

(Anticipation - 1988 cont'd.)

2. Comments from CAST, - 1987 (1)-May. Health Issues Related to Chemicals in the Environment: A Scientific Perspective.

3. Comments from CAST, - 1987 (2)-May. Pesticides, Cancer and the Delaney Clause.

4. Comments from CAST, - 1987 (3)-December. Perspectives on the Safety of 2,4-D.

These papers were written by eminent scientists in the fields of agriculture, medicine, environmental toxicology and statistics at major universities, in industry, the USDA, etc. They deal with the **facts** of pesticide usage in an objective, scientific and readable manner. It is the kind of information needed when (not if) we are asked about pesticide safety. For more information write CAST, 137 Lynn Avenue, Ames, Iowa 50010-7120. This organization, incidentally, accepts individual members. Their publications are worth the \$25 fee.

I was stunned last summer when a graduate of two **Major** universities featuring turfgrass science told me he had never seen the classic time-lapse movie **Water Movement In Soils**. It dates from 1959, but the principles of soil physics do not change. There has never been a better illustration of what happens to water in a layered soil, why rolling helps seed germination, how salts accumulate and which aeration holes work while others do not. It's only a 25 minute movie, so I cannot believe that any straight lecture can be so enlightening. If anyone who was similarly deprived would like to see the new turf-oriented version, give me a call. We can arrange for either a 16 mm movie or a VHS tape.

About this time of the year when everything is just about ready and the turf conference information and conversations are not yet filed, it gets to be Ponder Time. That's when we try to get oriented and just ponder about something that is unlikely to happen, but ...

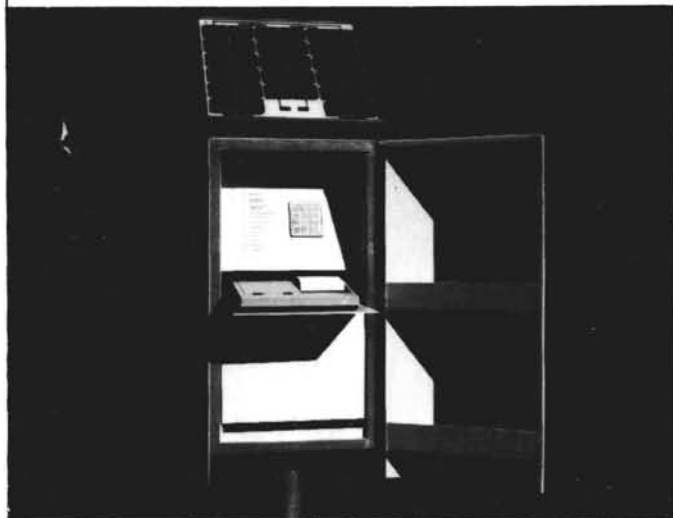
All the Joneses are getting bentgrass fairways for a variety of reasons, but basically because good golfers play best from tight fairway lies. (The last US Open played on bluegrass was in 1950 at Cherry Hills in Denver). We are learning that good bentgrass fairways don't come free for nothing — lightweight mowing, intensive aeration, some vertical mowing, well-balanced irrigation and better than average drainage.

Now this is the ponderable: What kind of playing quality could be developed for the vast horde of non-championship-calibre golfers if we voluntarily put that much effort and care into some of those new, high powered Kentucky bluegrass cultivars? One of the greater Chicago area superintendents came close to this on a test fairway last year and produced very good turf. He is nameless because that really wasn't the intent of the test.

But it shore is a ponderable.

Dr. Randy Kane reports that the EPA is cancelling Diazinon for use on golf courses and sod farms. More information will be forthcoming.

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