

Editor

MIDWEST BREEZES

The Illinois Turfgrass Research Golf and Field Day on September 22 held at Indian Lakes C.C. was a very worthy and enjoyable day. Sixty-seven played golf on a beautiful conditioned course. Our host, **Dave Meyer** Supt. and M.A.G.C.S. Secretary received many compliments. Everyone received a prize. The eighteen extra dinner guests also received a door prize.

To be a success, fund raising events such as one of this kind requires many individuals. Dave Meyer and his wife Penny carried a big percentage of the work load. This event was honored by having a guests Dr. Bill George, Dr. David Wehner, and Thomas W. Fermanian from the University of Illinois. These are the men that do the turfgrass research work at U. of I. Research work as we all know would never get very far without funds and in many cases large sums.

As a golf course Supt., are you doing your share to help support the budget? The golf courses sure are the beneficiaries as well as home owners, highways, parks, cemeteries, farmers and turgrasss nurseries. Let us not forget to add some extra funds when making up the next year's budget. And you golf course supts. let the turfgrass research people hear from you. Your attendance on Sept. 22nd was below what it should have been.

Correction: The Bull Sheet regrets the error in the October issue in regards to the misspelling of the word Kronn; it was spelled Krohn. Also it was Bob Kronn and Bruce Bruchfield who played extra holes to decide the winner. Not Ben Krohn as stated. Ben Kronn, not Krohn, is the senior golf champion. Sorry and we hope all is forgiven.

The M.A.G.C.S. annual dinner and dance is November 15th at River Forest G.C., Elmhurst, III.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Stewart will be our host and hostess. River Forest G.C. is centrally located. Come out and enjoy yourself.

This has been a long and strenous year for the golf course Supts. so get out your dancing shoes and try out the old steps and also the new ones. Let your wife or your best girlfriend know that all of your love is not on the golf course.

The M.A.G.C.S October 6 meeting held at Woodmar C.C. was enjoyed by sixty-eight members. Forty-seven of these played golf on a super conditioned course made possible by our host, Supt. James Frees and we sure all thank him for having us at his club. The dinner and service was excellent and our many thanks to everyone.

On October 7 III. Lawn Equipment Inc. had their grand opening of their new building in Orland Park, III. This celebration was not only for the new building but also for 25 years of progress. Certainly something to be proud of. Ample food for everyone. Blue point oysters, roast beef, ham and many others including liquid refreshments. Several brand names of equipment and turfgrass supplies were on display. III. Lawn says come and see us, we will be happy to show you around.

The annual M.A.G.C.S. meeting will be held on Monday, November 3rd, 1980 at Cypress Inn near Hinsdale, III. This is on the corner of Ogden Ave. and the Tri State Tollway 294. Come out and vote for the candidate of your choice. Cocktails - 5:30 to 6:30, Dinner - at 6:30 sharp.

President Leonard Berg, CGCS -

Village Green of Woodridge

1st Vice President John Bera

John Berarducci -Skokie Country Club Bruce Bruchfield -

2nd Vice President

Hillcrest Country Club Peter Leuzinger -

St. Charles Country Club

Secretary-Treasurer David Meyer -

Indian Lakes Country Club Carson Int'l Nordic Hills C.C.

Directors (2 to be elected for a 2 year term)

Carl Langrebe - Hinsdale G.C. Donald Pakkala - Medinah C.C.

Thomas Rader -Shore Acres Country Club

Michael Smith -Willow Run C.C.

Roger Stewart - Riverside G.C.

Joe Williamson -Crooked Creek G.C.

PLEASE NOTE: As a point of information all class "A" and "B" members are entitled to vote, and all offices are open to nominations from the floor.

Dear Ray

Seems like I just said (I hate to see those beautiful leaves fall), time is here again.

"FALL SPLENDER"

October is over, Fall's in full swing.

The Golf season is ending, had a good fling.

Colors are delightful, each leaf has it's tint.

Winter's trying to move in, Frosty morns is the hint.

Another year soon will pass,

Highlighted with Winter's blast.

Ice and snow will reign supreme,

Putting an end to last year's dream.

Superintendently,

Kenneth R. Zanzig Green Garden C.C.

POSITION WANTED

Assistant Superintendent experienced, will complete Rutgers Turf Program March 1981. Contact Sean Hoolehan, (312) 386-6841.

The sympathy of the M.A.G.C.S. is extended to the Wendel family due to the passing away of **Dick** on August 29th, 1980. **Dick** was a member of the M.A.G.C.S. and had been an employee of the **Geo. A. Davis Co.** for the past 15 years.

WHY DO SUPERINTENDENTS BELONG TO GCSAA?

They are proud of their profession and want to improve it.

They recognize that a strong organization can better represent the combined interests of the profession through its unified voice.

They are convinced that professional growth can best be achieved through the uniting of similarly minded colleagues.

They realize that their active participation in the Association can shape the future of their profession.

They have discovered that the Association's activities, programs and publications can keep them abreast of the latest technological information.

They believe that a strong Association can strengthen their regional and local turf organizations and programs.

They understand that their personal participation can assist other Superintendents and the turfgrass industry.

They know that the resources of a vast organization can only act to increase their professional stature, knowledge and abilities.

They appreciate the opportunities they will have to attend national and regional educational assemblies, developed to meet their specific needs.

They know that their fellow Association members are a valuable asset whenever information is exchanged.

They realize that they can no longer work alone in a vacuum, but must share the insight, experiences and technical information of as many other professionals as possible.

--VISIT HAWAII ... TAKE THE GCSAA 7-DAY POST CONFERENCE HAWAIIAN TOUR

This tour is scheduled to leave Los Angeles on Saturday, January 31, 1981, at 1:00 p.m. You will then land in Honolulu, change planes and continue on to the island of Maui. Maui will be your home for four nights (Saturday-Tuesday). During your stay, you will have the opportunity to take a tour of Haleakala Crater, lao Valley and Lahaina, a native village. This is an excellent way to see parts of the island in a short period of time.

The plane leaves Maui on Wednesday, February 4, and heads back to the island of Oahu. The pace picks up from here on out...there will be a trip to the Polynesian Culture Center, a luau at Paradise Cove, plus many other exciting things that you may wish to explore on your own. You will be staying at the Hotel Princess Kaiulani, which is located on Waikiki Beach, for the next three nights (Wed., Thurs., Fri.). The plane will depart from Honolulu on Saturday, February 7, at 9 a.m. and arrive at 1:10 p.m. at the L. A. International Airport.

The ground package, which includes hotel rooms, ground transportation to and from the Hawaiian airports to the hotels (transfers with baggage), and the above mentioned tours and luau, will cost \$315.00 per person plus 4% tax. Tips and gratuities will be extra. All air travel and tour arrangements must be made through Ports Unlimited Travel Service (913-841-5900). The deadline for signing up or the tour is October 31, 1980. A tour brochure, containing more specific information, will be mailed to all members.



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The Front Line's 72" mower deck is made of 12-gauge carbon steel, reinforced and arc welded. It has a multi-disc PTO clutch, direct drive to the deck gear box with a sealed and lubricated shaft drive. The hydrostatic transmission is driven by two continuously engaged "A" section belts with self-adjusting tension.

There's no need to worry about overloading the Front Line's engine. The combination of our high torque engine and specially designed mower deck allows you to mow tall weeds and fine grass.

Superior performance.

The Front Line's cut in fine grass is so smooth, you won't believe it was made with three separate blades. That's because the blades overlap 1 ½" to reach every inch of grass in the full 72" swath. Also, the cutting height is adjustable to eight positions, from 1" to 4½" in half-inch increments.

Operating the Front Line couldn't be easier. With individual front wheel brakes, and wheel-type steering controlling a single rear wheel, you get tight maneuverability and better control on varying terrain.

The Front Line's mower deck makes your job easier, too. It extends more than a

foot to

one side, so you can trim right up to fences or trees. And it lifts hydraulically for transport over curbs. What's more, a large capacity fuel tank lets you work up to 6 hours between refills.

100% Cushman.

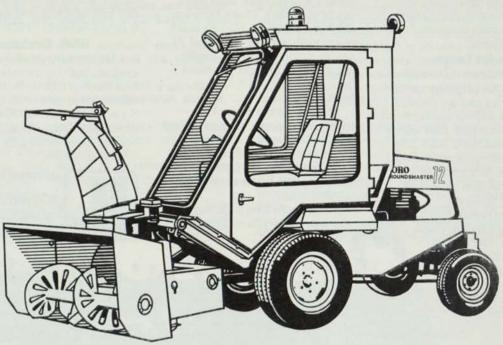
Most rotary mowers use engines built by outside suppliers. Not the Front Line. Its 18-hp, air-cooled engine is all-Cushman. So is the differential. And the PTO drive. Which means all parts and service are provided by your Cushman dealer.

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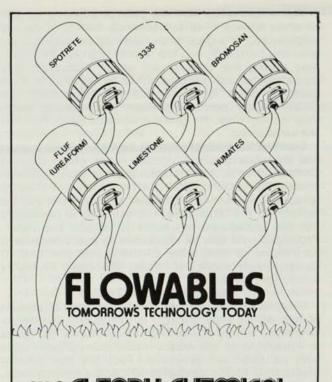


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HOW TO KNOW YOU'RE GROWING OLDER

Everything hurts and what doesn't hurt, doesn't work The gleam in your eyes is from the sun hitting your bifocals

You feel like the night before, and you haven't been anywhere.

Your little black book contains only names ending in M.D.

You get winded playing chess.

Your children begin to look middle aged.

You finally reach the top of the ladder and find it's leaning against the wrong wall.

You join a health club and don't go.

You decide to procrastinate, but never get around to it.

Your mind makes contracts your body can't meet.

A dripping faucet causes an uncontrollable bladder urge.

You know all the answers, but nobody asks the questions.

You look forward to a dull evening.

You walk with your head high trying to get use to your bifocals.

Your favorite part of the newspapers is 25 years ago today.

You turn out the lights for economic reasons rather than for romantic reasons.

You sit in a rocking chair and can't get it going.

Your knees buckle and your belt won't.

You regret all those mistakes resisting temptation.

You are 17 around the neck and 42 around the waist and 96 around the golf course.

You stop looking forward to your next birthday.

After painting the town red, you have to take a long rest before applying a 2nd coat.

Dialing long distance wears you out.

You are startled the first time anybody calls you old timer.

You remember today that yesterday was your wedding anniversary.

You can't stand people who are intolerant.

The best part of your day is over when your alarm clock goes off.

You burn the midnight oil after 9:00 p.m.

Your back goes out more than you do.

A fortune teller offers to read your face.

Your pacemaker makes the garage door go up when you watch a pretty girl go by.

The little gray-haired lady that you help across the street is your wife.

You get your exercise acting as pall bearer for your friends who expire.

You've got too much room in the house and not enough in the medicine cabinet.

You sink your teeth in a steak and they stay there.

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THE CAUSES OF LATE WINTER EARLY SPRING DAMAGE TO TURFGRASS

During late winter-early spring fluctuating temperatures and waterlogged, partially frozen soil produce conditions that cause the loss of turf. This loss may be the direct or indirect result of one or more of these phenomena. Direct damage or kill of the permanent grass may occur at any point of the freeze - frozen - thaw cycle so characteristic of this season. Indirect injury may result from attacks by disease producing organisms (mostly snowmold and other low temperature fungi) and by traffic on frozen and partially frozen turfgrass areas.

Turfgrass may be destroyed - at the time it freezes, during the time it's frozen, during the time it's thawing, or after it's thawed and growth has begun. Some killing probably occurs during each of these periods. This cycle of freezing, frozen, thawing may be repeated several times during each winter and early spring. When associated with intermittent growth in late winter-early spring, damage may be severe. Death as the plant freezes happens most often in the late fall-early winter, but may occur after a period of growth (particularly rapid growth) in the spring when a sudden drop in temperature occurs. This is most damaging when the grass plants are in a non-hardened condition. Ice crystals form within the cells and this disruption of the protoplasm may cause death. Too, repeated cycles in the spring will exhaust food reserves upon which the plants must draw to initiate growth. For this reason, Poa annua is especially vulnerable.

Death during the time the plant is frozen is unlikely to occur unless it is subjected to traffic. This will seldom occur if a good snow cover exists, which is the case most often during the winter months. However, play during the time period under discussion may cause mechanical damage either by attrition or from pressure which forces the ice crystals through the cells, thereby puncturing them and causing death. Play during time the grass is covered with frost has the same effect.

Death at the time of thawing depends on the amount and the state of the "bound" water within the cell (intra-cellular water). Unless adequate bound water is present in the protoplasm, death may result if thawing is rapid or if inter-cellular water re-enters the cell too rapidly. In the latter case, the cell wall is permeable but the protoplasm is unable to absorb the water. Prolonged cold may be conducive to death because it contributes to brittleness of the protoplasm and, if contact (from traffic) is made, the plant is highly susceptible to damage.

Causes Relating to Traffic

Grass will initiate growth during the warmer periods of late winter-early spring. If the season is characterized by widely fluctuating temperatures, the grass is vulnerable to the freeze-frozen-thaw growth cycle with its attendent problems. Too, the environment produced is highly conducive to disease development. Thus, this may be the most critical phase of the turf management program facing the golf course superintendent. And, he often finds his turf management programs (and, therefore, himself) in direct conflict with the golfing membership, especially those desirous of playing a few early rounds.

Mechanical injury by traffic on partially frozen or wet soil may be immediately evident (visible) or delayed (invisible). Visible injuries (soil displacement) are the footprints and ruts caused by foot and vehicular traffic - sliding and slipping, walking or rolling - on partially frozen or saturated soil. Invisible

injury stems from soil compaction.

Although this type of mechanical damage is not confined to the winter months, soil compaction may be far more damaging during this period than generally recognized. Traffic on partially frozen or wet soil, without the protection of living grass, will exert greater pressure (hence, more compacting force) than during the normal growing season. This results, subsequently, in poor growth and may explain "problem areas" which show up in spring and summer for no apparent reason. Cupping areas are particularly vulnerable in this respect.

Traffic on frosted turf causes the frost crystals to puncture leaf cells and kill the grass. Removal of frost, or preventing play when the grass is frosted, is

essential.

Control of traffic during vulnerable periods does not always contribute to harmony between early golfing members and the less enthusiastic golfing and non-golfing members. The responsibility for control rests with the club officials - president, green chairman, superintendent and golf professional.

Causes Relating to Ice Sheets and Ponded Water

Turfgrasses, although essentially dormant during the winter months, nevertheless, carry on metabolic (growth) activity, particularly respiration. During late winter-early spring, as growth activity increases, the grass may **suffocate** (a) if difussion of atmospheric and soil gases is reduced or stopped; (b) if excess carbon dioxide accumulates, or (c) if oxygen supplies are reduced to a minimum. Such conditions exist under ice sheets in poorly drained areas where the soil remains

saturated for extended periods and, under flooded conditions when ponded or standing water persists. The higher the temperature, the shorter the period of time that the grass can survive these adverse conditions.

Under limited (and rare) conditions, ice sheets and ponded water may act as a lens. When this happens, the sun's rays are magnified to the point where the excessive heat produced may cause a burning or scalding of the turfgrass.

Causes Related to Reduced Water Intake

Desiccation is a "wilting" phenomenon. Like wilt, which occurs during the normal growing season, desiccation occurs when evapotranspiration exceeds water intake. This inability of the roots to absorb water, or for the plant to transport it to or through its system, may result from a shallow, poorly branched root system; diseased vascular system, or, from a reduced or restricted soil water supply. Limited soil moisture may be the result of a "dry" soil (not enough water) or of a frozen or partially frozen soil (water unavailable to the root because of its physical state). Thus, the roots simply cannot take in enough water to offset that being lost by the plant and it "desiccates" or dries up - it wilts. Although more serious during periods when the soil is "on the dry side" or partially frozen, desiccation on high windswept sites may occur at any time. The increased air movement causes excessive transpiration and under limited or reduced soil moisture conditions, the plants may die unless protected.

In late winter-early spring, before the irrigation system has been activated, damage from desiccation may be severe. Water hauled in spray tanks or by other means and applied to critical sites will preclude or

minimize loss.

Protective Measures

Techniques and procedures that protect, avoid and correct the damage that occurs in late winter-early spring are well known to and understood by the golf course superintendent. For the most part, protective measures relate to production of a healthy vigorous grass and to the control, to the extent possible, of the soil- plant environment. When these factors are adversely impacted by anomalous conditions of weather, poor construction or inadequate equipment and supplies, the responsibility for loss of turfgrass must be shared.

J. R. Watson, Vice President The Toro Company

TO PREVENT WINTER DAMAGE

Question: Our golf course superintendent prohibits play when there is frost on the ground. Is this good practice and if so, why?

Answer: When turfgrass plants with a frost cover experience foot or vehicular traffic, permanent damage frequently occurs because walls of plant cells are ruptured. Also, it is possible that the crown of the plant may be damaged, which could result in permanent turf loss. A weakened plant provides an ideal opportunity for weed and disease invasion and a decrease in plant density for the summer stress months. The golf course superintendent has the interest of the majority of players in mind, and he is interested in the maximum use of the course for all seasons when he faces the decision to close the course because of inclement weather.

USGA Green Section Record



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THE C-15 PROBLEM

C-15 or "Toronto" creeping bentgrass has developed 2 disease problems over the past several years. One has been stripe smut, caused by Ustilago striiforums, and the other, with an unknown cause, has become known as the C-15 problem.

The stripe smut problem slowly thins the "Toronto" turf. The disease is recognized in the spring and fall of the season by the dark black stripes of fungu spores running parallel up the leaf blades. It is often difficult to see stripe smut symptoms on closely mowed

bentgrass. The C-15 problem is more striking and an entire green may be lost in a few days. The greens are severly thinned and clumpy in appearance as individual plants are killed. This disease is only a problem on "Toronto" bentgrass cut at green height of 1/4" or less. The problem has not been observed on the "Toronto" growing in the fringes or approaches of the green at 1/2" or more. The disease starts in the cool weather of the spring and appears to recover with the arrival of the warm weather of the summer and then begins to decline again in the latter part of the summer and continues on into the cool weather of fall.

Several things have been associated with the C-15 problem including high populations of nematodes, especially Tylenchorhynchus dubius the smut nematode, and Cricinomoides spp, the ring nematodes. However, where nematicides were used to control these nematodes, very little recovery of the turf occurred. Dr. Wm Meyer, plant pathologist at Warren's Nursery, has isolated Helminthosporium erythrospilum from "Toronto" bentgrass greens in Illinois and has been able to satisfactorily control it by applying 6 oz. of Daconil 2787 every week from early April through October. The best control with Daconil 2787 was obtained where high nitrogen levels were maintained.

For those "Toronto" greens with the stripe smut problem, 8 oz. of Tersan 1991 Fungo, Spot Kleen or Cleary's 3336 drench should be applied as early in the spring as possible, prior to the first mowing.

Neither disease is much fun to have on your greens. The "C-15 problem" is quicker and more devastating. Stripe smut is a much slower disease, but the end results are the same; removal of the desirable "Toronto" bentgrass and its eventual replacement with Poa annua. They both can be controlled chemically, but the treatments are very expensive. Controlling the C-15 problem is also very time-consuming. Controlling the stripe smut problem with systemic fungicides year after year could lead to the development of strains of stripe smut which are resistant to these fungicides.

Those who already have one of these problems on their "Toronto" greens may wish to follow one of the control programs, in the hope that less expensive and more permanent control will be found. It is my personal belief that overseeding programs with "Penncross" or "Emerald" creeping bentgrass should be started. It may be advisable to completely re-seed, re-stolonize, or re-sod severely affected

I realize that "Toronto" creeping bentgrass has become the Cadillac of bentgrass greens, and that having "Toronto" greens on your course is a sign of prestige but when it develops either one of these problems, it will look more like a Model-T and add very little prestige to the course.

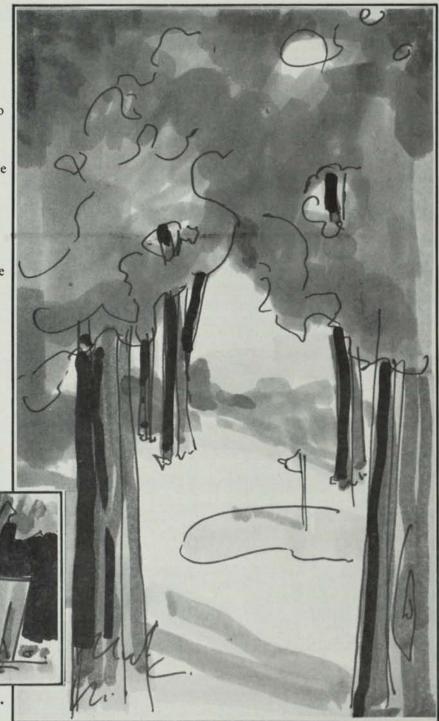
J. M. Vargas, Associate Professor Dept. of Botany and Plant Pathology Michigan State University

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