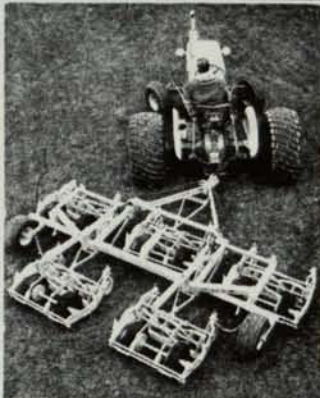


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Peter Voykin, left, Association Champion, receives trophy from brother Paul.



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Golf courses on the west side of the city and suburbs started the season in excellent condition. They remained perfect until mid July when a period of very hot, humid weather persisted for five days. During this period, disease was very active. Superintendents were doing everything in their power to stop or control Helminth, Dollar Spot, and Pythium. Grass was lost on most courses in small spots to very large areas.

For the next month, until mid August, most clubs reseeded the areas damaged from disease and were almost back to perfect condition when another very hot, humid period of about eleven days occurred. Helminth, Dollar Spot, and Pythium were back on the war path. However, disease during this period was not quite as active or severe as the previous siege. Spot spraying was done on many courses almost daily during this span of time.

On the 24th of August, the temperature and humidity both lowered enough that no more disease was active. But on August 26th the rains came! Most courses on the west side received anywhere from four to six inches of rain in a period of five hours or less. Much flooding occurred where creeks or rivers passed through golf courses. Heavy damage was done where standing water remained for several days along with thick deposits of silt and mud.

In interviewing Superintendents from West Side courses, this year ranged anywhere from a good year to a very bad year, depending upon their severity of disease, humidity and rainfall. This year, like other years, had its share of unique problems, but that's what makes the profession of Golf Course Superintendents so interesting and rewarding.



Looks like there was a sale on trophies. Paul Voykin, Midwest Association president, congratulates two champions. Bob Williams, superintendent Bob O Link Golf Club, senior champion; and Peter Voykin, superintendent Idlewild Country Club, Association champion.

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from **THE IMPORTANCE OF WATER MANAGEMENT**

by **Fred V. Grau,**

Consulting Agronomist, College Park, Maryland

Drought years in 1963, 1964, and 1965 in the Northeast created an upsurge in the installation of irrigation systems. Water was thought to be the answer to the problem. A survey conducted in 1968 by Dr. Harper, Penn State, showed that irrigation produced a whole new set of problems.

77% reported decrease in Kentucky blue and red fescue

81% reported increase in Poa annua (some indicated 90 to 100%)

Height of cut had to be lowered.

78% said that mowings were doubled

22% said that mowings were tripled

Weeds increased, there was more thatch build-up, new grasses had to be introduced, renovation became necessary, fungicide use increased, and fertilizer requirements doubled and trebled.

Water provides films around solid particles which act as a lubricant. With traffic the soil particles become rearranged in the direction of more compaction. Pore spaces were reduced from 33.1% to 6.1% in one study. The weight of the non-compacted soil was 68 pounds per cubic foot. After compaction the same soil weighed 112 pounds.

Roots of turfgrass have been found at considerable depths when there is good sub-surface drainage, where the soil is permeable and water has been used in moderation. In California the roots of Merion bluegrass were drawing moisture below 3 feet. Roots of bentgrasses on putting greens have been found to be active below 12 inches. The secret is permeability, good drainage, and good water management.



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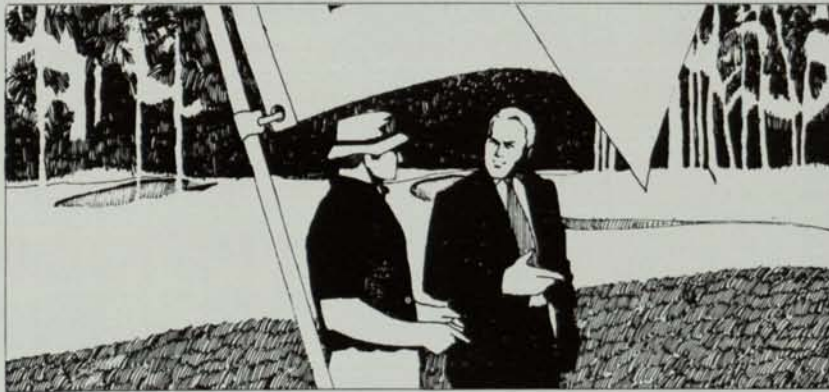
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