

(New Chemical Weapons cont'd.)

eventual death of plants. Sometimes death of plants is not noted until spring greenup following applications the previous fall.

Mature Kentucky bluegrass and bentgrass turfs are tolerant of Prograss treatments, but only the ryegrasses are tolerant in all stages of plant development, including seedlings. Therefore, only rye overseeding can be used just prior to, or following Prograss applications. Fairways overseeded with bentgrass should not receive Prograss applications until 40 to 45 days after seedling emergence.

Be advised that under certain conditions, Prograss can totally eradicate **Poa annua** in a short period of time. If treated areas have relatively high **Poa** populations — especially in distinct patches — bare soil areas can develop. Perennial ryegrasses may prove useful as a cover or transitional turf for such areas until bentgrass becomes established. If use of perennial rye as a transitional grass is frowned upon (as it often is by Chicago superintendents), fairways with high percentage **Poa annua** should not be treated.

Anticipate Unsightly Leaf Diseases This Spring

by James A. Fizzell

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We expect many plants to be looking poorly this spring because of foliage problems. The cool wet weather is favorable for development of fungus diseases that will damage or even kill the leaves. While nearly all plants are susceptible to an assortment of leaf spot diseases most of these fungi seldom do much damage and are usually ignored.

However, there are three diseases which can be expected to be widespread again this year doing serious damage to trees. These are apple scab, cedar apple rust, and sycamore anthracnose.

APPLE SCAB is a fungus disease infecting leaves as they open. It develops as olive colored spots which turn black as the leaf drops. You may recall that many crabapples had no leaves most of last spring and again last fall when the weather was cold and wet. Fruits are also affected making them unsightly. Once infected, a leaf cannot be cured, so prevention is important. One of the better spray materials for scab is benomyl. It should be applied to all the new leaves every seven to ten days as long as wet weather continues.

Closely related fungi cause pear sooty blotch and several other leaf spots.

CEDAR APPLE RUST is a very interesting disease. At this time of the year it appears as bright orange or yellow jelly-like masses on junipers. Many times people think their juniper is in bloom. These masses are in reality one stage of a fungus disease that alternately affects junipers and either apple, crabapple or hawthorns. Hawthorns have been severely affected by this disease in the last few years.

The gelatinous masses on the juniper dry up and the spores they contain are blown to developing leaves on the alternate host, i.e. the apples, hawthorns, etc. In mid-summer, spores

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From the desk of a Greenchairman

by Jim Anderson

Sunset Ridge C.C.

Thirty years ago, the course I played on was absolutely state-of-the-art in terms of maintenance and was held up as a shining example of what was great about Chicagoland golf courses. I still play that same golf course and if you transplanted those conditions of thirty years ago to our course today, you would have a membership revolt. The curious thing about this fact is that most of the members don't know it. To them, the golf course has always been the same. Fairways have always been lush, lined by mature trees providing wonderful lines of sight, to lightning fast greens, which hold even that two iron that never got more than three feet off the ground. "By the way, when was it that all the Elms died and we planted these mature Maples, Lindens, Locusts, Pin-Oaks, etc.?"

How does it happen that a golf course can be transformed literally before the eyes of the people that play it, with no upheaval and no major watershed event to demand such change? Therein lies the golf course superintendent's art, because these things don't just happen; they are planned, committed to, sold to the membership, and executed. It involves risk taking and strength of conviction, but most of all it takes expertise. To me, it's what makes any job challenging and, given the vagaries of golf course membership, it's what makes the golf course superintendent's job particularly difficult.

Having been Chairman of my club's Grounds and Green Committee for three years, I have become vitally interested in both the process of change on a golf course and also what appears to be the role the green superintendent must play in that process to insure good results. It's perhaps easy to sit back and take the attitude that it's the members' course and that your role is simply to implement at the highest level, their wishes. I think that philosophy fails on several levels, not the least of which has to do with job fulfillment. Given a few years in observation of the process, it seems to me that there are a few things a green superintendent has to come to grips with to do his job effectively.

1. There has to be recognition of the fact that you are the expert and that it is through your management that what is best for the golf course takes place. It is untenable to allow a succession of green chairmen's pet projects make a shambles of the golf course.

2. As a corollary to the above, you must have a willingness to step into the fray and make the necessary decision, regardless of the apparent tone of the membership.

3. The job takes an endless amount of management ability. Given that fact, any time you find yourself with a shovel or a rake in hand, you are probably not being your most productive.

4. Finally, change is inevitable. If a golf course is not moving forward, it is moving backward. Change always means more work and more planning, but it is a constant part of a good golf course and it has to be embraced as a big part of the job.

Nothing too startling in that group of thoughts, but they are a result of my observation of how the process best works. At Sunset Ridge Country Club, we are blessed with having had a long-range Grounds and Green Committee for about forty years. It is an experienced group and a competent group. It's

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(Leaf Diseases cont'd.)

are produced by the alternate host, and will reinfect junipers at that time.

Rust can be controlled by eliminating one of the alternate hosts.

Where this is not feasible, spraying with a fungicide will reduce the severity of the problem. This spring, while spores are being produced on junipers, spray the apples and hawthorns with zineb, maneb or Polyram. Repeat three or four times at ten day intervals.

In summer when apples and hawthorns are making spores, spray the juniper.

Picking the walnut-like galls from the juniper as they develop in fall will eliminate spores in spring.

Also whenever possible, avoid planting susceptible juniper species. There are many resistant varieties.

SYCAMORE ANTHRACNOSE affects twigs, buds, new leaves, and fully developed leaves of sycamore and London Plane trees. Severe infections occur during cool wet springs. The fungus is affected by temperatures and is most active when temperatures are between 50 and 60 degrees F. as leaves emerge. During warm springs or during summer weather of 80 degrees or better no anthracnose will occur. Last year anthracnose was severe on white and bur oak, and on maple. If weather continues cool and wet the same problem will show up this year, too.

The disease appears as drying up of the new leaves and shoots as they appear in spring. The affected leaves do not develop and eventually drop off. Later in the spring new leaves develop but are marked by irregular brown areas within the leaves. At this time the injury usually does not cause leaf drop.

Trees affected year after year are seriously weakened and should be fertilized to maintain vigorous growth. Spraying the tree with benomyl, captafol, or Bordeaux mixture before the buds break in spring will retard the development of the disease. If cool weather persists, the treatment should be repeated in two weeks.

Spray materials may be used safely if they are used correctly. Always read and follow the directions explicitly.

(Greenchairman's Desk cont'd.)

also a group that can do an excellent job of formulating broad plans yet needs very direct guidance about specifics and implementation. It is in this latter area that the green superintendent has to respond. It is my personal opinion that unless the green superintendent is willing to take a strong decision making role, that his committee is going to be ineffective.

As I said at the outset, the job is not an easy one and everyone from the club manager to the head professional, to the membership at large, thinks they should have a part in directing the golf course. You would be crazy not to listen to all the ideas that are offered. There are going to be some good ones; on the other hand, you are the expert and you must insist that your opinion carry its due weight. My experience tells me that even the most competent long-range Grounds and Green Committee is always delighted to get consistent direction and, in fact, cannot be effective without it.

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