

THE BULL SHEET, official publication of the
MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE
SUPERINTENDENTS.

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

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

Bull Sheet printed by Ever-Redi Printing, La Grange,
Illinois 60525. Phone: 312-352-4378.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

One statement that can never be said about the profession of golf turf management, is that your day by day involvement tends to lean toward a monotonous routine. Mother Nature is really mixing her pitches with superb finesse; threw us a terrific drop by sending the frost down five feet, came right back with a few raise balls that swooped the mercury up into the 90's real early in the ball game. Right as of now she seems to be keeping away from the spit ball because my irrigation pumps haven't stopped humming for quite some time. It's really only about the second or third inning of the ball game and I can't help but wonder, what in the world will the rest of the game be like if she keeps up at her present pace. To be able to predict the outcome of the next inning would ruin the whole game, equally as well as it would ruin our profession, if just one of us could figure out ahead of time what we will be doing two days from now. Keep your head down and swing easy!!!

The M.A.G.C.S. Board of Directors has unanimously decided to incorporate our August monthly meeting with the Third Annual Illinois Turfgrass Foundation Golf Days. In doing so we wish to demonstrate our Associations total support to this exceptionally fine cause. Dr. Turgeon and the University of Illinois are people working to further research for better turf -- our turf. I think it is only right that we show our appreciation. Don't forget!! Indian Lakes Country Club, August 22, 1977.

Carl G. Hopphan

MAGCS BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 1977

OFFICERS

President — Carl Hopphan
First Vice President — Carl Grassl, CGCS
Second Vice President — Cliff Behrendt
Secretary-Treasurer — Joe Grenko

DIRECTORS

Ed Fischer	Don Hoffman
Peter Voykin	David Meyer
Robert Siebert	Fred Opperman
Executive Secretary — Dorothy Warren	

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

Clifford Behrendt	(815) 459-8570
Dorothy H. Warren	974-1121
Ed Fischer, CGCS	654-2211
Carl Grassl, CGCS	823-8682
Joe Grenko	634-0100
Carl Hopphan	892-3600
Don Hoffman	448-5544
David Meyer	529-4303
Fred Opperman, CGCS - Emeritus	469-6220
Robert Siebert	355-9807
Peter Voykin	798-4927

Dear Paul, Mike and Bob:

Certainly enjoyed our luncheon last week. Both the food and company were great!

It's good to hear the superintendents' side of the story, since I usually talk only to the architect. It's obvious that Chicago is blessed with some of the best superintendents in the country and I look forward to a continuing relationship.

Paul Fullmer
Executive Secretary
American Society of Golf Course Architects
221 North La Salle Street
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Jeff Kollenkark has just completed a M.S. thesis testing Roundup in numerous experiments. The attached information is extracted from his thesis.

W. H. Daniel
Turf Specialist

PLEASE NOTE:
MIDWEST TURF FIELD DAY
26 SEPT. 77
PURDUE UNIVERSITY
LAYFAYETTE, IN 47907
W. H. DANIEL & R. P. FREEBORG

ROUNDUP - NEW AID FOR GOLF COURSE CARE

Roundup may be the new tool you have been waiting for. Its slow "kill all" action, along with its short activity span after application make it desirable.

Roundup® (glyphosate) is a new non-selective herbicide released by Monsanto Company. Work done at Purdue University by W. H. Daniel and Jeff Kollenkark demonstrated its value in turf renovation. Once in the soil it is inactivated and so has no effect on germination of newly seeded grasses. It can also be used in hydroseeding operations with the chemical mixed in the spray tank with the new seed. Though Roundup may have a high cost per gallon, the effectiveness of relatively low rates make it economical to use. One gallon, for example, could be used to kill the vegetation in up to four acres, depending on the weed species to be controlled.

Sites infested with either hard to kill perennial weeds or grass species that are quite disease susceptible could be readily renovated with Roundup. Those sites may include small areas, entire fairways, or just areas to be cleared off for a nursery. This herbicide could be the answer to annual and perennial weed control in those problem areas. Daniel and Kollenkark found that with the recommended rate of 1-2# ai/A glyphosate, complete kill could be expected in approximately ten days.

Heavy thatch was found to be a barrier to the establishment of new seedlings. Therefore, before seeding, removal of enough thatch to allow soil-seed contact is suggested. In order to allow time for translocation to all parts of the existing vegetation, seeding should not be done for three to five days after application with Roundup. Seeding with a desired blend of grasses can be done any time after this waiting period. Incorporation of the seed with a vertical rake or Jacobsen seeder is suggested. From here, you water and watch it grow.

There are some things to be aware of. This is not a preemergence chemical since it has no soil activity, so new weeds may germinate and infest the site. Because of the potential weed problem, renovation in early fall is recommended. The early fall seeding will give adequate time for the grass to reach mowing height before snowfall. Also, because either soil or iron in water can inactivate the glyphosate, one should avoid using 'dirty' or 'rusty' looking water. Hard water with high amounts of calcium does not affect Roundup's performance.

There are many practical uses for this herbicide, especially where a complete kill is desired. Roundup can be used as a directed spray to edge traps, spray around drains, trees, walks, paths, etc. This may save the cost of hours of hand labor, certainly a desirable feature in this day of rapidly increasing costs.

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

GRASS-CEL — Paving Blocks

Research has placed
BenSun (A-34) Kentucky
Bluegrass in a class by itself!

RATED FIRST FOR WEAR TOLERANCE
RATED FIRST FOR SHADE TOLERANCE
RATED HIGH IN DISEASE RESISTANCE

BenSun (A-34) Kentucky bluegrass was the only bluegrass, out of 18 tested, to receive an excellent rating, for wear tolerance on golf courses. This test was conducted by a leading university doing turfgrass research. BenSun (A-34) is also rated first for shade tolerance (up to 65%) and near the top in disease resistance.

It grows vigorously in shade, sun, cool and warm climates, high and low altitudes, poor soil and even sand.

Write for more detailed information, a list of golf courses now using BenSun (A-34) and the research ratings referred to above.

Penncross Bentgrass available as sod.
C-7 and C-15 available as sod and Stolons.

BenSun (A-34) **KENTUCKY**
BLUEGRASS

Available as Sod, Sod Plugs and Seed

Warren's
TURF NURSERY, INC.

8400 West 111th. Street
Palos Park, Illinois 60464
Phone: 312/974-3000

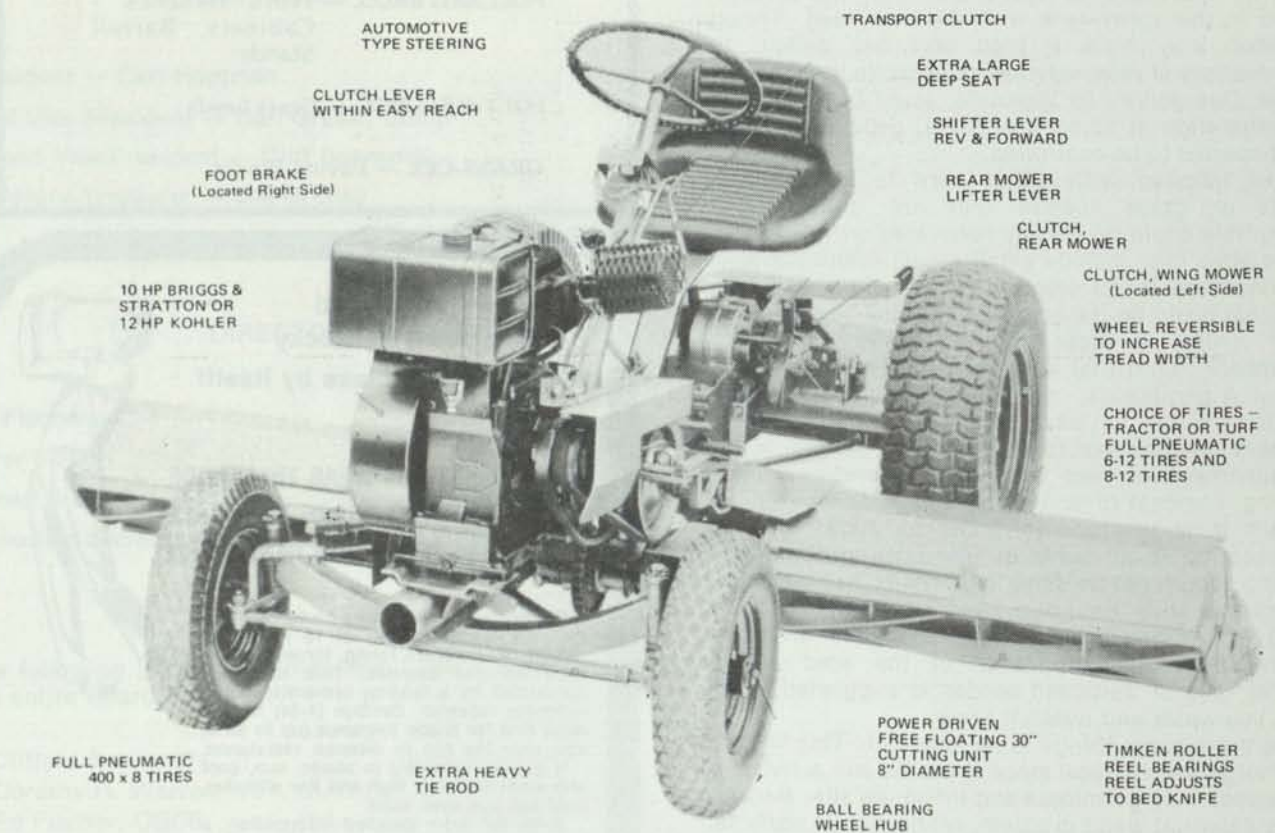




NATIONAL
**84 Inch
 Triplex
 Mower**

**No frills.
 Just performance and durability.**

A functionally designed commercial mower. It is built to operate continuously eight hours a day right through the season. Servicing is simple. The engine comes off with four bolts; the tires, the clutches and all other adjustments are readily accessible. It's a natural for hill work with the widest track and lowest center of gravity of any of the Triplex mowers. The unit is geared so that the engine will operate at one half to three quarters throttle to give long engine life.



AUTOMOTIVE
 TYPE STEERING

CLUTCH LEVER
 WITHIN EASY REACH

FOOT BRAKE
 (Located Right Side)

10 HP BRIGGS &
 STRATTON OR
 12 HP KOHLER

FULL PNEUMATIC
 400 x 8 TIRES

EXTRA HEAVY
 TIE ROD

TRANSPORT CLUTCH

EXTRA LARGE
 DEEP SEAT

SHIFTER LEVER
 REV & FORWARD

REAR MOWER
 LIFTER LEVER

CLUTCH,
 REAR MOWER

CLUTCH, WING MOWER
 (Located Left Side)

WHEEL REVERSIBLE
 TO INCREASE
 TREAD WIDTH

CHOICE OF TIRES -
 TRACTOR OR TURF
 FULL PNEUMATIC
 6-12 TIRES AND
 8-12 TIRES

POWER DRIVEN
 FREE FLOATING 30"
 CUTTING UNIT
 8" DIAMETER

BALL BEARING
 WHEEL HUB

TIMKEN ROLLER
 REEL BEARINGS
 REEL ADJUSTS
 TO BED KNIFE

Call your Davis salesman!

George A. Davis, Inc.

5440 NORTHWEST HIGHWAY, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60630 • 312-763-6363

"AN ALLEGED CHARACTER ASSASSINATION IN LAWRENCE, KANSAS"

In a recent letter to the editor of the **Bull Sheet**, Mr. Ted Woehrle suggested that my analysis and conclusions in an article titled, "Motherhood, Apple Pie and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America" were fallacious and that I was misconstruing the financial reports. He also wrote that those who use sophisticated concepts such as "Cost-Benefit Ratio" and "Management by Objectives" should first understand these principles, however, Mr. Woehrle never defined these terms in his letter since he has no understanding or training in this academic area. Therefore I will clear the air (to use his terminology) on two basic points, first my qualifications to use this approach and second to describe why the total revenue figure of \$754,260.38 was used and not the dues figure of \$250,306.52 as suggested by Mr. Woehrle.

Mr. Woehrle's comments indicate that he was unable to comprehend my article and respond correctly to the questions that I raised. He simply substituted financial statistics from the headquarter staff that are meaningless unless they are placed within the proper context. However, my analysis is an attempt to measure the efficiency of an associations' management activities and compare yearly progression, thus establishing a complete planning and evaluation process that could be understood by the membership, currently we are lacking in this area.

Unlike Mr. Woehrle I do not wish to place my credentials in print but since he raised the point I will now list them:

A. Education

- 1.) B.A. Economics, Illinois Benedictine College
- 2.) M.A. Economics, University of Illinois

B. Employment

- 1.) College instructor at Illinois Benedictine College teaching the following courses:
 - a. Economic Theory
 - b. Accounting
 - c. Comparative Economic Systems
 - d. International Trade
 - e. International Finance
 - f. Money and Banking
 - g. Business Finance
- 2.) Instructor at Institute for Management - (Institute for Middle Managers in Business)
 - a. Managerial Economics
 - b. Social Economics
- 3.) Industrial Engineer at Boeing Company in Program Planning Area
- 4.) Auditor during a two year term in the U.S. Army
- 5.) Business Research analyst at Northern Illinois Gas Company
- 6.) Manager of Price and Contracts for Rego Manufacturing Company
- 7.) Golf Course Superintendent at Naperville C.C.

As Mr. Woehrle will now realize that I am capable of not only understanding sophisticated words but also of placing them in the proper context.

I will now describe why it is appropriate to use the total revenue figure of \$754,260.38 and not the dues figure of \$250,306.52 as proposed by Mr. Woehrle. In my Cost-Benefit Analysis, the objective was to measure the efficiency of the G.C.S.A.A. staff in accomplishing the objectives of both distributing membership services and also of increasing the available "funds" through the equipment shows, advertising and other revenue sources. Is not a staff that brings in one million dollars more efficient than one that brings in \$750,000? This is the major point that Mr. Woehrle completely forgot (I am rather nice and will not say that he didn't understand it) and a point that his analysis would never identify. We must also understand that the percentage of each expense category would change as the total amount of available funds fluctuate. My analysis if employed and expanded could establish a Budgetary format that could dispense excess funds when available and identify which areas would be reduced if funds are decreased. I will not bore you with further statistical data but only hope that you understand that my approach is valid and would be of great assistance in increasing the efficiency of the G.C.S.A.A. or any other organization.

In my concluding remarks I will only state that I chose to be a Golf Course Superintendent because I enjoy the profession and unlike Mr. Woehrle I have no political aspiration or axes to grind but I am only interested in helping the less fortunate Superintendents who did not have the educational benefits that I received. I will continue to speak out and push for additional benefits and regional communications to advance the status of the Superintendent and I only hope that Mr. Woehrle and his board of directors realize that the younger superintendents will no longer listen to excuses and demand action in the areas of benefits and status. I also must warn Mr. Woehrle that I do not consider him a formidable debate opponent, however I do not wish to enter into a personality conflict since I feel this is below me. All individuals should indeed have the opportunity to state their opinion, however, we should realize that this is simply "opinion" and not "fact".

Robert E. Siebert
Golf Course Superintendent
Naperville Country Club

[Editor's Note: There will be no further discussion on this subject by The Bullsheet].

MIDWEST MEETING DATES

July 18 -	Aurora
August 22 -	Indian Lakes
	Joint Meeting I.T.F.
September -	
October -	
November 19 -	River Forest Dinner Dance

NATIONAL CHEMSEARCH CORP.

222 South Central Ave.
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

FOR THE FINEST IN SOD

THORNTON'S TURF NURSERY

312 - 742-5030

Rt. 2 Box 72

Elgin, Ill.

IT IS FINALLY SUMMERTIME!

Contact TORO for any of your springtime needs —

- grass seed
- fertilizer
- fungicides
- herbicides
- insecticides.

Pond and lake water is beginning to warm up — now is the time to apply an aquatic chemical to keep weeds and algae under control.



Model 3400
30'' Hedge Trimmer
Wt. 13 lbs. [with engine]

New to our equipment line is The Green Machine. It is a nylon cord grass and weed trimmer with a variety of attachments. All you have to do is remove four bolts from the engine and remount. This can be accomplished in less than 15 minutes. Ask your salesman for a demonstration.



TORO DISTRIBUTING — CHICAGO

731 District Drive
Itasca, Illinois 60143
(312) 773-2110

PRECISION BLENDED TOP DRESSING

Custom blended to your specifications
by our modern equipment.

*Buy when you need —
Eliminate costly storage*

We sell an air dried, uniform and
free flowing top dressing.

ASK THE MAN WHO HAS USED IT.

HUMUS — BLACK SOIL

HENRY FRENZER

Area Code 312
658-5303

620 Webster St.
Algonquin, Ill.
60102

ACTI-DIONE® in your Tees Greens Fairways Program



**These proven turf fungicides
help prevent or eradicate**

Leafspot Dollarspot Melting-out
Fading-out Rust Brown Patch
Pink Patch Powdery Mildew

Distributed by
Turf Products, Ltd.
Toro Distributing

DIVISION OF THE UPJOHN COMPANY

PURR-WICK UPDATE

At least 340 Purrr-Wick greens are in use in 17 states and Canada according to update of 1 June 77.

In Colorado, the desire was to have extra water present when warm drying windy period occur in late winter. The same applies in the plains areas in Canada. In the southeast, the desire is to get drainage and reduce Pythium and wet wilt potential for bentgrass. In California, water conservation is accentuated, and 37% less water applied was achieved on Purrr-Wick. In the midwest, the desire is to modify the problems of hot humid weather changes.

Besides 340 greens, at least 140 tees are installed. The ease of watering and isolation from tree roots are benefits. Also, the updated list shows 125 flower beds, vegetable gardens, roof garden containers, and greenhouse benches. The first Purrr-Wick was build in 1968.

Purrr-Wick greens known in use as of 1 June 77 - W. H. Daniel

Ala. 13	Ill. 51	Tenn. 1
Ark. 1	Kan. 9	Utah 12
Col. 36	Ky. 44	Wash. 11
Cal. 3	Mo. 46	W. Va. 1
Ga. 9	N.C. 4	Wisc. 2
Ind. 95	Ore. 1	Canada 2

Total in 17 states and Canada.....340

Movement (siphoning effect) as unsaturated soil moisture flows over dividers at low (0-40cm) tension in the sand above barriers of the Purrr-Wick method of constructing rootzones for putting greens is being studied by Purdue graduate student, John M. Roberts. Models containing dune sand (50% med. and 50% fine) were filled to 45 cm, in which dividers of 40 cm and 20 cm were tested. Based on data obtained, building with dividers to near the final surface is currently suggested. Most of the first 300 Purrr-Wick greens built with low dividers need to have the dividers exposed, then a strip of plastic added to extend the divider upward, which will minimize the movement between compartments. The barriers have already been raised in one green in California, as well as in some in Indiana. This gives a balance of water within compartments. The procedure involves finding and following the barrier, removing the sod, taking out the sand, extending the barrier, then replacing the sand as a one-day project.

BOJO TURF SUPPLY CO.

ALL MAJOR TURF SUPPLIES

BoJo

TURF
SUPPLY CO.

- PAR-EX
- Vertagreen
- Du Pont
- Diamond Shamrock
- Sand Blasters
- Cyclones
- Fore Par

R R 1, Box 52
Peotone, Ill.
312-258-3485

We're the
**WATER MOVING
SPECIALISTS ...**
and we'll help you
put it all together

**We've
got systems**

An engineering staff
to consult with you
on irrigation systems design
& specifications,
and budget estimates.

**We've
got supplies**

The largest
selection & stock
in the midwest:

PIPE & FITTINGS:

PVC • Sewer & Drain (Corr.)
Polyethylene • Galvanized
Copper • Aluminum

Pressure Reg. Valves • Elec. Valves
Pressure & Flow Switches
Controllers

PUMPS & PUMPING STATIONS

EXCLUSIVE FRANCHISED DISTRIBUTOR

RAIN BIRD®

Century Rain Aid

WHOLESALE DISTRIBUTORS

341 Lively Blvd., Elk Grove Vill., Ill. 60007
(312) 640-6660

22159 Telegraph, Southfield, Mich. 48075
(313) 358-2992

3890 W. 11 Mile Rd., Berkley, Mich. 48072
(313) 543-7730

LABOR-**SAVING** GRASSES



GLADE KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS

- Does Great in Sun Or 60% Shade
- Excellent Disease Resistance to Powdery Mildew - Stripe Smut - Leafspot - Rust
- Quick Recovery - Fast Germinating

Adelphi

KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS

- Low Growing - Tolerates Close Mowing
- Greens Up Earlier in Spring - Stays Green Longer In Fall
- Great Resistance To Disease

CITATION

FINE LEAF PERENNIAL RYEGRASS

- Performs Great In Hot, Humid Areas
- Improved Mowing Qualities
- Blends Well With All Other Grasses

FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION AND
TEST RESULTS WRITE TO:

the **VAUGHAN-JACKLIN** corporation

5300 Katrine Avenue, Downers Grove, Illinois 60515, (312) 969-6300

WAREHOUSES LOCATED IN:

Bound Brook, New Jersey • Landover, Maryland • Ovid and
Grand Ledge, Michigan • Spokane, Washington

**Clearly
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.

Spectro A combination contact and systemic which controls dollar spot, copper spot, brown patch, and leaf spot.

**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-CLEARLY CHEMICAL
CORPORATION

1049 Somerset Street, Somerset, NJ 08873
(201) 247-8000



Editor

MIDWEST BREEZES

On May 28, 1977 Anthony Austin Meyer weighed in at 6 lbs. and 8 ozs. and came to live with **David and Penny Meyer**, 5826 Main, Lisle, IL 60532. Congratulations!

We are sorry to receive the news that **Cliff Behrendt**, Supt. at Turnberry C.C., is in the hospital in Rockford at this date. We all hope it is for only a short period of time. And, a speedy recovery, so we can go fishing.

It is reported that **Roy Nelson** is recovering from his illness. This is good news and we hope he will soon be walking the fairways at Ravisloe C.C.

The June 6th M.A.G.C.S. meeting at Beverly C.C. was enjoyed by eighty-six members. Although the attendance was not as large as usual, I am sure everyone enjoyed this meeting. Those that played golf reported the golf course in magnificent condition. This was made possible thru the know how and watchful eye of Supt. **Paul Frankowski**. We all congratulate you, Paul.

The old saying is one is never too old to learn and this holds true in the game of golf. I was sitting at a table with three men who had finished their eighteen holes and was enjoying hearing about their pars and birdies. This editor has chased that white ball around for over sixty years and part of these rounds had been at Beverly during the years that Bob Williams was the super. So from experience I know pars and birdies don't come on every hole, or ever other hole. After checking the score card with the names **Art Jr.**, **Vic** and **Pete** on it I hesitated a little and found the total score was OK. However, they had used a ladies score card. It does make a difference what score card one has used when it comes to pars and birdies.

Nearly two years ago the **Bull Sheet** carried an article pertaining to the transition of fairway turfgrass from Kentucky blue grass, to a creeping bent strain. Nearly two years later the editor visited St. Charles C.C. and was given a tour by **Pete Leuzinger**, Supt. and retiring super **Art Benson, Sr.** I found the turfgrass in excellent condition. It would be almost impossible to get a bad lie on the fairways. Naturally, I am sure no one expected to find one hundred percent bent grass turf in this short period of time. And doing it in a way that it does not interfere with the golfer. Progress in on the way, patience is very important.

"RED LEAF SPOT CONTROL IN CREEPING BENTGRASS"

Red leaf spot (*H. erythrospilum*) has been a disease problem since 1973, or perhaps earlier on Washington (C50) and unimproved strains of Toronto (C15) creeping bentgrass. In 1974, a cooperative study by Dr. W. A. Meyer, then research director at Warren's Turf Nursery and Dr. A. J. Turgeon, assistant professor in ornamental horticulture at the University of Illinois, gave much needed insight into the control of the disease using fungicides. Their conclusions were that weekly applications of chlorothalonil (Daconil) or alternate applications of chlorothalonil and anilazine (Dyrene) at 6 ounces per 1,000 square feet provided good control of the disease. Greatest recovery of severely diseased turf occurred where fungicides were used in conjunction with early spring fertilization; however, initiation of a fungicide - fertilization program in July on severely thinned turf did not result in satisfactory recovery during the growing season.

This past year, a new red leaf spot study was initiated by F. Berns, research director at Warren's Turf Nursery, Dr. M. C. Shurtleff, professor in plant pathology, and Dr. A. J. Turgeon, associate professor in ornamental horticulture at the University of Illinois. Chlorothalonil (Daconil) and anilazine (Dyrene) were applied at different rates with various concentrations of water. The experiment was started in early May on a severely diseased practice green with two of the treatments starting in late June and early September. The treatments were randomized and replicated three times with the grass being maintained at 1/4 inch and with water applied as needed. The plots (8 feet by 10 feet) were divided into a low fertility (5 pounds of nitrogen per year) and a high fertility area (10 pounds of nitrogen per year).

Based on the data obtained, the following combinations were made. Daconil at 3 or 6 ounces per 1,000 square feet applied on a weekly basis from early May to late September, gives excellent control of red leaf spot on 'Toronto' creeping bentgrass. Twenty gallons of water per 1,000 square feet resulted in turfgrass that had superior green color and density than where only 10 and 5 gallons were applied per 1,000 square feet with 3 or 6 ounces of Daconil. Daconil (3 or 6 ounces) and Dyrene (3 or 6 ounces) rotating on a weekly basis, starting in early May, did not give as good control as did Daconil applied alone on a weekly basis. Turfgrass recovery was consistently better when a high rate of nitrogen was applied (10 pounds per season as compared to 5 pounds) at about 4 to 6 week intervals starting in May.

Nels J. Johnson, Tree Experts, Inc.

SINCE 1930

Complete, economical tree service for Private Estates, Parks, Municipalities, Golf Courses Cemeteries, Schools, Industrial Areas.

All phases of Arboriculture, Diagnosing, Pruning, Treating, Transplanting, Fertilization, Hydraulic and Mist Spraying, Removals, Stump, Routing, Municipal Forestry.

— FULLY INSURED —

GRADUATE FORESTERS • LICENSED ARBORISTS

MAIN OFFICE: 912 Pitner Avenue, Evanston, Illinois

Phones: GR eenleaf 5-1877 — GR 5-5255

Hinsdale, Illinois — FA 5-0970

WILL THIS BE A DRY SUMMER?

Following on the heels of a dry summer and a cold, dry winter, it is interesting to speculate on what is in store for us this summer. Will the already low water levels continue to drop in wells? Or will we have enough rainfall to recharge moisture deficient soils?

According to James A. Fizzell, University of Illinois Extension Horticulturist, things may be better this spring and summer than some weathermen have been forecasting.

Using Illinois temperature and precipitation records for the last 80 years, the Illinois State Water Survey is predicting chances are good that there will be plenty of rain this spring to recharge the moisture-short soils.

And, they add, it will be a nice summer, with temperatures about normal and rainfall above normal.

"There is about a 70 percent chance of the weather coming out like this," according to Fizzell. "Of course, there is also a 30 percent chance of it not coming out this way."

Some gardeners in the state probably will experience dry conditions. Even in a wet year, there are pockets of drouth, but generally, it looks good.

Fizzell explained that the Survey bases its forecast on years that most closely resemble the previous season. For example, the summer of 1973 was used to forecast the winter of 1973-74 by examining temperature and rainfall statistics of summers that were similar to the summer of 1973.

The forecast was for a mild and wet winter, which proved accurate. They did the same thing with statistics from the winter of 1975-76 to accurately forecast the summer of 1976.

Two winters closely resembled the winter of 1976-77, according to the survey. Those were the winters of 1892-93 and 1917-18. Both included below normal temperatures and insufficient moisture for most of the season.

December and January of all three winters registered below-average cold, ranging from the 15 degrees below normal in January of this year, to 12 below in January of 1893. It was colder than normal in March of 1893, but a little warmer than normal in 1918. But April and May of both of those years were cooler than normal.

Precipitation records show below-normal moisture in December and January of all three winters. March 1893 had normal rainfall but it was below normal in March 1918. It has been above normal so far this month. April and May also were wet months in 1893 and 1918, according to records.

The best outlook is for cool temperatures and heavy rainfalls. Analyses over the last 80 years would indicate normal to above normal rainfall this spring and summer. If I were gambling, I'd go with wet conditions, said Fizzell.

A soil moisture survey in February indicated below normal soil moisture levels. The rainfall during the last two weeks has raised levels in many areas to near normal and if precipitation continues, soils should be at capacity by the time gardening season gets into full swing.

James A. Fizzell
Extension Adviser, Horticulture
Cooperative Extension Service

Nutrient deficiencies, weeds, diseases, thin turf, insects.

For the superintendent
who has everything . . . or
anything . . . or who just wants
to make a good thing better . . .
ProTurf offers research tested,
golf course proven professional
turf products.

Just give me a call.

Scotts
ProTurf

A division of
O. M. Scott & Sons

Bill Brazeau
3 Willowcourt
Bolingbrook, Ill. 60439
Ph: 312 - 739-7077

Jerry O'Donnell
Rt. 2 - S. Hill Road
DeForest, Wis. 53532
Ph: 608-846-3629

Bill Keneipp
1785 Hinsdale Dr.
Decatur, Ill 62526
Ph: 217 - 877-5929

