

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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At last another season has almost come and gone. Looking back, nature has again been herself, giving us many surprises at times we had planned for something else. All in all, I think we came through it all in fine shape.

As we tend to the last few chores before putting the course to rest for the winter, we all hope to settle back and relax a little. One tends at times to relax too much, as September and October can produce some surprising results in weather and temperature. If we do not keep our guard, trouble can be right around the corner. The same with November, the last two years many of us missed our winter fungicide treatment. With this thought I will leave you to your duties hopefully prepared for all Mother Nature can hand out.

Joe Grenko

THE ILLINOIS TURFGRASS FOUNDATION proudly announces that the annual CONFERENCE will be in conjunction with a TRADE SHOW and will all be held under one roof - that of the RAMADA INN, 1501 South Neil Street, Champaign, Illinois. The date set for this big conference is December 12th, 13th and 14th, 1978. Plan now to attend.

Dear Ray;

It's nice to look forward to a little relaxation.

"FESTIVITY"

October brings Octoberfest
And that's a pleasant fact.
It gives us time to chat and say,
Yes! I will drink to that.
Time to renew acquaintances,
To share a bit of time.
To talk about the Summer past,
Troubles, yours and mine.
Shorter days and lighter play,
Time to get things done.
It's also time and don't forget,
Squeeze in a little fun.
Perhaps a few good frosty Morn's,
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Halloween to top it off,
And pumpkin pie to please.

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THE AUDIENCE WAS WELL PREPARED

When Mark Twain was on the lecture tour, he arrived in a small Texas town, one afternoon, and was disappointed to find that no promotion of his engagement was in evidence—no billboards, no posters, no newspaper ads, nothing!

To see if the townspeople might be aware of his appearance, he walked into a grocery store and asked the proprietor, "Tell me, friend, is there any entertainment here tonight to help a stranger pass the time?"

The grocer said, "Well, I expect there's going to be a lecture. I've been selling eggs all day."

131 WORK DAYS REQUIRED TO PAY TAXES

The average American will work until May 11 to support government; he or she will have worked the first 131 days of this year just to pay federal, state and local taxes.

Calculated another way, compensation received for two hours and 52 minutes out of every eight hour work day goes directly for taxes.

That leaves the time from May 12 until December 31 for Americans to work for themselves.

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**THERE ARE MANY
MURPHY'S LAWS—
ALL (SOB) TRUE**

DEAR ANN LANDERS: Since you have already printed some variations on Murphy's Law, perhaps you ought to go full circle and give your readers the story from the beginning.

Ever since C. Northcote Parkinson established his famous law of bureaucratic growth—namely, work expands in order to accommodate the time allotted to it—several administrators have been inspired to establish laws of their own to explain why human beings behave the way they do. I hope you will share their laws with your readers.

Problems day after day can become tiresome, even to a dedicated soul like you. A change of pace will refresh your spirit.

(1) Chisholm's First Law of Human Interaction: If anything can go wrong, it will.

(2) When things are going well, expect something to explode, erode, collapse or disappear.

(3) When you've come to the conclusion that things can't possibly get any worse, you will be proven wrong.

(4) Your motives for doing whatever good deed you may have in mind will be interpreted differently by somebody.

(5) If you explain something so clearly that nobody could possibly misunderstand, somebody will.

(6) Once a job is fouled up, anything done to improve it will only make it worse.

(7) When too much emphasis is placed on delegation, responsibility, like sediment, sinks to the bottom.

(8) The length of discussion of any item in a proposed budget will be in inverse proportion to the amount of its cost. (Example: A decision to spend \$8 million on real estate will be reached within three minutes or less. A \$2,000 difference in the type of wastebaskets will be argued for five hours.)

Unfailing Law of Second-Ratedness:

(1) Never be first to do anything.

(2) Under controlled conditions, organisms do as they damned well please.

(3) All things being equal, you are bound to lose.

(4) The planning for the summer "quiet period" must be based on the actual time after July 4 and the onset of Labor Day, which is two weeks.

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A POTENTIAL FOR A BUG BOOM IS ALWAYS THERE

Insects are chewing, piercing, sucking, lapping, and in general munching and crunching their way through a variety of plant and animal life at this time of the year.

It appears that insect populations have exploded this year, but actually, there's really no way of taking an insect census. However, we are witnessing grasshopper outbreaks in the western areas of the United States and Africa, Japanese beetle hordes in eastern half of the U.S., and in Chicago, the mosquitoes are about ready to drive people crazy. It's difficult to enjoy an evening outside without slapping yourself silly.

Where do all these insects come from? There is no doubt that the great reproductive capacity of the insect is what makes them so successful. Research literature reports that Illinois forest soils to a depth of 18 inches shows an average frequency of 65 million insects to the acre. From extensive trapping experiments estimated is an average insect population of about 1.85 million per square mile in the morning and about 11,000 per acre or 7 million per square mile in the evening.

Now, if you compare this to other animals on the earth's surface, there is an average of one person for each 16 acres of dry land, two horses, mules, cows, sheep, hogs, and chickens combined per acre of land in the U.S., and an average of three birds per acre in Illinois fields during the summer months.

Aside from the insects' great reproductive powers, their size, strength, adaptability, and persistence to complete work all add greatly to their overall success. More than 70 of all the animal species in the world are insects. In fact, if you took all the insects in the world and placed them on one side of a scale and placed all of the other animal matter on the earth on the other side, the insects would outweigh all other animal matter combined.

So, when someone asks, "Why the great surge of insect pests this year?" ... the answer is easy. The potential for overly abundant insect population is always there.

The environmental conditions dictate how many. Insects love higher temperatures and humidities coupled with plenty of rain water. Add an abundant food supply of lush, green foliage or an adequate animal population to feed off, depending on the insect species, and you have all the right ingredients for plenty of bugs.

Chicago-area residents this year have been faced with mosquitoes, bees, wasps, aphids, ground beetles, flies, cottony maple scale, bagworms, grub, caterpillars, vine weevils, and the like. Don't think it ends with the cold weather either, your indoor friends will be cuddling up with you this winter—cockroaches, ants, drain flies, pantry pests, crickets, silverfish, termites, and spiders.

Pest-aside
By Stanley Rachesky

To comprehend a man's life, it is necessary to know not merely what he does, but also what he purposely leaves undone. There is a limit to the work that can be got out of a human body or a human brain, and he is a wise man who wastes no energy on pursuits for which he is not fitted; and he is still wiser who, from among the things that he can do well, chooses and resolutely follows the best.

William Gladstone



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...may have been all right once, but it's gone on too long.

Ogden Nash



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CONTROL OF FUNGUS DISEASES ON TURFGRASS

by P. O. Larsen, Associate Professor
Department of Plant Pathology

The Ohio State University and The Ohio Agricultural
Research and Development Center

Control of fungus diseases on turfgrass is a troublesome and expensive problem. There are a number of management practices that can lessen, if not totally prevent the incidence of diseases caused by plant pathogenic fungi. Since fungus spores require moisture for their production and germination, any practice that will lower relative humidity or prevent the prolonged presence of free water on foliage will generally be helpful in controlling many turf diseases. Thinning tree and shrub foliage to reduce shade and increase air movement over turf areas should lower atmospheric humidity and increase evaporation of water from leaf surface. Removal of dew and plant exudates from grass on fairways, greens and tees by syringing or dragging a hose across these areas is frequently practiced by golf course superintendents. Dethatching and aerification are helpful in reducing over-wintering inoculum and improving soil drainage, the latter being particularly important in the control of certain soil borne fungi such as Pythium.

A balanced fertilization program will also do a great deal to minimize the incidence of disease. Generally speaking, a vigorous, healthy plant is less susceptible to attack by disease-causing micro-organisms. Therefore, any management practice which encourages good plant growth will probably aid in disease control.

In some instances, cultural practices are not enough to prevent disease initiation and fungicides are required. One needs to answer several questions before deciding what fungicide to use in a disease control program: What is the disease? What fungicides are effective against the disease and which ones are available? What is the cost of the fungicides that are known to be effective on a per unit area basis at the recommended rate?

The disease type will frequently determine whether systemic or contact fungicides should be used. Presently, systemic fungicides are more effective than contact fungicides for the control of Fusarium blight and striped smut. However, there are no systemic fungicides that are known to control Helminthosporium leaf spot or melting out. Similarly, only contact fungicides are currently available for control of Pythium blight. In some instances, as with Sclerotinia dollar spot, both systemic and contact fungicides are available for control of a disease. The choice of fungicides in this situation should not be made solely on the price of the chemical per pound of packaged weight, but rather on the amount of material needed per unit area and the duration of time for which the fungicide will be effective. Even though most systemic fungicides are generally more expensive per pound, they usually are applied at lower rates and are effective for longer periods of time.

Another consideration in the choice of fungicides is the possibility of treating more than one disease with a single fungicide when there is overlap of diseases. By carefully examining the labels of fungicides and personally observing their performances regarding disease control, it may be possible to save time and money at certain times of the growing season by using a single fungicide to control more than one disease. In these situations, one should take note of whether the fungicide rates applied are adequate for control of all components of the disease complex. For example, the

rate of systemic fungicide necessary to effectively control Fusarium blight is about 3-4 times higher than that needed for Sclerotinia dollar spot, whereas similar rates of several commercially available contact fungicides are effective against both Helminthosporium leaf spot and dollar spot.

The decision as to whether to treat a disease on a preventive or an "as needed" (curative) basis is governed by several factors. A primary concern usually is cost of the material. If there has been no history of a given disease in that area, we could certainly not recommend the indiscriminate use of a fungicide, or any pesticide, where they are not needed. Pythium blight is an example of a disease which is generally treated on a curative basis, since incidence of the disease is not always certain every year even though an area may have a history of the disease. Fungicides that are presently available for Pythium blight control are contact fungicides, usually having a residual property of no longer than a few days to a week. Therefore, effective, practical control of Pythium blight is dependent on daily early morning inspection of the suspected areas and the immediate application of an appropriate fungicide at the first sign of disease.

Helminthosporium leaf spot, Fusarium blight and striped smut are examples of diseases that are extremely difficult to control unless you use a preventive program. This implies that the fungicide is first applied prior to the time when the fungus first becomes active or before disease symptoms appear. Leaf spot is a disease in which spores are produced on the leaves of diseased plants. Since no systemic fungicides are available for leaf spot control, uniform applications of contact fungicides at regular intervals are required to provide continued protection. Fusarium blight and striped smut are both caused by fungi which invade the vascular tissue of plants. This makes disease control difficult after these pathogens have invaded the grass plant. Once symptoms appear on grass infected with the Fusarium blight or striped smut pathogens, it is quite difficult to control the diseases even with systemic fungicides. This observation points to the need for awareness of when these diseases usually occur during a growing season so that fungicides can be applied prior to the initiation of disease activity, but still not so early that unnecessary or premature fungicide application will occur.

Recommendations concerning specific fungicide use for turfgrass diseases can be obtained from Extension Service bulletins available from The Ohio State University.

The preceding comments on disease control are certainly not all-encompassing, but they are intended to aid in making decisions concerning the use of fungicides for controlling turfgrass diseases.

September Issue, *Divots*
Editor, E.J. Sylvester

A chap who spent most of Sunday in front of his television set watching one football game after another finally fell asleep there and spent the night in his chair. When his wife arose in the morning she was afraid that he would be late for work. "Get up dear," she said. "It's twenty to seven."

In an instant the man was fully awake. "In whose favor?" he asked.

The Oregon Freemason

LOOK HOMEWARD FOR SUPERS

You are a committee of one, twelve or whatever. And you're looking for a golf course superintendent. So, you place an ad in the national golf and trade magazines and await the arrival of the most important ingredient in your country club operation. Right? Wrong!

"One of the worst things any group seeking a superintendent can do is go out of the area for that person," a veteran member of the profession said during the University of Massachusetts Turf Conference. "It has been proven a thousand times over that the best superintendent is the homegrown superintendent. He knows the lay of the land, so to speak, and more important - he knows the behavioral pattern of that land."

The midwest section of the country has underway a very successful apprentice program for would-be superintendents. Young students of the turf are placed on local courses where they learn the rudiments of the job and concentrate on the properties of the turf, the climate and other factors affecting life of the plant.

"From this warehouse of potential leaders, we get most of our new supers," Bob Williams of Highland Park, Illinois told. "It's just a matter of being practical. You wouldn't hire an Eskimo to be a lifeguard at a beach, would you? It's the same in golf course maintenance. You want the person who is familiar with the grounds to be groomed."

Of course, the analogy is not all that drastic. Certainly, there have been successful transfer superintendents who made the switch from one section of the country to another without incident. But, it stands to reason that a country club is taking some measure of risk with a job candidate whose experience has been concentrated in an area foreign to it in soil makeup, rainfall, temperature and general topography.

Williams tells of one midwestern superintendent - highly skilled and highly regarded by everyone in the region - who suddenly decided that he would try his hand on the West Coast. "The job out there was more for money and a good opportunity for the right man," he disclosed. "But the weather trends, growing conditions and types of plant diseases were altogether different from what this fellow had encountered back where he knew the land. It took him only two years or rather it took the new club that long to realize a mistake had been made. Just think of all the grief, frustration, disappointment and money which would have been saved and avoided had those people hired someone from their immediate area."

The country club employment committee would do well to heed this advice, but Williams also adds that the aspiring superintendent stands to gain from the same situation. There is a tendency for young students of the profession, assistants and others to reach for the moon when they're only equipped with a step ladder. They flock to the national magazines and become addicted to the want ads there. Sooner or later they make their move and the precarious state takes hold.

"Not only do the young ones look for greener pastures, some of the established supers think along the same lines," Williams remarked. "We all have our moments of anger with our present employers, times when we're ready to pitch it all and strike out for new courses and trails to conquer. But hasty decisions - influenced by emotional upheaval - can be killing to a superintendent's future. You know, we are the most secure of the three executive branches of the country club. There is less turnover among supers than either

the club professional or clubhouse manager. That proves, than, that not too many of us go off on a tantrum and escape to supposedly better jobs. The few, who do, often live to regret it."

The key to both job security and efficient course grooming has to be that familiarity with turf, weather, and the rest according to local conditions. And the man who knows the land, is going to be the best man to exploit that land into a well-groomed golf course. This is why super-seeks should look homeward for the best qualified candidate.

Gerry Finn

Credit - News Letter of New England

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You can keep unused pesticides and herbicides for use next year IF you seal and store them properly.

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Learn to laugh with others, and most important, at yourself.

Frank Tyger

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Editor
MIDWEST BREEZES

Another beautiful golf course has been purchased by a large land developer. This time it is the Midwest Golf Club at Downers Grove, Ill. This popular 36 hole course will soon give way to 220 extraordinary private homes. The turfgrass sod on the greens is for sale. The strain is Toronto XC-15 maintained at 1/4 inch. Contact Marv Gruening, Supt. Club Phone 312/654-1320; Home Phone 312/964-3735

Barrington Lakes C.C. at Barrington, IL has had their grand opening on August 21st. It is reported that this new course is in magnificent condition made possible by the know-how of Supt. **John West**.

The August 21st meeting of the Midwest Assoc. of Golf Course Supts. and Illinois Turfgrass Foundation held at Indian Lakes C.C. was a great success. 109 played golf on a course in top condition made possible by the efforts of Supt. **Dave Meyer** and **Jose Gonzales**. Over 200 enjoyed a wonderful buffet dinner. Numerous prizes were distributed because of the experience in buying by **Alby Staudt**. The net proceeds are not available at this date.

Indian Lakes is in the process of building a 300 room hotel on the Iclub property. This club is owned by Carson Pirie Scott & Co. who also own the Nordic Hills C.C.

Craig Marfia, former Supt. at Lincolnshire C.C. has resigned and taken position as Supt. at Ridge C.C.

Jim Odle, assistant at Lincolnshire C.C. has become head Supt. left vacant by resignation of Craig.

There is at times considerable conversation about changing Kentucky bluegrass fairway turf to bentgrass. This editor's recommendation to any golf club anticipating a project such as this is that they have a good automatic irrigation system and ample water for distribution when ever it is required. **This is a must.**

The second advice is do not expect to have one hundred percent bentgrass turf in one year or three years. You may have seventy-five percent in five to seven years if the poa annua does not take over in this period of time. A considerable amount of planning should go into a project such as this before the final decision is made. Have the approval of the membership and the assurance that they will have the patience to go along until the project has been satisfactorily completed. There can be no turning back once the project has been started.

Don Hoffman has accepted the Superintendents position at Timber Trails C.C. Good luck, Don.

The Midwest Golf Course Supts. Association will hold their annual joint meeting with the Wisconsin Golf Course Supts. at Plum Tree National Golf Club, on October 9, 1978. Plum Tree is on route 14 between Harvard, IL and Woodstock, IL. Bring your golf clubs.

CORRECTION

The September issue of the **Bull Sheet** carried a picture of the **Dinelli** family. It should have read, front row, l. to r. - daughter, **Eva**, **Mrs. F. Dinelli**, and birthday man **Frank**. Standing, sons **Jim** and **Joseph**. The **Bull Sheet** is sorry.

"Paul N. Voykin flew to Toronto, Canada August 16 as special guest of Gordon Witteveen's AMERICAN DAY Golf party at his beautiful BOARD OF TRADE C.C. This memorable occasion was held in conjunction with the Ontario Superintendent's Association. Gordon's great outing had many other prominent guests such as Mel Lucas, Andrew Bertoni, Dr. James Watson, James Latham, Robert Moore, Ned Brinkman and several others. The highlight of the whole wonderful day was Eddy Shack's (former great forward for the Toronto Maple Leafs) very articulate Ukrainian speech on Paraquat and it's benefits to greenkeepers. It left everybody completely baffled and puzzled. Paul's reaction to Eddy's unusual presentation (since he was the only one who could understand him) was that this is definitely top notch calibre and should be presented at our National Conference, preferably in keystone spot."

POSITION OPEN

Golf Course Superintendent wanted at **Thorngate Country Club**. This is an 18 hole private club located on the north side of Chicago at Deerfield, Ill. Send resume to **Mr. Jack Rouhier**, Chairman grounds and green committee. Thorngate C.C., 600 Sanders Road, Deerfield, Ill. 60015. Office phone 312/326-8157.

One extreme usually follows another. The golf courses in the Chicago area received during the spring and summer months of this year ample precipitation-at times more than was welcome. At this date the sprinklers are in big demand. If the old saying is true, a dry fall is an indication of more than normal snow the following winter, be sure your snow plow is in good condition.

THE TROUBLE

...with the guy who talks too fast is that he often says something he hasn't thought of yet.

MIDDLE AGE

...is the time of life when you are pushed around by two little voices. One is saying, "Why not?" and the other is saying "Why bother?"

COURTSHIP

...is something no couple should allow marriage to interfere with.

ADVICE

...is like snow, the softer it falls, the longer it dwells upon and the deeper it sinks into the mind.

WHAT ONE MAY LEARN ABOUT A MAN FROM PLAYING A ROUND OF GOLF

Golf could possibly be one of the greatest aids to business ever devised by man. Think of this when an invitation is extended by another to enjoy a round of golf. First, it denotes that he is friendly and genuinely enjoys spending some time with you. After the date and time have been arranged, is he punctual and considerate of you as he arrives for the appointed round?

As relative handicaps and average rounds are discussed, does he display sincerity? Is he later found to be truthful in telling of his ability? If a wager is discussed concerning the outcome of your match, does he appear to be a gambler? Or does he just want to add interest to the round? Did he offer you the honor on the first tee and, in so doing, display courtesy and respect?

While strolling the course did he demonstrate concern for others by replacing divots, raking traps, or repairing ball marks on the green? As he shot from behind the trees, observed unplayable lies, or hit one out of bounds, did he know the rules and abide by them? Did he show tolerance as your caddy accidentally walked behind him while lining up a putt or when his did not find the ball too quickly while searching in the rough?

Did he evidence honesty as you watched each of his shots and asked his score at the end of the hole? Did he display good sportsmanship when he found each of you had won a nine but he had lost the match? Was his caddy adequately reimbursed for services performed and did he add a gratuity for a job well done?

After a shower and a drink, was he appreciative of your time when he stated, "I certainly enjoyed today. Let's do it again sometime."

There are some who question whether golf is really necessary in the world of business, and to this I can only reply: Whether I be a buyer or seller, I would certainly want to know if those with whom I do business are friendly, genuine, punctual, considerate, truthful, sincere, gamblers, interesting, courteous, respectful, concerned, knowledgeable of the rules, abiding, tolerant, honest, good sportsmen, believing of adequate reimbursement, gratuitous, and appreciative as well.

You might find some of this from a man's financial statement; from seeing his credit rating or inquiring of his previous business associates. But I think I can tell more about a man's character, and whether I would want to do business with him, by spending a few short hours of golf course.

Jerry Marlatt

The sympathy of the members of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents is extended to the **Frank Mastroleo** family due to the death of Frank on August 21, 1978. Frank was a charter member of the Golf Course Supts. Association of America, and also a charter member of the M.A.G.C.S. He was Supt. at the Geneva G.C. for many years before retiring and moving to 1358 Stimson Ave., La Puente, California.

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