer is expecting far too much.

The results to be gained from overseeding will not be immediate. Three to four years may be required before you even see a hint of progress. The vigor with which you go after the program will greatly influence its success. Just think for a minute about how much Annual bluegrass seed is collected in the soil of a green 10, 20, 30, or more years old. Even at 8,000,000 seeds per pound, it will take a tremendous amount of creeping bentgrass seed merely to affect an equilibrium with the Annual bluegrass in the soil.

This shouldn't dissuade you. Without annual overseeding, your present putting surfaces will, at the very best, remain static. The desirable grasses will be competing merely on a vegetative basis and experience has generally shown this to be a losing proposition.

In many cases, the initiation of an annual overseeding program will seek to affect a distorted equilibrium that has developed over the years and favors annual bluegrass encroachment. It will take time to shift this equilibrium, but a shift will result from a dedicated and vigorous annual overseeding program.

**Credit: Our Collaborator, N.Y.**

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**Job Opening**

Assistant Golf Course Superintendent

Send resumes to Ed Fischer, Supt., c/o Old Elm Club, P. O. Box 51, Fort Sheridan, IL 60037. Resumes due by February 15, 1985.

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**For Sale**

- 1 Jari Monarch Sicklemower - like new — \$700
  - 1 Royer Compost Shredder, Motel NCC-4 — \$300
  - 2 Bolen Walk Behind Tractor — \$150 each
- Call: Ed Fischer at Old Elm Club, (312) 432-6276.

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**For Sale**

1 used snow plow, 8 feet, has 6 trip springs, bottom blade like new. Best offer: contact John Berarducci, Skokie C.C., (312) 835-4296.

## **Tree Planter**

*He planted trees before he died—  
This northern last-line gent—  
Ten-thousand pines above the tide,  
On slopes where forebears bent  
To clear the clay for oats and hay  
Before to rest they went.*

*Green, upward-pushing conifers,  
His trees came on a-pace;  
'Gainst claw and thaw and juniper,  
These toughies won the race,  
Until one day they'd choked the ferns  
And left there not a trace*

*Of hardhack, alder, nuisance wood,  
Or any thorny thing.  
The master's wood, it grew and stood  
And took in birds to sing;  
The sloe-eyed deer came stepping here,  
Where first appeared in spring*

*The south slope's dainty dancing cups—  
Hepaticas at play.  
Our last-line man, in the end, gave up—  
Signed all his goods away;  
His last request: "In my pines I'd rest,  
Where they slope off to the bay."*

—EDWIN D. MERRY

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