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### *The President's Message*

**Alby Staudt — President**

Here it is the month of July — which means that half of the year 1974 has already passed us by. How time does fly. It reminds me of a day not too long ago concerning a conversation with a very good friend of mine (a man of the cloth) in which I spoke to him of my troubles and problems. Laying his hand on my shoulder he told me a story that I am proud to repeat. I certainly believe it may make an impression on many of you — as it has done for me.

The successful man lengthens his stride when he discovers the signpost has deceived him; the failure looks for a place to sit down.

Edison didn't sit down and give up when his first efforts to find an effective filament for the carbon incandescent lamp met with failure. He lengthened his stride! He carbonized every conceivable thing — fish line, card board, tissue paper, thread. He sent men to China, Japan, South America, Asia, Jamaica, Ceylon, and Burma in search of fibers and grasses to be tested in his laboratory.

Burbank, the plant wizard, is another man who didn't say quit. When obstacles blocked his way, at one time, he personally conducted good experiments before he found the solution.

George Westinghouse was treated as a mild lunatic by most railroad executives: "Stopping a train by wind! The man's crazy!" Yet he persevered and finally sold the air-brake idea!

James Watt built model after model of his steam engine before he got one that worked efficiently. Call the roll of all the builders and you will find that they were men who lengthened their strides. Every man gets on the wrong road at times. He comes upon hills, rough going and dangerous detours. What he does when he meets those obstacles determines his destiny. The world never hears from those who look for a place to sit down. Lengthen your stride!

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Mr. Ray Gerber, Editor  
"The Bull Sheet"  
865 Hillside Avenue  
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137  
Dear Ray:

Just a few lines to let you know that Chicago does not have the market cornered on rain. With the wet spring, many of the Superintendents in the Chicago area probably feel they are in the monsoon season. Unfortunately, the rains and cool weather have been with me in Indiana, Missouri, Central Illinois, Iowa and just about any other place you choose to mention in the Midwest. Consequently, many golf courses are slow greening up this spring; this includes the trees as well as the turf. To some people winter and spring may never seem to end, but when the hot, humid months of July and August arrive combined with an outbreak of Pythium, it would be nice to have a couple of spring-type days to break the weather cycle.

With the wet spring, many clubs wonder if they should have installed a drainage system last year instead of an irrigation system. We probably should put our trust in John Coleman of Channel 7; he said, "Summer has not been cancelled for a lack of interest, it's just a little slow getting here, folks!"

With many courses throughout the Mid-Continent area considerably wetter than usual, golf carts have seen limited use this year. Although I have seen ducks swimming in sand traps and fairways, I still am waiting to see the first golfer in a canoe playing with a ball that floats. However, I have seen a fella in a rowboat with his greensmower enroute to a green that turned out to be an island after a heavy rainfall! The fence line to fence line coverage that Mother Nature's irrigation system provides is all well and good, but it sure would be nice to find the stop button now, only to reactivate it this summer when the drought period comes along.

Here is hoping that by the time you finish reading this note, your feet are starting to dry.

Sincerely,  
Agronomist, Carl Schwartzkope  
United States Golf Association,  
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Editor

## Midwest Breezes

Wedding bells have entered into the life of Dudley Smith, Superintendent at Silver Lake Country Club, on May 12, 1974. At this writing date Dudley and Mrs. Smith are honeymooning for two weeks in England. They will visit with our good friend John Campbell.

We are sorry to hear of the death of Clarence Muller's father-in-law who recently passed away. Clarence has been Superintendent at Glendale Country Club for many years.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Kronn, on May 16th, celebrated their thirty-eighth wedding anniversary. Congratulations.

Jerry Hanko, former Superintendents at Timber Trails and a member of the board of directors of the Midwest Golf Course Superintendents Association, has departed from our Chicago area. Jerry has purchased a farm in New London, Ohio. We all wish him the best of luck.

Bert Rost, Superintendent at Elcona Country Club, Elkhart, Indiana, is retiring on June 30, 1974. Bert was Superintendent at Elcona for the past eight years. He was, previous to this, several years in the Chicago area at Park Ridge Country Club and also at Butterfield Country Club. Bert started his golf career in the state of Iowa. He also was the editor of the Bull Sheet in the late fifties and early sixties. The Rosts have purchased a home on the west coast in Florida. Our congratulations to Bert and we all wish him and Mrs. Rost many, many years of enjoyable living in Florida.

Bruce Burchfield, Superintendent at Calumet Country Club, reports a new Toro automotive irrigation system will be installed later this summer and early fall. Work to be executed by March Irrigation Co.

C. E. (Scotty) Stewart would like it to be known that his engineering services will not be available during the month of July, for it is his intention to do considerable traveling abroad during that period.

On August 1st Marvin Gruening's son will become golf course superintendent at Nordic Hills Country Club under the supervision of David Meyer who also supervises Indian Lakes Golf Course for Carson Pirie Scott and Company.

Our June meeting, held at Turnberry Country Club, was well attended. Ninety-four enjoyed a delicious dinner. Sixty-nine members played golf, over a beautifully maintained golf course. Thanks to Cliff Behrendt, Superintendent.

Low Gross, Bob Kronn — 77.

Low Net, Ben Kronn — 71; Carl Landgrebe — 72; H. Nielson — 73; H. Michels — 73; C. Hopphan — 73; B. Johnson — 73; J. D. Albaugh — 73; R. Breen — 73. Blind Bogey — John Potthoff, Ed Smith, D. Meyer, K. Fuchs, Joe Canale, Bill Krafft.

Closest to Flag — B. Sering, 6 ft. 9 inches; D. Grotti, 14 ft. 2 inches; O. Miles, 14 ft. 2 inches.

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**Carl Hopphan**

Our July 15, 1974 meeting will be held at Aurora Country Club. Our host, Carl Hopphan, is planning for a big day. Make your plans now to attend. We do not want to disappoint him.

**SPECIAL NOTICE**

M.A.G.C.S. Board of Directors has requested that anyone attending Monthly Meetings and staying for dinner, wear a coat, or sport jacket. From this date on this will be obligatory.

Also no guests will be permitted at any of our summer Monthly Meetings unless approved by the host Superintendent.

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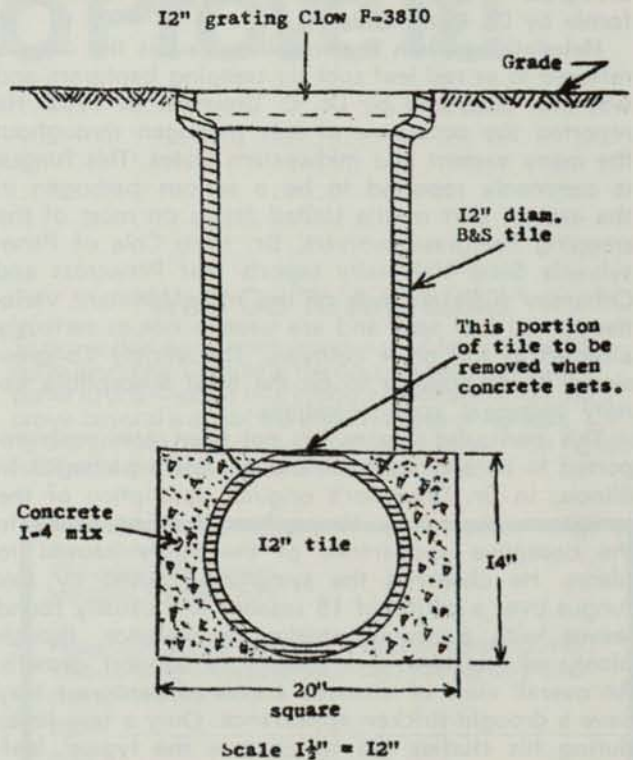
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With the excess of rain we have had during the past month many courses are experiencing trouble with flooded, or ponded areas, this happens even where an adequate sub-surface drainage system exists because the ponded water has to seep into the ground before it reaches the tile lines and this takes time. A much faster way to relieve the ponding is to construct a surface inlet as per the attached drawing. This has been done on such courses as Downers Grove C.C., Riverside G.C. and Lake Bluff G.C. in recent years and has greatly relieved the flooding conditions.

C. E. (Scotty) Stewart

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## HELMINTHOSPORIUM DISEASES OF CREEPING BENTGRASS

Dr. William A. Meyer  
Director of Research

**Helminthosporium sorokinianum** and **erythrospilum** are the two species of **Helminthosporium** most commonly found to attack creeping bentgrass cultivars. **H. sorokinianum** causes the disease referred to as **Helminthosporium** leaf spot and was shown to be an important and prevalent pathogen throughout Illinois by Drs. M. Britton and M. Healy. In Illinois this pathogen causes leaf spotting during May, September, and October. Leaf blighting caused by girdling of the leaves by lesions occurs during June, July and August. Large severely infected areas have smoky-blue cast appearance. It has also been reported to be an important pathogen of creeping bentgrass and Kentucky bluegrass in other midwestern states and in California by Dr. R. M. Endo.

**Helminthosporium erythrospilum** causes the disease referred to as red leaf spot on creeping bentgrass and was first described by Dr. C. Drechsler in 1935. He reported the occurrence of this pathogen throughout the many eastern and midwestern states. This fungus is commonly reported to be a serious pathogen in the eastern part of the United States on most of the creeping bentgrass cultivars. Dr. Herb Cole of Pennsylvania State University reports that Penncross and Cohansey (C-7) are two of the more resistant varieties to red leaf spot and are usually not as seriously affected as the other cultivars. The variety Congressional (C-19) appears to be the most susceptible variety (personal communication).

This particular species has not been previously reported to be an important and prevalent pathogen in Illinois. In Dr. Drechsler's original description of the symptoms caused by **H. erythrospilum** he refers to the deceptive appearance of the injury caused to plants. He observed the symptoms caused by this fungus over a period of 15 seasons and usually found leaves with a drought-stricken appearance, though plenty of moisture was present to support growth. An overall view of diseased stands of bentgrass may have a drought-stricken appearance. Only a few times during his studies did he observe the typical leaf-spotting prior to the spread of the lesions and death of individual tillers. Leaf spots, when present, are circular to elongate, straw colored and surrounded by reddish-brown borders.

Red leaf spot is a warm, wet-weather disease and is usually first seen in early June. With the advent of warmer temperatures disease severity increases.

This fungus was first isolated by the author from diseased greens in the Chicago area in the fall of 1972. During the summer of 1973 this same fungus made up approximately 80% of all isolations from diseased creeping bentgrass greens on 20 Chicago area golf courses. Toronto (C-15) was the only cultivar found to be affected during the past season. The variety Cohansey planted in adjacent plots showed good resistance.

The initial symptoms consisted of small spots approximately 1/2 to 1 inches in diameter with indistinct margins. Plants in these spots had infected leaf tips appearing orange to reddish brown in color or leaves that were completely withered and bleached. The fungus **H. erythrospilum** could be isolated from leaves, crowns and roots.

Heavy populations of plant pathogenic nematodes were found to be associated with some of the diseased greens. There were also some diseased greens which contained no plant-pathogenic nematodes. The importance of nematodes in this disease complex has not yet been fully determined.

In tests conducted in the greenhouse during the winter of 1973-74, plugs of diseased C-15 creeping bentgrass responded to a combination of leaf spot fungicides and nematocides better than when those chemicals were used alone.

Two test areas have been established in the Chicago area on diseased Toronto bentgrass green areas that have both the **H. erythrospilum** and heavy populations of plant-pathogenic nematodes. Until these tests are finished, it would be a good policy to remove soil samples from diseased creeping bentgrass to be analyzed for the presence of plant-pathogenic nematodes.

It has already been shown that nematodes can cause an additional stress to a grass plant by their feeding on root systems. Insects and other environmental and soil factors may also be involved in increasing the severity of this disease by a weakening of the plants which would reduce their ability to resist attack by plant pathogens.

Dr. Cole and the author have also isolated **H. erythrospilum** from a diseased Nimisila creeping bentgrass green in Ohio. Dr. Cole reports that this same fungus has been very prevalent throughout Pennsylvania in the last few years on different creeping bentgrass cultivars and that the most effective control consists of preventative applications of the fungicide Dyrene, Daconil 2787, Tersan LSR and Actidione fungicides. Once the pathogen has infected the crown and root portions of plants, fungicide applications are ineffective. On greens severely affected during the previous season, the best remedy would consist of a 7-10 day rotation of one of the above fungicides during the spring and continuing into the summer. Dr. Cole also reports that applications of high rates of nitrogen may also increase the severity of this disease.



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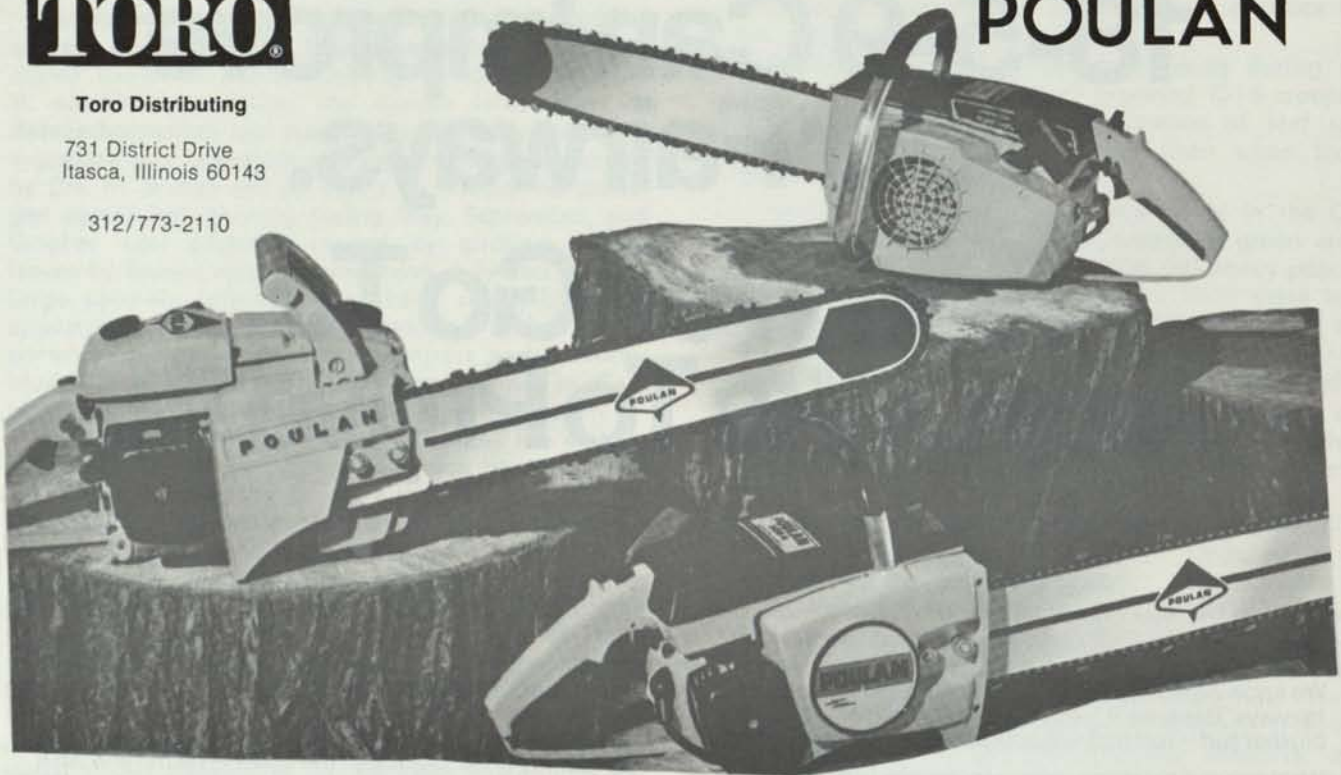
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## BIRCH TREES

by Stanley Rachesky  
Entomologist — University of Illinois

One of the most popular trees grown in the Chicago Metropolitan area is the birch. These trees add much beauty to the area, but they need care and protection against two types of insects that readily destroy many of the birches in the Chicago area. The bronze birch borer and birch leaf miner are the birch trees' greatest enemies.

Bronze birch borer adults now are emerging from the upper limbs of the birch trees. This borer, which is a beetle, soon will begin laying eggs in the rough bark crevices of the upper part of the tree.

Birch trees already infested with this insect will exhibit a typical dead area at the top of the tree. As the borer continues to strangle the tree, the area at the top of the tree will die back even more. If the tree is not kept well fertilized and the borer itself is not treated, the tree will die in two to three seasons.

The loss of a tree on your property is quite sad-denning. A full-grown tree is an esthetic prize that is almost impossible to replace in one's lifetime.

Good control of this borer can be achieved if the trunk and limbs are sprayed with dimethoate (Cygon, DeFend) as the eggs begin to hatch. Spray your birch tree until it is dripping wet. An average size birch tree of about 12 to 20 feet in height should be sprayed with at least five gallons of solution.

Cygon, as it is commonly called, is available as a

23.4 per cent liquid concentrate. Use two teaspoons of this concentrate in each gallon of water when mixing. The first application should be applied now. Repeat in two to three weeks to control any late-hatching borers.

Birch leaf miners can destroy the leaves of the tree. The first symptoms to appear are small blisters on the leaf surface. The insect mines between the cell layers of the leaf. The leaves will turn brown and drop to the ground. This insect will have three to four generations each summer season. Control may be accomplished by using either Malathion or Diazinon as a spray when the blisters first appear on the leaves.



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## EDITORIAL POSTSCRIPT

By the time the editorial is published this month, I will have already left your ranks. It was after much thought and with some sadness that I made my decision. I leave with a great deal of respect for the men who are golf course superintendents. I realize that leaving the golf course is probably not the best solution for the profession, but my situation deemed a change and there was another opportunity available to me.

I wish good fortune to all of you and to the association and hope you will all continue to support your professional organizations.

My wife and I will always cherish the friendships of the MAGCS members. And best wishes for the future success of a fine association.

Sincerely,  
Jerry Hanko

## Editorial

by Jerry Hanko

Most of the preceding editorials have been a statement of facts, or opinions, for or against an idea or ideal. I would like to pose some questions instead. They are some that I studied over the past winter—and I found my answers.

What is your professional and financial future as a golf course superintendent? Is your salary keeping pace with the world? How long can you afford to be a superintendent?

Look at the general trend the past two years. Many of the new people hired were hired for less money than the previous superintendent was making. And as positions opened, were the offered salaries much more, if any, than what you are making now?

Did you get raises these past two years that would keep pace with the inflation rate? To gain anything a 12-15% annual raise would have been necessary.

What are the qualifications that are needed to earn your salary? You are a "turf specialist" and/or maybe an agronomist or horticulturist. And are you a plumber, an electrician, a carpenter, an equipment operator, a mechanic, a construction engineer, a public relations man, a bookkeeper, a personnel man, a payroll clerk, a weather forecaster, a plant pathologist, an entomologist, and a supervisor? How much does a plumber make? How much does an electrician make? How much does an equipment operator or truck driver make? How much is each of those people responsible for and for how many hours each day or week?

If you are seeking higher wages, would changing clubs help the situation? More than likely not—the owners and chairmen seem to keep close tabs so salaries range about the same.

In closing, I hope the questions I raised will stir some thoughts and maybe some solutions. We all know it takes experience to make a really good golf course superintendent. But as I see it, an experienced man cannot afford to be a golf course superintendent.

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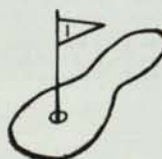
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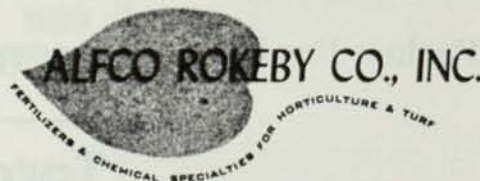
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