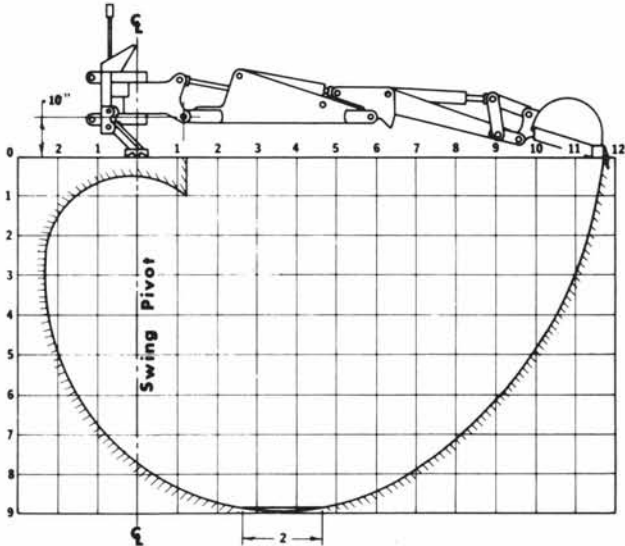


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Professional Comparison

Have you ever stopped to take the time and compare this business of being a Golf Course Superintendent with other professions. We are expected to produce and maintain one hundred percent cover and conditions under any type of variable that nature gives for the members and golfers to play on. It is not only expected, it is demanded. When I stop to think about the various criticism that I get from all angles from time to time. I always try and cite the good things that are going well on the course and the fact that good exceeds the bad about ninety-nine percent to one. Nevertheless we are expected to accomplish at least one hundred percent constantly.

I have started to compare our profession along with others. A baseball player is said to be having a great year when he bats three hundred. Anything over that is superb. Yet this is only a one-third or a thirty-three percent performance. How many pitchers in baseball can't even go a full nine innings anymore and have to have a relief pitcher for the "save".

A basketball team is said to be having a great night when they hit fifty percent from the floor. That is one half.

Golfers would realize this immediately, but don't because they don't fully understand what a "handicap" is or means. Shouldn't everyone play scratch golf? No, oh that is what a handicap is for so a scratch golfer can play with a fifteen handicapper. Then is it a true expression of perfection or ability to play to that fifteen handicap. A fifteen handicap is approximately a 21% deficiency in one's golf game. What if we maintained a golf course at a twenty-one percent deficiency? But, instead of given a true handicap we are expected to be scratch players or professionals so to speak and do it on a two handicap. No one is asked to do more and do it to perfection with less than a golf course superintendent. Think about that the next time somebody jumps your case about something after you have put in your ninth consecutive week of seventy hours or more.

Credit — Louis E. Miller
 Kentuckiana Klippings, July, 1984

Effects of Nitrogen, Temperature and Moisture Stress on the Growth and Physiology of Creeping Bentgrass and Response to Chelated Iron

R.E. Schmidt and V. Snyder
 Agronomy Journal Vol. 76, Number 4/590-594

Applications of iron often improve creeping bentgrass quality in the transition zone even though soils contain sufficient quantities of this trace element. Studies with Penncross creeping bentgrass have shown that foliar applications of FeDTPA increased top growth during cool temperatures. As temperature increased, FeDTPA applications depressed top growth. Net photosynthesis was reduced but dark respiration remained unchanged. Foliar carbohydrates were increased and appeared directly related to corresponding top growth reductions. A more decumbent growth habit of the bentgrass was associated with repeated moisture stress. Net photosynthesis decreased as soil moisture levels declined. Dark respiration was lower for plants grown at the lowest irrigation regime. This reduction in dark respiration may help to account for the increased foliar carbohydrates associated with infrequent irrigation.