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Mike Bavier — President

The President's Message

Water, water everywhere, and how does your grass grow? This is a frequently asked question this year in the Chicago area. The wet spring we experienced that continued right into June did cause many problems for us too numerous to mention. Mother Nature sure does have a way of putting so called "experts" in their places. I say "so called" because anyone that has an occupation so dependent on the weather certainly is at the mercy of Mother Nature. The over abundance of rain was followed with temperatures and humidity of about 85 degrees and per cent respectively, give or take a little. Those long drawn-out days seemed to drain one's last ounce of strength and that of our grass. We wondered if there would be any relief, then all of a sudden we were blessed with a cooling spell.

I can well understand what it must be like to play on a losing baseball team—to get up every morning and realize your chances of winning are little or none. There are not too many of us that complain about getting up early most every morning Monday thru Sunday and even Holidays, but when our grass is at the breaking point or just plain sick, we quickly become fatigued. To add to our woes, the play at our courses seems to be on the increase—ladies' day, junior matches, men's day, couples' guest day, and whatever else. We sometimes wonder what's next. However, just as professional baseball players must continue to play as well as they are able despite a losing streak, we, as golf course superintendents, must continue to perform to our best capacities, even under adverse conditions. We can only strive to keep our courses in the best possible condition despite the heavy play we have in the summer and the sometimes erratic weather conditions.

We must also think of ways of improving our courses—maybe with better drainage, incorporating more bent grass, rebuilding small tees, just to mention a few. Playing on a losing team is not really all that bad, it is having the coach give up trying to build for the future that lets one down. When things look a little bleak, you, too, as a manager of your course can start looking ahead. Now is the time to start improving and planning for the future.

NOTICE

No Dinner Tickets will be sold to anyone unless he is wearing a coat or sport jacket.

Attendance at July 17 meeting — 84 for dinner, 72 played golf.

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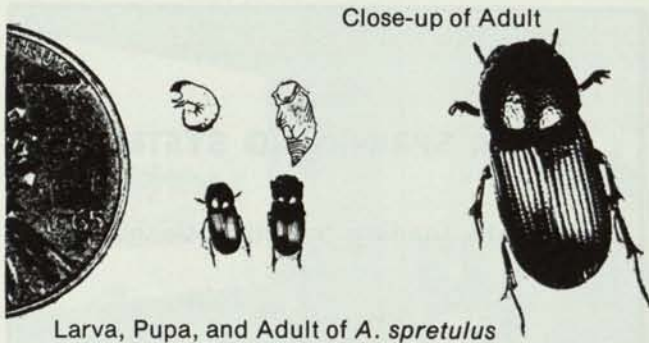
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There is no common name. They are resistant to Chlordane, Dieldrin and Aldrin. There has been some control from Diazinon or Dylox or Proxol.

Egg laying takes place in low wet areas in April. The season's life cycle is, eggs in spring, grub or larva in summer, pupa in late July or early August. Adult beetle early part of August.

Ed. Note: This cycle is known in the Chicago area and was first noticed in 1975 on golf courses in the Chicago area on *Poa annua* and bentgrass turf. It also has been observed in the southern part of Illinois in 1974.

NEW TURF PEST DISCOVERED IN OHIO GOLF COURSES

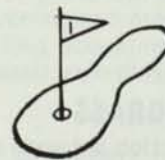
We have confirmed the identification of a small grubworm that has literally destroyed thousands of square feet of *Poa annua* and bent grass turf in golf courses in southern Ohio. Dr. Harry D. Niemczyk, turf research entomologist at our Wooster Agricultural Research and Development Center, collected some of the grubs and sent them to Washington, D. C. to be identified. The identification came back as *Ataenius spretulus*. The beetle has no common name.

I first came in contact with the grub in July of 1973 when one of our golf course superintendents in Cincinnati called and said his whole course was full of brown patches. I went down and sure enough there were brown patches ranging in size from a golf ball to a square yard. In lifting up the dead area I could count as many as 50 grubs per square inch — yes, per square inch. I've never seen that many grubs in one place in my whole life. Since it was July, I thought that these grubs were probably newly hatched Jap. beetles, or northern masked chafers. Our attempts to rear them were unsuccessful. For control measures, I suggested to the superintendent that the course be treated with diazinon right away and aldrin in the early spring. This was done and control was obtained in the fall of 1973. This summer I got another call from the same superintendent indicating the grubs were back again. The aldrin should have killed them. This time Dr. Niemczyk went down in July and collected adults, pupae, and grubs. He sprayed the adults with Sevin, diazinon, and aldrin in the laboratory to check for resistance and also to see what these materials would do against them. They were highly resistant to aldrin, but easily killed by the other two materials.

Dr. Niemczyk has reviewed the literature and has told me that there is very little known about *Ataenius spretulus*. In fact, he found only 2 papers on the subject. One dated back to the late 1800's. He indicates that there is probably one generation a year. They overwinter as adults in debris such as grass piles and other such materials. In the spring, they come out of hibernation, lay their eggs in turf and by mid-late July

emerge as adults. What they do from August on isn't quite clear. We don't know if the adults feed, or what they do. It seems that *Poa annua* and bent grass are their favorite foods. However, Dr. Niemczyk did find them in bluegrass.

Richard L. Miller
Extension Entomologist
1735 Neil Ave.
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Saturday - August 9, 1975
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Field Day - U. of I. Experiment Station
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Saturday-August 9th, you are invited to visit the University of Illinois Experiment Station - 21W042 Finlay Road, Downers Grove for the Annual Field Day.

The day starts at 10AM and runs until 7PM. One will be able to inspect (at your own speed) ground covers, dwarf fruit trees, brambles, grapes & strawberries, a large annual flower garden, disease & insect problems on vegetables, organic insect control,

several types of vegetable gardens and vegetable varieties, mulching & staking of tomatoes, herbs and poisonous plants.

In addition, State and local Cooperative Extension Specialists will be on hand to answer questions on the above gardens as well as how to preserve the food produced in some of the gardens.

So, mark your calendar now...and plan to visit the Experiment Station on the 9th of August.

THATCH IN BLUEGRASS

Research shows there's a connection between thatch in bluegrass and the absence of earthworms. Scientists don't have all the details, but they know excessive use of insecticides causes thatch. In all tests where thatch builds up, there is an absence of worms.

Do worms feed on the dead clippings and plant surplus to control thatch or are they merely bystanders? Scientists don't know for sure.

But they do know that two applications of chlordane or dieldrin a year caused thatch to appear in two years, while surrounding untreated turf remained free of thatch and seething with worms. The researchers also tested short-lived pesticides like carbaryl and diazinon, applying them twice a year during a 3-year study. These pesticides didn't cause thatch and had little influence on numbers of worms in the soil.

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Editor
MIDWEST BREEZES

The weather in the month of June sure has been a most unpredictable one. The latter part of June the temperature was over 90 degrees and the humidity was nearly that high, and this carried on into July.

The rains were heavy in certain areas and a couple miles away nothing. This happened during the U.S. Open at Medinah Country Club and also during the Western Open at Butler National Golf Club. I am sure Supt. John Jackman at Medinah and Supt. Ed Fischer at Butler National were glad when the last ball rolled into the cup, and also when the last car was pulled out of the mud and on its way home. Their work did not end at this point. Many hours, days, weeks, months and into the following year before the scars will disappear. One wonders is it worth it and how much of it is appreciated, a couple of years work washed out in a short period of time and then have a hot headed golfer who was not playing well will put the blame on a certain part of the golf course which he had no qualifications to make statements of this kind.

The editor remembers the years of the golf tournaments that were held at the Tam O'Shanter Country Club in the Chicago area and sponsored by the late Geo. S. May. His ruling was, anyone criticizing the golf course was disqualified. This was a good rule and should be put into force for all future golf tournaments. It would stop many embarrassments, not only for the club but also for the employees and tournament officials.

When a touring golfer starts to dictate what strain of grass the club should plant on their fairways, it is time for action. Let the clubs chose the strain of grass they prefer.

St. Charles C.C., St. Charles, Ill. is in the process of installing an automatic irrigation system on their golf course. The contractor is using a pipe puller rather than the trench digging method. Art Benson Sr., Supt., will soon be in a position to enjoy a full nights sleep.

Bob Siebert, Supt. Naperville C.C., has completed construction of a new tee on the 3# hole and also the landscaping around it. He reports his A20 tees are plush and withstanding the heavy play very well.

Carl Langrebe, Supt. Hinsdale G.C., reports the high humidity has been keeping his spray crews busy this past month.

Many of you as you turn the pages of the Bull Sheet are probably saying, so what's new. This editor has asked himself this same question several times. Really a question of this nature should never be necessary. You probably are saying "Why"? The answer is very simple. The new membership roster that I received recently shows a membership of all classes approximately 350. What percentage of this 350 has ever forwarded any news of any kind. It usually boils down to three or four members from a large membership such as the Midwest and one of the better chapters, at least we like to feel that we are.

There are days when editor *Gerber* has the feeling that an interesting publication, one that has some value to it, "other than the advertisements," is no longer appreciated. I would never accept an alibi of this nature. "I do not have time."

On July 9th, Dr. Al. Turgeon from the University of Illinois visited several golf courses on the west side of Chicago. I had the great pleasure of traveling with Al on this day. It was a most enjoyable one for me. We all can learn considerable by visiting other clubs.

Word has just reached me that *Frank Dinelli* retired Supt. from Northmoor C.C. is in the Highland Park Hospital, Highland Park, Ill. 60035. We all hope you get well real soon. You can't catch any fish in the hospital.

Please mark your calendar for August 25, 1975. This is the day of the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation Golf day at *Indian Lakes Country Club*. Please read the entire notice in this Bull Sheet issue. Everyone where turfgrass is grown will benefit. Even those that do not have turfgrass will benefit. Come out and enjoy a day and evening and meet many of your old friends as well as getting acquainted with new ones. Tickets can be purchased from most any golf course Supt. in this area.

Paul E. Burdett, retired golf course supply executive is enjoying his retirement by spending the winter months in Tuscon, Arizona and the summer months at his home on Swift Road, Lombard. Paul's pride and joy during the summer months is his garden. He grows almost everything from strawberries to sugar cane.

Next time you are in the vicinity of Paul's home, drop in and let him show you around.

Bruce Burchfield, former Supt. at Calumet C.C., has accepted the Supt's. position at Hillcrest C.C. at Long Grove, Ill. Good Luck, Bruce.

Paul N. Voykin, Supt. Briarwood C.C. has been asked to speak at the U.S.G.A. Green Section Prestigious Seminar, Jan. 30, 1976.

Paul also will be a guest on the popular Betty & Bob radio show August 6, 11:15 a.m. WBBM-News Radio.

September 29 - Playboy Club joint meeting with Wisconsin Supts. Gene Palrud, Supt.

October 20 - Glendale Country Club

November Annual Meeting-November 12-Cyprus Inn

December 3-Midwest Clinic, Medinah C.C. John Jackman, Supt.

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FIG. A



FIG. B

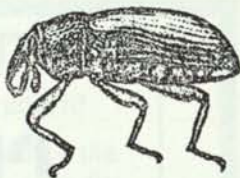


FIG. C

DAMAGING WEEVIL IN AREA

Golf course superintendents and similar turf specialists with valuable grass areas to maintain should be aware of the *Hyperodes* weevil. It can be a very damaging pest.

DAMAGE

The *Hyperodes* weevil is a relatively "new" insect pest that feeds on grass, particularly annual bluegrass. For this reason, some individuals have called the pest "the annual bluegrass weevil." In recent years this insect has caused considerable damage to golf course turf on Long Island, New York. The amount of damage varies from small yellow-brown spots on greens to the dying out of large portions of greens, tees, fairways and grass tennis courts. The damage can be distinguished from other disturbances by the complete or partial severing of the grass stems, often in areas about the size of a dime. This causes small bare spots with a few yellow blades surrounding each. When these weevils are numerous they can kill large areas of grass in just a few days. This "die-out" seems to be confined to areas of annual bluegrass that have been maintained at 1/4 or 1/2 inch. Apparently there is no damage to the taller annual bluegrass in golf course roughs. Most of the conspicuous damage has been noted in spring and early summer, a number of weeks earlier than the chronic "summer die-out" of annual bluegrass ordinarily occurs.

DESCRIPTION

Hyperodes is a member of the weevil family, a large group of over 3,000 species in the United States. A weevil can be distinguished from other beetles by its peculiar elongated snout. Several kinds of weevils can be found on golf courses, but *Hyperodes* is by far the most abundant in areas that have had problems. The adult (Fig. C) *Hyperodes* weevil varies from mottled brownish-black to shiny black and is about 3/16 inch long. The snout is about 1/5 as long as the weevil body, and has elbowed antennae attached near the chewing mouth parts at its tip. The adults can be found on the surface of the greens from early spring until late fall. Their presence on fairways has been noted from early spring until mid summer. The adults are especially active just after dusk and climb to the tops of grass blades where they are comparatively easy to find with the aid of a flashlight.

Adults feed on many types of plants, including grasses, clover and plantain, but they prefer *P. annua*. Adult feeding is confined mostly to grass leaf blades and the upper portions of stems and causes little damage.

Several other life stages of the *Hyperodes* weevil can be found, but they are not as obvious as the adults. In areas that have been conspicuously damaged one can

generally find pupae (Fig. B) or pre-pupae (Fig. A) (the mature larvae that are about to pupate) at a depth of 1/4 to 3/4 inch in the sod. Both pre-pupae and pupae are cream colored and about 3/16 inch long, but they differ markedly in form. The pre-pupa is a legless "C" shaped grub with a dark head, while the adult features are evident on the pupa.

The *Hyperodes* larvae are legless and range in size from nearly microscopic when young to 3/16 inch long when ready to pupate. The cuticle of the larva is somewhat transparent, and the larva appears to be mostly white to cream colored because of the contents of the insect. The smaller larvae are very difficult to find.

LIFE HISTORY

On Long Island there is one complete generation of turfgrass weevils in the spring and what appears to be a partial second generation late in the summer. Eggs of the first generation are laid throughout April and May. The larvae are numerous from mid-May through early June. Pupae and young adults are most numerous throughout June, with a peak in mid-June. The development of the spring generation lasts two months, from late April to late June.

Eggs of the second generation are laid during July and August. Larvae are present during August and early September and pupae and young adults are present throughout September and October. Exact knowledge of life history in the northeastern part of the state is uncertain.

The complete spring generation causes far more damage than the partial second generation. Greens and tennis courts receive intensive care which tends to maintain lush growth of *P. annua* throughout the summer. This growth of *P. annua* appears to favor a second generation of turfgrass weevils.

CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS

The turfgrass weevil can be controlled by insecticides applied at the proper times. Present recommendations are granular Diazinon at a rate of four pounds active ingredient/acre, or Dursban emulsifiable concentrate at a rate of one pound active ingredient/acre. Diazinon is applied on suspected problem areas in mid-April and again in mid-May. Chlorpyrifos is applied once about May 1.

Future field tests could prove that lower rates of application or one treatment per year will adequately control the turfgrass weevil.

From a newsletter by William H. McEvoy, Cooperative Extension Specialist, Horticulture, Cornell University, Voorheesville, N. Y.

INSECT PROBLEM NOTED

On a recent visit to Hanover Country Club in Hanover, N.H., substantial damage by *Hyperodes* weevil was observed on bentgrass putting green turf. This insect has been previously reported as causing extensive damage to *Poa annua* in New York State, but this appears to be the first reported incidence of damage to turfgrass in New Hampshire.

As was the case at Hanover Country Club, the most extensive damage to turf is caused by the larvae of this weevil. On the date of observation (July 1), the adult stage was abundant on the surface of the grass; a few pupae were observed in the soil but no larvae were

next page

found. While some recovery of the turf was noted, the adult will continue to feed and an application of insecticide would be in order. Dursban 2E at 1 lb. active ingredient/acre is recommended for treatment.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a copy of a recent release from Mr. William H. McEvoy, Cooperative Extension Specialist in Horticulture for New York State (Cornell) which gives more specifics on *Hyperodes weevil* and its control. If you suspect an occurrence of this insect, please do not hesitate to request assistance.

OTHER PROBLEMS

The highly variable weather thus far this season has had an adverse effect on *P. annua* (when doesn't it?), with losses being noted in several geographic areas. While some of the damage is unquestionably related to physical conditions (drought, etc.), other affected areas appear more typical of fungal damage. Isolations from apparently diseased material have not been consistent, with more *Pythium* than *Helminthosporium* being recovered.

Fusarium blight has been recorded on bluegrass sod which was exhibiting excessive growth due to high nitrogen fertilization. Such problems serve to further my reliance on a fall/late-fall balanced fertilization schedule which greatly reduces the need for heavy spring applications of fertilizer.

James M. Fenstermacher
Extension Turf Specialist
Plant Science Department
Durham, New Hampshire 03824

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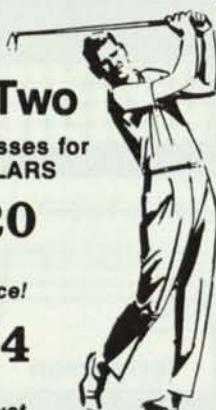
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