

Synopsis of the CDGA Green Seminar

Fred Opperman

The CDGA Green Seminar goes into the book as another excellent program Randy had to scramble at the last minute to fill the space when Frank Hannigan, the former USGA executive director, had to drop out due to illness. But between the USGA and the Ph.Ds of the University of Illinois, the space was filled very well.

Jerry Maatman, attorney, talked on "Liability Issues on the Golf Course." His main points were: 1. Make sure the club has adequate insurance coverage. 2. Pre-employment interviews need to follow some very strict guide-

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CDGA Green Seminar audience.



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lines to keep you out of trouble. 3. On March 20, 1996, new rules and procedures were put into law concerning the "green card." All new hires that are not U.S. citizens must have the new "pink card." This card was developed to cut down on the forgeries of the "green card." The new card must have the following on it: photo (must show the right ear), a fingerprint and must be signed by the person. The "green card" is grandfathered if the person had it before March 20, 1996; but it is highly recommended that all of your non-citizen employees get the new "pink card." Cards can be procured at 10 West Jackson Street, Chicago. It is advised that the persons arrive early (6 a.m.) for the line could be blocks long. They will need \$90 cash or money order for the card and application.

Dr. Bruce Branham, Associate Professor of Turf Management, University of Illinois, spoke on "Nitrogen Fate Studies." The studies proved that very little nitrate is leaching from our soils. All of the hysterics accusing our industry of putting too much fertilizer on the ground and polluting the ground water, etc., are just not true. Yes, the fer-

tilizer that falls on the driveways and walks can be directly washed into the sewers and end up in our streams; but the fertilizer applied to turf stays there and is used by the plant or volatilizes into the air.

The study on rates of nitrogen to new sand greens was very interesting regarding the rates needed to establish the grow-in. Rates of .5, .75 and 1 pound were applied weekly to a green and charted. The green utilized all of the nitrogen that was applied, but in the end, the .5 pound rate was very adequate to provide the proper grow-in. This test also showed that a starter fertilizer was very important and should not be missed to save a few dollars.

Bruce Williams, CGCS, president of the GCSAA, spoke on "Value of Belonging and Participating in Professional Associations." Bruce gave a very good slide show talk on this subject. Very professional. A point he brought out was, "Associations provide the majority of adult education in America."

Dr. Randy Kane, CDGA turfgrass advisor, topic was "*Poa annua* Is, Too, a Hound Dog." Randy went on to describe some of the diseases that caused all of

the problems in summer 1995 and then touched on the winter of '95/'96 and the problems that could come about from it. From this introduction, the following gave a thumbnail outlook of what, when, and how of this past winter and maybe what to expect.

Paul Vermeulen, USGA, said "Don't panic" (easy for him to say). He stated that if you have a severely damaged green, keep the golfers off of it. Put a temporary green out in front to get the regular green back as fast as possible.

Dr. Hank Wilkinson, University of Illinois, stresses that you need to access as early as possible what you have or don't have as far as putting green turf. Your decision on what to do may depend on the budget that you have to repair any damage. But act early. If you think you may need to reseed, do so as soon as you can to gain as many days as possible for a quicker recovery.

Dr. Tom Fermanian, University of Illinois, reminded us that if we have to overseed in bluegrass and yet still need a pre-emergence herbicide that Tupersan is the only safe product to use. ■

Ask the Expert
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a higher initial application rate (a gutsy move). The timing of the first application is critical and is based on finding seed initials or early seedhead production in protected areas of the course. There is a definite discoloration of the turf "sing", but it is not very noticeable in many years because the other turf areas have not yet come fully out of winter dormancy. Besides, John says it mows off fairly quickly anyway.

The GA inhibitor growth retardants such as TGR and

Cutless have not found much favor in suppressing seedheads, probably for several reasons. First, the timing of application for best results is early in the spring, and there are potential negative side effects of applying PGRs to plants that are just coming out of dormancy. Also, these products do not stop formation of seeds; they only slow elongation of the seed stalk. Once the retardant effect wears off, seed stalks will resume growth and you still see the seedheads. In some cases, it appears that heavier seedhead production occurs once the PGR effect wears off.

As with any chemical program, do your homework and make sure you know what the risks of these approaches are to your turf. Have your rates and timing down, and make sure your application equipment is calibrated and in tip-top working condition. Also, don't forget that "the use of brand names and any mention or listing of commercial products or services does not imply endorsement by the CDGA, University of Illinois, or the MAGCS, nor discrimination against similar products or services not mentioned." ■