

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

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Ed Fischer, Midwest Pres., Butler National G.C.

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PRESIDENT' MESSAGE

The snow has melted, the frost is out of the ground, the equipment has been repaired and painted and our crews are starting to filter in. Yes, it's Spring. It's time for us to get out on the golf courses and to reflect on the past winter season.

Winter is the time when we all get acquainted with our families once again. It's Christmas before my children call me "Dad" instead of "Mister". Winter is also a time of planning for the next season by attending seminars, meetings and the National Convention. It's a time to sort out all the new information that we hear. Some of us were looking for special answers and others for anything of interest.

Now we are at the point between the seasons when everyone is anxious to begin. Everything starts fresh and new. There isn't a more beautiful time of year. The blooming of flowers, the buds on the trees and bushes mark the start of another season. I don't know of another profession that has better surroundings to work in.

Here's hoping we all have a successful season. See you at the monthly meetings.

— Ed Fischer

GAS IN WATER WELLS

Inasmuch as the start of the irrigation season is only a month or two away it is again timely to remind those superintendents who obtain their water supply from wells that many wells in the Chicago area give off flammable gas, such as methane gas and hydrogen sulfide gas. While hydrogen sulfide gas is readily detected by its rotten egg odor, methane gas is odorless, tasteless and colorless and where concentration is high enough may accumulate and mix with air to form an explosion. The Bureau of Mines states that a mixture of about 10% methane in a gas-air mixture will support combustion.

If a pump house which houses a well has been closed tight all winter the superintendent is advised to thoroughly ventilate it before starting up any of the electrical equipment, otherwise a spark might set off an explosion.

— Charles E. (Scotty) Stewart

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WHAT IS BENTONITE?

Bentonite is a clay formed of decomposed volcanic ash. It is found in a natural state in the coast range of central California and is mined by the open pit method. Because of the particular properties of Bentonite, it is especially suitable as a low cost sealant for ditches and ponds. Bentonite is not harmful to plant or animal life when properly applied.

Bentonite clay, because of its swelling characteristics when wet, impedes the passage of water through porous soils when properly applied. The amount of Bentonite necessary to form an effective seal is determined by pond or canal conditions. Usually from 1 to 3 pounds of material per square foot of wetted area has proven adequate.

The Dry Pond Method of application of Bentonite is completed by dividing the pond area into 10 foot squares and place a 100 pound sack in each square. In areas where the bed consists of loose sand, it is advisable to use more Bentonite. You should spread the material evenly, then mix by harrowing until Bentonite is well blended with the soil. Compact with a smooth roller.

The underwater method of application is used where shallow, flat bottomed ponds of smaller size are involved. Sealing can be effected without draining. To accomplish this mix the material with water to form a smooth, well dispersed slurry. Normal wave action will mix the slurry into the clear water until the whole pond becomes milky. The bentonite will eventually settle to the bottom and the water will return to its clear state. Pull a harrow over the bottom until the material is well mixed into the bed material.

The Cut-Off-Wall Method is used in large reservoirs where complete bottom sealing is un-economical. In such cases as this a Grouting or Trenching method is most feasible. Grouting is where a series of holes are drilled along the seepage zone and bentonite slurry is injected into them. Pressure forces the liquid to fill the voids, forming a wall against the seeping water. Trenching methods involve digging a trench along the seepage zone. Bentonite is filled into the trench. This filling prevents the sides of the trench from caving in as it builds a wall against the water. By back-filling the trench with the excavated soil, a permanent mix of soil and bentonite is formed.

The multiple Dam Method is accomplished after stopping water and constructing dams of Bentonite at regular intervals close enough so that water can be ponded to the high-water line. As the first dam is overtopped by the ponded water, break the dam rapidly to make a slurry. Repeat this operation for each dam. Try to keep the slurry ponded for as long as possible behind each dam.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Event: I.L.C.A.'s Annual Summer Field Day
Place: Chicago Horticultural Society Botanic Gardens,
Glencoe, Illinois

Date: August 6, 1980

The day will consist of demonstrations by the exhibitors, a steak luncheon, annual horseshoe tournament and the Scholarship auction. Tours of the Botanic Garden will be run all day.

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Every year, millions of Americans turn to their power mowers to tame the rapidly growing grass in their yards.

But every year an estimated 50,000 people turn to hospital emergency-room assistance because of power mower related accidents.

Ordie Hogsett, University of Illinois Extension safety specialist, says yards should be cleared of stones and debris before you mow. The mower's discharge chute can shoot out debris at speeds up to 170 miles per hour.

Hogsett also offers these suggestions:

- Do not fill the gasoline tank while the engine is running or even when the machine is hot.
- Start power mowers outdoors or in a garage with doors and windows open. Without proper ventilation, there is danger of carbon monoxide poisoning.
- When starting the engine, stand away from the mower and make sure the blade cannot make contact with your feet.
- Push the "walk behind" mowers across slopes, not up and down. This will keep the mower from sliding back into your feet and will keep you from slipping and falling into the mower. But if you use a "riding" mower, go up and down slopes for better stability.
- Do not mow wet grass because it causes clogging.
- When unclogging the discharge chute, make sure the engine is off. Disconnect the spark plug wire to prevent the motor from accidentally starting.

- If your power mower does not have a grass-catching bag, make sure it has a deflector plate to direct the discharge toward the ground.
- Keep an eye out for children, especially when you are making turns or putting a riding mower in reverse.
- Do not carry passengers.
- Before starting a riding mower, shift into neutral to keep the machine from "lurching."
- Avoid walking in front of the discharge chute. It may turn out to be as dangerous as strolling through a firing range.
- Even if you leave your mower for a moment, stop the engine. Curious children may investigate the machine while you're gone.

— Illinois Cooperative Extension Service

GOLF'S HARDEST SHOT — SOME OPINIONS

The hardest shot is a mashie at 90 yards from the green, where the ball has to be played against an oak tree, bounces back into a sandtrap, hits a stone, bounces on the green and then rolls into the cup. That shot is so difficult I have made it only once.

Zeppo Marks, 1923

I am still undecided as to which of these two is the hardest shot in golf for me—any unconceded putt, or the explosion shot off the first tee. Both have caused me more strokes than I care to write about.

Ring Lardner, 1924

I am stumped when it comes to saying which is the hardest shot in golf for me, but I know the easiest one—the first shot at the 19th Hole.

W.C. Fields, 1925

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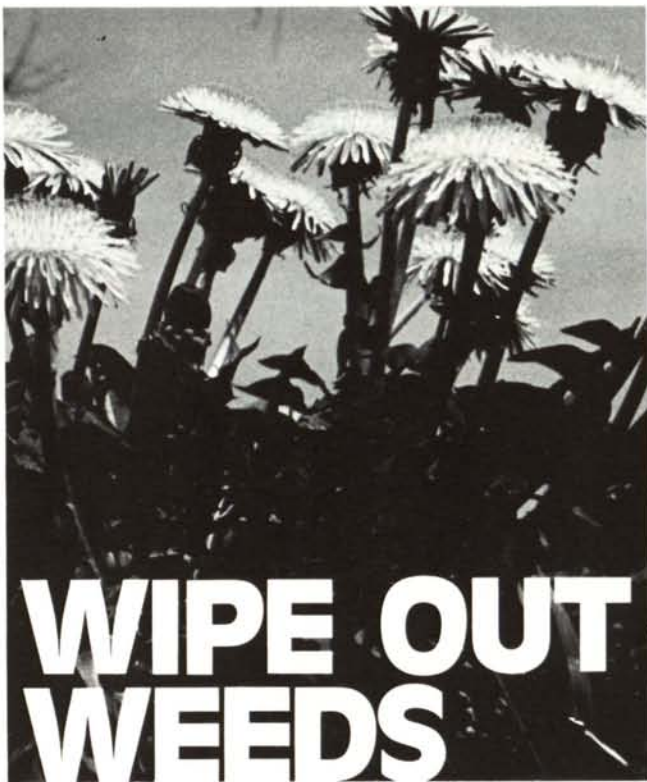
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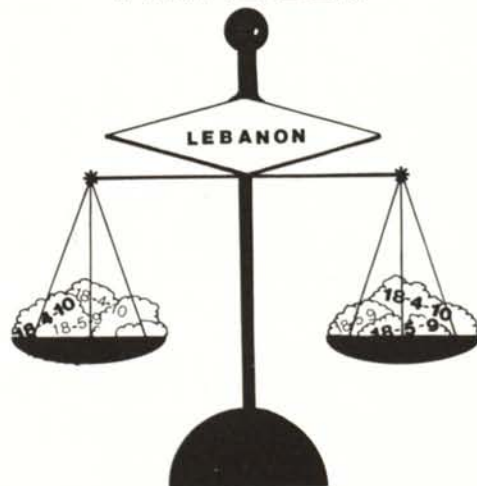
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TEMPERING WELL WATER

A mistaken idea held by some is that well water, owing to its low temperature, will chill the turf when discharged directly through a sprinkler and considerable sums of money have been needlessly expended on the construction of "tempering ponds" to hold and warm the well water before it is used for irrigating.

In the Chicago area we have three main sources of well water and the temperature of the water delivered from them at ground level is as follows:-

- (1) Where the well is about 400 feet in depth the water is obtained from the crevices in the Niagaran Limestone and is produced at 53 degrees F. temperature.
- (2) Where the well is about 800 feet in depth the water is obtained from the St. Peter Sandstone formation and is produced at 56 degrees F. temperature.
- (3) Where the well is about 1500 feet in depth the water is obtained from the Galesville Sandstone formation and is produced at 59 degrees F. temperature.

It will be noted that the water temperature increases in relation to the depth of the well.

Regardless of any of the above mentioned water temperatures it will be found that when discharged and broken up through a sprinkler into rain-like droplets that these droplets in falling through the air will even themselves up to air temperature before reaching the ground. Even high temperature water under like conditions will give up its heat in falling through the air and also reach the ground at approximately air temperature.

— Charles E. (Scotty) Stewart

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TUCO AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS PUBLISHES MANAGEMENT REPORT ON LAWN CARE

A new management report on lawn care, including suggestions on control of insect and fungi pests, has been published by TUCO Agricultural Chemicals, Division of The Upjohn Company.

The report offers information in insect and fungi control and ways to identify these pests. It also includes management suggestions for lawn care people on maintaining proper soil pH levels for healthy lawns and the need to control thatch buildup in order to get maximum benefit from insecticides.

TUCO Agricultural Chemicals produces Proxol 80 SP, an effective insecticide for control of armyworms, sod webworms, cutworms and larval populations of various beetle species.

LETTER FROM CARL H. SCHWARTZKOPF

March 24, 1980

Dear Mr. Meyer:

I received my membership certificate as an honorary member in your association, and I greatly appreciate your bestowing that status upon me. Your kindness and thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated, and I look forward to continuing to cooperate with the members of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents in your goals and ambitions of providing the finest turfgrass quality and playing conditions for the players in this part of the country.

Sincerely,
Carl H. Schwartzkopf

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The C.D.G.A. Green Seminar held at Butterfield C.C. on March 27 had an attendance of 310.

They had a very interesting and educational program. The speakers did an excellent job on the topics selected for them.

We all should be very thankful to the Butterfield C.C. for the privilege of holding this yearly event at this beautiful club. The food and service along with the facilities makes it outstanding.

SPEAKERS AT C.D.G.A. SEMINAR



Dr. Jim Watson



Bruce Sering



Edward Fischer



Dudley Smith



David Amory



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