

Editor — Ray Gerber  
865 Hillside Ave.  
Glen Ellyn, Ill. 60137  
Phone — 469-6467

Associate Editors — Robert Williams  
90 East Franklin, Apt. 208  
Lake Forest, Ill. 60045  
Office Phone — 432-0088

Leonard H. Berg  
1575 W. 75th St.  
Woodridge, Ill. 60515  
Office Phone — 852-0293



Mike Bavier — President

### *The President's Message*

After looking over my golf course the early part of August, I was quite depressed with the condition of some of the grass. We had experienced a difficult six weeks of hot, humid, moist and wet weather. Our normal programs of watering, spraying and mowing fairways in the cooler late afternoons had not produced the course that one would be proud to show off. An early season disaster of pesticide spraying on fairways had made me gun-shy—the disease program was never up to par as far as I was concerned after that. As you well know, anytime the grass is weakened by one condition like disease, then another problem (such as sprinkler inefficiencies) starts to show up even more. I have always been a firm believer in having a well balanced turf program—just one segment cannot be a cure-all for any problem. True, we had failed in one program on my course, but like any other business or game, the total concept of putting everything together is what eventually produces results. In other words, sure a spray program that is adequate is important, but then so is your watering, fertilizing, and mowing programs, and on down the line.

While trying to explain the course condition during a committee meeting, one of the committee members mentioned the grounds around the clubhouse sure was in excellent condition. The statement meant a lot to me in that such positive comments are not heard or mentioned many times. This statement started to work on my mind, and I began to wonder—in this so called disaster year, was there still positive points that could be stressed? Yes, the long heard saying of "Why not stop and smell the flowers" comes to my mind. My fairways were not in any condition to brag about, but what about the job the crew had done around the clubhouse area where mother nature had not taken her toll and where we had controlled disease and fertilized properly. And what about the beautiful trees on the course that had been sprayed, pruned, fertilized, and cared for over the years—don't they count a little in the course upkeep, too?

Yes, just as quickly as many of our members, we forget that never had there been a perfect tree, perfect grass, or (let's face it) even a perfect golf course superintendent. We must work with our short comings along with mother nature and occasionally stop to "smell the flowers," too.

---

## MAGCS BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 1975

### OFFICERS

President — Mike Bavier  
First Vice President — Fred Opperman  
Second Vice President — Clifford Behrendt  
Secretary-Treasurer — Joe Grenko

### DIRECTORS

Ed Fischer	Bruce Burchfield
Carl Grassl	David Meyer
Carl Hopphan	Alby Staudt
Executive Secretary — Dorothy Carey	

The following is a list of office telephone numbers for the entire Board.

Dorothy Carey	349-7766
Mike Bavier	358-7030
Carl Grassl, C.G.C.S.	823-8682
Carl Hopphan	892-3600
Ed Fischer	654-4454
Fred Opperman, C.G.C.S.	469-6220
Bruce Burchfield	799-5111
Alby Staudt, Emeritus	232-0624
David Meyer	529-4303
Clifford Behrendt	815-459-8570
Joe Grenko	634-0100



## CARL'S COMMENTS

by Carl Schwartzkopf

Mid-Continent Agronomist USGA - Green Section

Over fifty years ago, January 25, 1923, Edgar A. Guest published a poem in the *Bulletin of the Green Section of the United States Golf Association*, entitled 'The Greens Keeper'. Since many of the comments he made over fifty years ago are still relevant today, it is worth reading for all the people involved in golf.

from 'Bulletin of the Green Section of the USGA',  
Vol. III, No. 1, January 25, 1923

## THE GREENS KEEPER

by Edgar A. Guest

He's on the job at break of day and when  
the stars come out,  
There's always trouble on the course for him  
to fret about,  
He starts the gang to work at dawn and follows  
them around  
Then listens to committeemen whose wisdom is  
profound,  
They talk of "bents" and "fescues" in a way that  
makes him squirm  
For they acquire much knowledge in one brief  
official term.  
His task is one that calls for tact, for lacking  
that it means  
Next year there'll be another man brought on  
to keep the greens.

The members seldom know his name, or have  
a smile for him,  
They only wonder why it is the course is not  
in trim.  
They only rave and rage and rant while hunting  
for a ball  
And wonder why the greensman hasn't cut the  
rough this fall,  
And when they find a cuppy lie or footprints  
in a trap  
"The course is in a rotten shape" declares each  
gloomy chap.  
And yet my hat is off to him, now winter  
intervenes,  
I want to pay my tribute to the man who  
keeps the greens.

He's on the job from dawn to dusk, a million  
pests to fight,  
'Tis his to see that every green is watered  
well at night.  
The weeds attack his finest work, the drought  
destroys his grass,  
The rain beats down the tender shoots, but  
still the players pass  
And still they play the game they love, a  
happy golfing clan  
Who never stop to count the odds against a  
single man.  
And so I wave my hand to him, who toils  
in sturdy jeans,  
The best old friend all golfers have —  
the man who keeps the greens.

FOR THE FINEST IN SOD

## THORNTON'S TURF NURSERY

312 - 742-5030

Rt. 2 Box 72

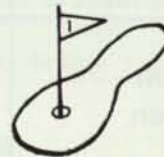
Elgin, Ill.



2 N 255 County Farm Rd.

West Chicago, Ill. 60185

Phone 668-5537



## PENNCROSS

BENT SOD

TORONTO C-15

BENT SOD OR STOLONS

- ★ Pure To Strain
- ★ Maintained at 1/4" mowing height with "Greens King"
- ★ Grown on Sandy Loam Soil
- ★ Toronto C-15 Strain resistant to leafspot.

— BLUEGRASS SOD —

- ★ Adelphi
- ★ Merion
- ★ XL-100 Blend
- ★ KY-33 Blend



H & E Sod Nursery, Inc.

3900 West 167th Street  
Markham, Illinois 60426

312 798-2210

# CHIPCO the most effective arsenal ever assembled to protect your turf

- Chipco Spot Kleen
- Chipco Microgreen  
Liquid
- Chipco Turf Herbicide "D"
- Chipco Spreader  
Activator
- Chipco Thiram 75
- Chipco Crab Kleen
- Chipco Turf Herbicide  
MCP
- Chipco Bucril
- Chipco Turf Kleen



RHODIA INCORPORATED  
AGRICULTURAL DIVISION  
Somerset, New Jersey 08873

## MILLER SPRINKLING SYSTEMS

"Midwest's Leading Irrigation Contractor"

Since 1925

Complete design, installation,  
guarantee and service

1738 Armitage Court  
Addison, Illinois 60101

312 - 495-3222

## C. E. DAUGHERTY CO.

1855 W. Stuart Ln.

Palatine, Illinois 60067

(312) 359-0602

### Representing:

MITTS & MERRILL — Brush and Limb  
Chipper

AQUASHADE INC. — Pond Beautifier

COURSIGNS INC. — Golf Course Signs -  
Trap Rakes - Litter  
Receptacles

CARRON NET CO. INC. — Tennis Nets -  
Wind Screens  
- Dividers -  
Straps &  
Tapes

POLLARD BROS. — Work Benches -  
Cabinets, Barrell  
Stands

LOFT-KELLOGG — Grass Seeds



## LET US HELP YOU

### With Your Grass Seed Needs

- **FAST SERVICE** — We distribute from strategically-located warehouses
- **LARGE INVENTORY** — We are among America's Largest Grower-Marketers
- **UNQUESTIONED QUALITY** — The Vaughan-Jacklin Name is Your Assurance
- **CUSTOM-BLENDING** — Ask for What You Want or for Our Recommendation

For More Information, Phone:

Terry Trakselis  
312/859-3160

Representing



the  
**VAUGHAN-  
JACKLIN** / corporation

5300 KATRINE AVE • DOWNERS GROVE, ILL. 60515  
PHONE: (312) 969-6300 ASK FOR CARL SUDING



The above picture is displayed at the entrance of River Forest Country Club, Ed Stewart, Superintendent.

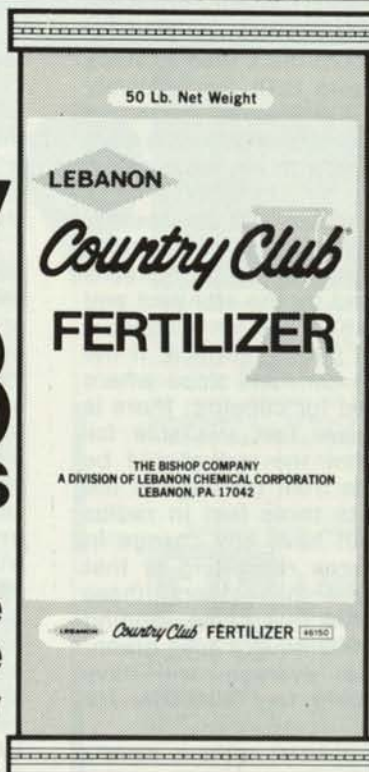
**C. E. STEWART**  
and Associates  
*Civil Engineer*

Irrigation, Drainage, Water Supply, Pumping Plants  
Design — Reports — Consultation — Supervision  
18357 Homewood Ave. Homewood, Illinois



# COUNTRY CLUB TURF PRODUCTS

A New Outside  
Appearance - Same  
Dependable Quality  
Inside



Good Names To  
Grow By

Call your local distributor or  
Frank Ross  
29 Spring Lake Ave.  
Hinsdale, IL 60521



## CUPPING AREA — WHERE DOES IT GO?

by William G. Buchanan,  
Agronomist, USGA Green Section  
July 1975 issue, RECORD

Ideas have drastically changed over the last 15 years on how a green should be treated and built. Around the turn of the century the putting green was considered a part of the fair green; the putting surface was rather closely clipped by sheep which were the only lawn mowers that were used on the greens at that time. Until the invention of the lawn mower, putting greens were not treated differently from any other portion of the golf course. A periodical published in 1914 by Fred Taylor stated, "Putting greens were not especially planted or made. They were merely parts of the fair green because the natural conformation of the ground at this point was suited to putting."

Better golfing equipment and lawn mowers have changed a relatively simple approach to the golf course and its maintenance to a business where \$100,000 a year maintenance budgets are commonplace and putting green construction takes a major portion of the golf course construction budget. This drastic change in the way that golf has evolved makes it extremely important that a golf course be maintained at its peak through the golfing season, whether that season is a 5-month season or a 12-month season.

In the past few years, it seems private clubs are receiving more play than in the years past. This is a combination of the clubs accepting more members and the members staying home and playing more rounds at their home club.

More play is a very good thing for the club, but it can create serious problems for the course superintendent. Many of the older clubs, those built more than 25 years ago, have small greens that were built for relatively small memberships. Since golf has enjoyed expanding popularity, many of these club's membership rolls have doubled and the old small greens with limited cupping area have suffered accordingly.

Cupping area and green size are not necessarily synonymous. Times have drastically changed since greens were "not especially planted or made." Greens today are shaped and sculptured by the architect and they call for greater putting skill. Take for instance a green with 7,500 square feet of putting surface. If the green is relatively flat or of a constant slope where essentially all of it may be used for cupping, there is between 5,381 and 5,779 square feet available for cupping. (The USGA states that the cup should be placed no closer than five paces from the edge of the green and that the area two to three feet in radius surrounding the cup should not have any change in contour.) The differences in area remaining is that some people take shorter paces than others; these figures are based on a person's five paces ranging between 12 and 15 feet. A 5,000 square foot green, which is close to the national average, will have between 3,296 and 3,608 square feet available for cupping.

If the greens happen to be bi-level or have severe contours, much more useable cupping area is lost. Not only are the contours lost for cupping space, but an additional three feet on either side of the contour is lost because of the problem of the putting surface's grade changing within a three-foot radius of the cup.

Restricted cupping areas can lead to a variety of

problems, among them compaction and turf wear.

Compaction can affect the turf in so many ways. It destroys soil structure, restricts air and water movement through the soil profile and greatly restricts root growth and plant development. It can make the green so hard that it becomes impossible either to satisfy the golfer or to maintain quality turf. Aeration several times a year, spiking regularly through the year, and a good top-dressing program can help in relieving the compaction problem so long as weather conditions are favorable.

Turfgrass wear is another problem. We can relieve compaction, encourage growth, and pray, but so long as the grass is subjected to constant wear, it will have no chance for complete recovery. When the cupping area is limited, the turf is subjected to constant wear because the green is the one place where everyone playing the course must walk. The cupping area receives the most concentrated traffic of all. Everyone is supposed to hole out on each hole. Everyone has to retrieve his ball from the hole, and therefore every golfer must make at least one footprint, and possibly two footprints, within a three-foot radius of the hole. This means 12 beautiful spike marks for each footprint. Is there any wonder that the cup location must be changed in most cases on a daily basis?

Turf wear can be masked or covered up by over-seeding, top-dressing and fertilizing, but the only real cure is to reduce traffic. It is not very practical to stop play completely for a week or two during the season, although the practice of closing the course each Monday has great merit and gives the turf a slight breather as well as allowing maintenance work to be done. The only additional technique is to try to get the greatest possible number of pin placements on each green.

Cupping area, if not built-in, can be very hard to find. Ideally, greens should be built large enough so the minimum size would handle the maximum expected play. This calls for the officials of the club to anticipate the largest number of members that the club will have and build the course accordingly. Of course any putting green construction on the course should be done to USGA Green Section Putting Green Specifications.

Since not everyone will follow the route of rebuilding all of their greens, there must be another way. This calls for a lot of study and, if possible, referring to the original set of blueprints that were used in building the course. It is very likely that, for one reason or another, your present putting surfaces are smaller than those maintained a few years ago. Economic cutbacks may have reduced some putting surfaces. Maintenance problems such as drainage offer another reason for reducing green size. But the main reason for the smaller putting surfaces is that the men operating the greens mowers, in an attempt to avoid scalping the fringe area at the perimeter, have gradually inched in. It does not take long to lose considerable space on a green if the mowerman misses the cut by 1/8 to 1/4 inch each time the green is mowed. A green can lose six inches to a foot every year from its radius as a result of this practice. The reduction of the putting surface can be so gradual that it can very easily go unnoticed. When this occurs, the greens slowly lose their irregular shapes and all start to look like circles. A check of old blueprints or pictures may lead to some very interesting findings.

If these original references are not available, one could use a soil probe and probe outwardly around the edges of the putting surface until distinct difference in



**“Since 1971, every pound of bluegrass mixture we use at Merion Golf Club contains 75% baron Kentucky Bluegrass.”**

U.S. Plant Patent #3186 Dwarf Variety

**Richard Valentine, Golf Course Superintendent at Merion Golf Club has some interesting ideas about turf management. Here are some experiences he has shared with us.**



“I don’t believe in heavy feeding, and that seems to suit Baron just fine. I never use more than three pounds of nitrogen per 1000 square feet per annum. Baron doesn’t seem to need those high nitrogen applications that some people are using on bluegrass. And, less fertilizer means less fungus and thatch. . . I like that.”



“We have a tradition to uphold here at Merion and, by golly I’m going to make sure we use nothing but the best. Baron Kentucky Bluegrass belongs here at Merion.”



“I used to have much more thatch before I started using Baron. And it comes up fast too. I cut-in Baron and it germinates in 10 days . . . one half the normal time.” Rich discusses Baron’s quick growth with Peter Loft and Andy Sweeney, local supplier.



“Merion has lots of hillsides and slopes . . . here’s where Baron really stands out. We use a Jacobsen Seeder and cut seed into the soil. You have to plant grass seed . . . you can’t just throw it on the ground. The only place I don’t use Baron is on the tees and greens, which are bentgrass.”

Richard Valentine, Golf Course Superintendent at Merion Golf Club, Ardmore, Pa. is the second superintendent in Merion’s famous 79-year history, succeeding his father, Joseph, who held the position for 54 years.



“We cut our fairways to one inch all year long. During our regular Fall renovation program on approaches and drive areas, we use a mixture of five bluegrasses . . . 75% of that mixture has been Baron. We’ll use the same mixture next Fall.”



“I’ve used Baron for four years on all my fairways and up to this date I haven’t had one case of helminthosporium. Baron stays greener during the cold months and brightens up fast in the Spring.”

Exclusive North American Grower and Distributor:



**Lofts Pedigreed Seed, Inc.**  
Bound Brook, N.J. 08805/(201) 356-8700

Lofts/New England  
20 Beck Road  
Arlington, Mass. 02174  
Call collect (617) 648-7550

Loft Kellogg Seed Co.  
322 E. Florida St.  
Milwaukee, Wis. 53201  
Call collect (414) 276-0373

Great Western Seed Co.  
P.O. Box 387  
Albany, Oregon 97321  
Call collect (503) 926-2636



the topsoil mixture is found. Since the chances are good that the club has built the greens in the past 75 years, it is also very likely that the soil mixture on the greens has been modified. Using this method, the original green size and shape can be determined. It is not unusual to find putting surfaces that have been reduced 500 to 1,000 square feet over the years. The greens that seem to lose the most area are the ones that were large originally. After a determination has been made that the putting surfaces have been reduced, the next step is to regain the lost area. A photographic record of the before and after product would prove of great benefit in preventing a reoccurrence of the problem, because the pictures could serve as a constant reference.

Reclamation of old putting areas can be a delicate operation. The transition from a fringe cut that is generally 1/2 to 3/4 inch in height to a cut of 1/4 inch or less is a difficult one for grasses to make.

Considerations must be given to the amount of thatch that has accumulated in the turf, the weather conditions, what type of grass is presently growing in the fringe, and last but not least, how healthy is the turf.

Weather conditions play an important role in how well the grasses make the transition. Good growing weather is needed; cool nights and warm days are ideal. Generally, this type of weather can be experienced in mid-fall and early spring in the Northeast.

Thatch removal is essential for the grasses to make the transition from a high height of cut to a low one. The thatch prevents a strong, deep root development, prevents good water and air movement into the soil and is an excellent breeding ground for disease. Thatch removal ideally should be completed prior to the height of cut being lowered. However, in most cases it is not practical from the time standpoint, because normally it takes three to four aerations followed by severe vertical mowings to effectively remove excessive thatch. The goal should be to have the thatch layer on the fringe the same thickness as on the greens so both areas will respond the same to the maintenance program.

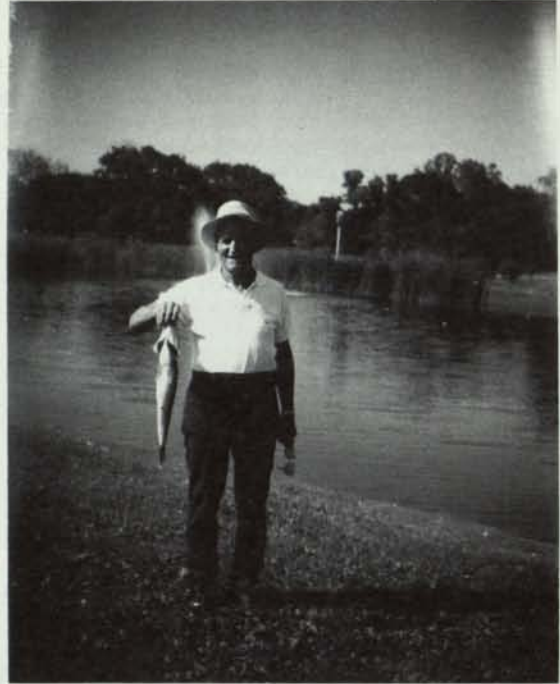
Overseeding and top-dressing are important in the reclamation process. A good, thick permanent grass stand is much easier to maintain.

Generally fall is the best time to initiate the lower cut on the fringe area. Lower the cut gradually, perhaps over several weeks time. This will give the grass a chance to recover prior to the winter weather and the entire spring to develop a strong root system that will support the grasses through the stress periods of the hot growing season.

The addition of four to five cupping areas will serve to reduce wear on other areas of the green. These new areas can serve to give overused cupping areas an additional four to five days to recover before the cup rotation on the green returns to a previously used location.

Every golf course superintendent has his own ideas of how far the cup should be moved from a previously used location. This largely depends on how much cupping area is available on any given green. Some may consider a 3-foot radius around the cup as a cupping area, other 4-, 5-, or even 6-foot radius. If these numbers are used, it means moving the cup at least six feet, and at the most 12 feet from the original location. When the 3-foot radius is used, the cupping area is 28.36 square feet; a 4-foot radius gives a cupping area of 50.24 square feet; a 5-foot radius covers 78.50 square feet; and a 6-foot radius covers 113.04 square feet. These figures show how quickly a putting surface can be used by rotation of the cup.

Many golf courses will receive at least 30,000 rounds of golf over a 6-month period. Just think how nice it would be to have 100 square feet of usable cupping area for every 1,000 rounds of golf played in a 6-month period of time. That would give the club roughly one cup placement a day for a month before the cup returned to the original location. Remembering the earlier figures, the average green is 5,000 square feet, with 3,296 to 3,608 square feet of recommended cupping area if the green is level. That would be slightly more than the 3,000 square feet these ideal figures have produced.



Frank Dinelli, retired golf course Superintendent, now the fisherman with a five pound walleye.



The BULL SHEET editor, the tomato grower.





Editor

## MIDWEST BREEZES

The August issue of the BULL SHEET carried a notice that Frank Dinelli, former Superintendent, was in the hospital. We are happy to report that Frank has recovered and is in top condition and biting at the bit.

The other side of the coin is Frank's wife, Alice, who was admitted to the hospital a short time after Frank returned home.

Frank thanks all of you for the get well cards, the many telephone calls and personal visits. Being remembered on occasions of this nature is surely appreciated and is a great boost for one's morale.

The visit to the hospital must have been good for Frank. He and the editor went fishing one hot day. Frank caught the largest one, a five-pound walleyed pike. He does not believe in catching the small ones, they are for the amateurs.

In the future anyone playing golf is required to register before teeing off.

James Mitter, former assistant at Calumet Country Club, has taken the Superintendent's position due to the resignation of Bruce Burchfield.

*Roger A. Brown, has joined The Andersons in Maumee, Ohio to fill the position of sales manager for the Lawn and Garden Fertilizer Section. In this capacity, he will help develop programs in private label, branded and institutional specialty fertilizers for the company.*

*Previously, Mr. Brown was national accounts sales manager for the Swift Chemical Company in Chicago, Illinois. He has been employed in the lawn and garden industry for over 24 years.*

*A one mile/hr air movement is enough to cause pain for a resting person with arthritis.*

1976 is the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents 50th anniversary. It is not too early to start making plans for special events to celebrate this occasion. Send in your ideas so they can be put together to make it a real successful anniversary.

The M.A.G.C.S. October 14 meeting will be held at Glendale Golf Club. This will be our annual golf tournament. In the meantime, get in a little practice. Clarence Mueller, Superintendent, will be our host.

Our M.A.G.C.S. September 22nd meeting will be held at the Playboy Club, Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. This is a joint meeting with the Wisconsin Superintendents. This is a day to meet and enjoy yourself with the brother Superintendents from the north. Make up a mixed foresome instead of playing with your usual playmates.

St. Charles Country Club has completed the installation of their automatic irrigation system under the watchful eyes of Art Benson, Superintendent, and his assistant Peter Leuzinger. Now that the water is available at their fingertips, they are in the process of converting the fairway turfgrass from bluegrass to bent grass. It is very interesting and I am sure it will be observed by many.

If any of you have any old *slide set* pictures of golf course work or equipment or any other pictures pertaining to turfgrass, please send them to Dr. A. J. Turgeon, 202 Ornamental Horticulture Building, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois 61801.

The M.A.G.C.S. August 11th meeting held at host Superintendent Richard Trevarthan's Prestwick Country Club was a great success. Ninety members and guests enjoyed a delicious dinner. Fifty five played golf over a golf course in wonderful condition. The old saying "The Green Grass Grew All Around" is sure true at Prestwick Country Club.

We are sorry to receive the news that one of our members, Keith Montgomery, Superintendent Kishwaukee Country Club at DeKalb, Illinois, is in the hospital for surgery. We all wish Keith the best of luck.

September 22 Playboy Club joint meeting with Wisconsin Supts. Gene Palrud, Supt.

October 14 Glendale Country Club. Clarence Mueller, Supt.

November Annual Meeting-November 12-Cyprus Inn Hinsdale, Ill.

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



# IRRIGATION CHECKLIST

- ✓ AUTOMATIC VALVE-CONTROLS
- ✓ POP-UP SPRINKLERS
- ✓ PVC PIPE FITTING
- ✓ PUMPS
- ✓ REPAIR SLEEVES - PARTS
- ✓ J-M - MOODY - GRISWOLD -  
THOMPSON - SAFE-T-LAWN
- ✓ COMPLETE DESIGN SERVICE



## SPRINKLER IRRIGATION SUPPLY COMPANY

DIVISION OF A. J. MILLER, INC.

50 YEARS OF SERVICE

1738 Armitage Court, Addison, Illinois 60101  
312 - 629-7730



**Cleary  
Products for  
Better  
Turf**

### Fungicides

#### 3336 Turf Fungicide

A broad spectrum systemic fungicide that prevents and controls all six major turf diseases.

#### Bromosan Turf Fungicide

The newest broad spectrum systemic fungicide for those persistent trouble areas.

#### Caddy

#### PMAS (10%)

#### Spotrete

#### Granular Turf Fungicide

#### Cad-Trete

### Herbicides

#### MCPP

#### MCPP Plus 2,4-D

#### Methar 80

#### Methar 30

#### AMA Plus 2,4-D

#### AMA (Super Methar)

### Specialties

#### All Wet

#### Clear Spray

#### Tru-Green

#### Grass-Greenzit

**W-A-CLEARY**  
CORPORATION

P.O. Box 10, Somerset, N.J. 08873

## ROSEMAN

2620 CRAWFORD AVE. 864-1842  
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS

### TURF EQUIPMENT HEADQUARTERS

ROSEMAN GANG MOWERS

TILLER RAKES

SNOW PLOWS

SEEDERS

ROTO TILLERS

FORD TRACTORS

DEDOES AERIFIER

LOADERS

LEAF MULCHERS

ROTARY MOWERS

SALES ● SERVICE ● PARTS ● RENTALS

Long years ago I read a poem by Douglas Malloch that summarizes the spirit required by a vigorous and productive society:

*If you can't be a pine on the top of the hill,  
Be a scrub in the valley—but be  
The best little scrub by the side of the rill;  
Be a bush if you can't be a tree.*

*If you can't be a highway, then just be a trail;  
If you can't be the sun, be a star;  
It isn't by size that you win or fail —  
Be the best of whatever you are.*