

(Have We Gone Too Far? cont'd.)

not the responsibility of the putting green! To help the player, the fairways should be kept below 3/4 inch if mowed three times per week.

What about those courses that have gone under 1/2 inch for fairway playing conditions? Provided the membership desires this type of playing condition and the club has adequate irrigation and mowing equipment, there is nothing wrong with this operation. A good example of this are the outstanding fairways being maintained by Mr. Bill Campbell at Sahalee Golf Club in Redmond. Superintendent Campbell is currently maintaining the fairways at 3/8 inch with outstanding definition between the fairway and the 1-1/2 inch rough. While this mowing height may be too short for most country clubs, it appears to have been very well accepted at Sahalee.

**SUMMARY**

The golf courses most affected by the new trends in intensive maintenance practices to improve playing conditions are not the high priced country clubs. Those courses that have moderate budgets (or less) with memberships who desire the "country club" look are most affected by these practices. Private clubs with high budgets that use walkers on greens, triplexes on fairways, aerify fairways with walking putting green aerifiers, utilize modern computer-based irrigation systems, purchase and maintain good equipment and have adequate manpower certainly raise the level of maintenance on their courses. It is when members of the "smaller" clubs visit these courses

and return to their home course that problems can sometimes occur. On those courses that can afford it, many of the maintenance practices being done today are not too far. On those that can't, these same maintenance practices are completely out of the question. It is up to the superintendent to get this point across, using any means available, that golf courses simply cannot be compared and no golf course is in "perfect" condition every day of the year.

In an excellent article written by Mr. James T. Snow, Director, Northeastern Green Section Region, titled "Who said, The grass is always greener ...", he makes two important points. First, no golf course is identical to any other. Second, no golf course will *always* be in excellent condition.

If many of today's players sit down and ponder these statements, fewer problems would result from the inevitable comparisons.

**Credit: Northwest Turfgrass Conference 9/26/85**

**North Central Turfgrass Exposition  
O'Hare Exposition Center  
Midwest GCSA Clinic**

**Wednesday, December 10, 1986**

- 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Dr. Richard Hurley  
V-P Lofts, Inc.  
Seed for golf courses
- 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Mike Matchen  
Supt., Wilmette G.C.  
Use of synthetic green covers
- 10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. BREAK
- 10:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. Paul Boizelle, CGCS  
Supt., Onwentsia Club  
Teaching the children
- 11:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. John Gurke  
Asst. Supt., Old Elm Club  
Clubhouse landscaping
- NOON - 2:00 p.m. Exhibit Tradeshow Visitation  
(Concession Lunch)
- 2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Dr. Randy Kane  
CDGA/U. of I. Turfgrass Ext.  
1986 Golf turf in review
- 2:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Alan T. Fierst  
Supt., Oak Park C.C.  
Winterizing the golf course
- 3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Dave Mahoney  
Supt., Naperville C.C.  
Use of Embark in bentgrass conversion
- 3:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. BREAK
- 3:45 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. Leonard H. Berg, CGCS  
Supt., Village Gr. of Woodridge  
Staff productivity
- 4:15 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. Dr. Clark Throssell  
Purdue University  
Putting green speed



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