

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 season is almost over, and what a summer it has been. It has been a few years since we have had all the heat and humidity of this past year. Now it's time to get started on thinking about all the new projects that must be done. It's also time to think about the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents and what you can do to improve it. As a suggestion, may I say - **GET INVOLVED.**

It won't be long and Bob Breen will be coming around asking members to run for election for our Board. Don't say no, say YES, and become part of this Association. I am sure Bob would like to see some volunteers on the Board. Give Bob a call. It may take some of your time to be a Board member, but I feel it's time well spent. Apart from serving your Association it provides an opportunity to get to know your fellow Superintendents better and make some new and lasting friendships.

Yes, it is only September and elections aren't until November, but now is the time to think about serving on the Board. Or, if not doing that, coming up with new ideas or suggestions you would like the M.A.G.C.S. to adopt. We need new ideas, too. For example, last year the idea came up for a day for our A.A. members and also, the idea of a cook out came up. This year these two ideas were put together and one of the best meetings of the year was held last month at Sterling Hamilton's place, Randall Oaks C.C. This is what we need, your service or ideas to help make this a better Association.

Ed Fischer

Illinois Turfgrass Research Golf and Field day was postponed from August 18 to September 22nd due to weather conditions. This is an event all golf course supts. should make every effort to support. The results from this research work will be of benefit to all.

The M.A.G.C.S. Annual Golf Championship golf tournament will be held September 8 at Shore Acres C.C. **Thomas Rader**, Supt. will be our host. Sharpen up your game - it may pay off.

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ANAHEIM TO HOST 1981 CONFERENCE

The 1981 GCSAA International Turfgrass Conference and Show Jan. 25-30 in Anaheim, Calif. will include a joint educational meeting with the USGA Green Section, the return of the popular golf course tour and an expanded schedule of conference functions.

Because both GCSAA and USGA will be meeting at the same time in California, the two organizations have agreed to co-host one educational session, scheduled for Jan. 29 in the Anaheim Convention Center, site of most of GCSAA's conference and show activities. No theme has been determined for the joint session, although Palmer Maples Jr., CGCS, GCSAA director of education, said that it would be related to GCSAA's general conference theme, "Meeting Golf's Challenges Efficiently."

GCSAA's conference activities will begin with a pre-conference golf tournament at Industry Hills Golf Course near the conference site. Practice rounds will begin Jan. 21, with tournament play Jan. 22-23.

Several one- and two-day seminars will be offered Jan. 24-25, followed by the opening session on Monday, Jan. 26, and general sessions throughout the week. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will kick off the Turfgrass Trade Show Tuesday morning.

One of the most popular activities from past conferences has been returned to the 1981 program. A tour of the 36-hole Industrial Hills complex has been scheduled for Friday morning, Jan. 30.

Two unique social functions have been added to the 1981 conference schedule. A special "GCSAA Family Fun Day" at Disneyland Amusement Park is scheduled for Friday after the close of conference activities, and negotiations are now underway to purchase a block of tickets for a Harlem Globetrotters basketball game sometime during the conference week.

The Anaheim Convention Center, one of the largest in the country, is located within walking distance of several convention hotels as well as Disneyland. Several theme parks, museums and other tourist attractions also are close by. The combination of valuable educational opportunities, social activities, sun and fun for the entire family promises to make GCSAA's 52nd International Turfgrass Conference and Show one to remember.

Fore Front

Dear Ray,

I hate to be facetious or sound flippant about the red leaf spot problem in the Chicago area, but you have invited suggestions, and I have the answer to the problem.

For the benefit of the younger superintendents who don't know me as you do, I have the credentials to address the subject. I have been fighting diseases on the golf courses since 1946 when I came up with the discovery of PMAS.

It didn't take more than three or four years in the business to learn that although PMAS was, and still is, the best broad spectrum fungicide ever developed, it could not do the job by itself.

In the early fifties, I was advocating mixing of fungicides to get better control. The problem facing the educated superintendent is the fact that he takes the data of the plant pathologist too literally. He will use a specific fungicide for a specific disease and nothing else in the spray tank. He is where I was in the late forties, trying to control disease with a single fungicide. You talk to him about developing resistant strains and he will vindicate himself by telling you that, although he will not mix fungicides, he will alternate them occasionally which is another trap I fell into.

In 1972, I devised a fool-proof system for the superintendent. It's a set of guidelines that he can follow which allows him to mix pesticides, not only fungicides, and spray them together without incurring phytotoxicity and still get such a broad spectrum control that no disease can survive these barriers.

The number of mixes that he can use is boundless.

My first recommendation is a mixture of Cleary chemicals, but when I run across a superintendent who is in trouble and does not have Cleary chemicals, I usually end up with a mix of 5 or 6 chemicals that he has in his barn which will get him out of trouble. Then, and only then, does he become a believer.

I have a number of disciples in the Chicago area that have followed my advice over the years and are doing quite well. Some of them have the C-15 strain, and did not develop the so-called red leaf spot.

There are no new strains of diseases. The strains have always been there. But because the superintendent has become so specific in his treatment of disease, he probably created his own resistant strain. This would not have happened had he had the good sense to tank mix his chemicals.

We have 18 greens on our property to experiment with. One green is on a base of clay. That's my prize green! If I can hold bent and poa on that green, I can surely recommend formula mixes for anybody. One green is 95% sand. That is also a challenge. The other greens are variations of sand and Jersey Clay mixtures. The point I'm making is that good cultural practices are more than half the battle, but ruling out a catastrophe, **any disease is controllable** despite poor soils and less than optimum cultural practices.

P.S. I can come up with at least a dozen formulas for controlling red leaf spot depending upon what the superintendent has in his chemical inventory.

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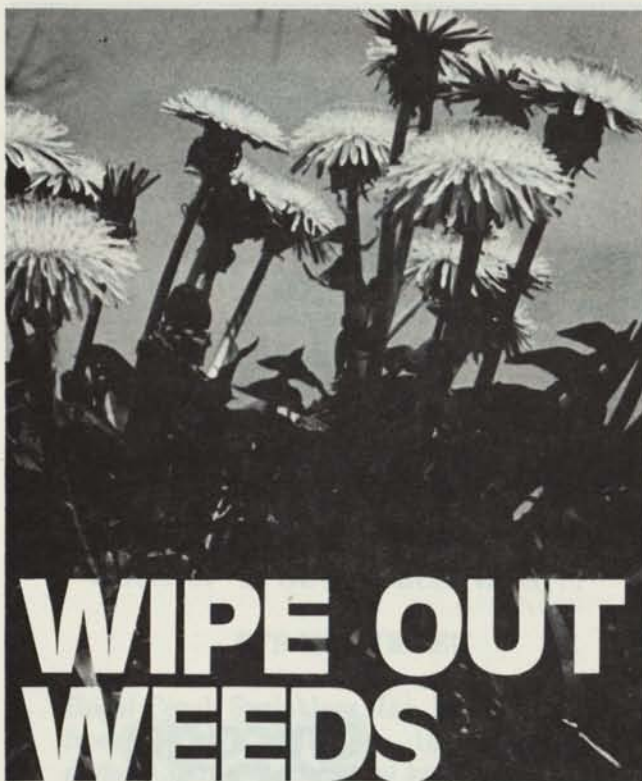
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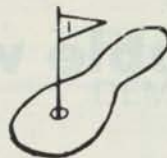
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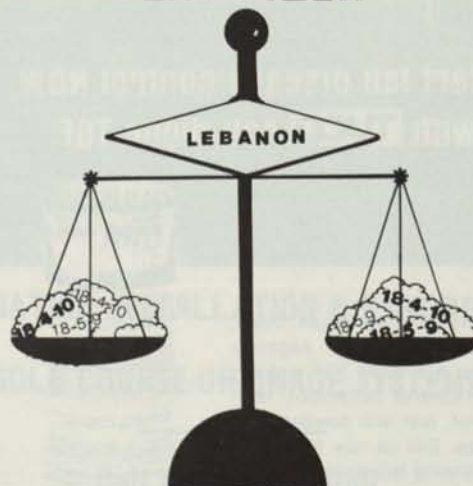
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Tips to Follow When Solvent Cementing in High Temperatures

1. Store solvent cements and primers in a cool or shaded area prior to use.
2. If possible, store fitting and the pipe, or at least the ends to be solvent welded, in shady area before cementing.
3. Cool surfaces to be joined by wiping with a damp rag. Be sure that surface is dry prior to applying solvent cement.
4. Try to do the solvent cementing in cooler morning hours.
5. Make sure that both surfaces to be joined are still wet with cement when putting them together. With large size pipe, more people on the crew may be necessary.
6. Use one of our heavier, high viscosity cements since they will provide a little more working time.

As you know, during hot weather there can be a greater expansion-contraction factor. We suggest you follow the advice of the pipe manufacturer regarding this condition.

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HOW TO TURN COMPLAINTS TO YOUR ADVANTAGE

How do you handle complaints from golfers? Nobody finds it easy to take criticism, especially when the gripes come from someone whose only turfgrass experience is his dandelion-free lawn. Unfortunately, golf courses were built and superintendents hired for the benefit of golfers, a situation which often necessitates a kid-glove approach to complaints.

Even if complaints are supposed to go to your green chairman, chances are you'll still have to field a few questions and comments from golfers who catch you on the course. Generally, they will be friendly, but there are always a few who aren't.

The first rule is keep your temper. Some people actually enjoy harassing an employee, and others have to find someone to blame for a bad round. However, if you stay cool, he will soon realize he is out of line.

Hear him out. Many people who have honest complaints only reveal portions of their grievances because they are afraid you don't have time to listen to them. When you've heard the whole thing, try to give a thorough explanation. Above all, don't cut him off abruptly, even if you are in a hurry. Try to set up a time when you can go into the problem in detail if you think it necessary.

Don't try a cover up. Even if it's your fault, he'll be more impressed with your forthrightness than with a slick, superficial explanation which blames everything from the weather to last month's ladies tournament.

There are some positive steps you can take to head off complaints. You can keep members informed of construction, maintenance operations and other problem areas on the course by posting signs in the pro shop. If your club has a monthly newsletter, you can use it to keep members informed of upcoming operations and explain why they are necessary. Some superintendents have found it helpful to compile regular reports of their operations so that everyone, including club employees, knows not only what and when but also why an operation is taking place.

You also can train your crew to successfully deal with problems on the course. Make sure they have enough information to handle the problem and that they realize they are representing you and the club when they handle a complaint or answer a question.

Credit - Fore Front

PROMPT TREATMENT CAN SAVE STORM DAMAGED TREES

The recent storms have caused extensive damage to trees throughout Chicagoland. Some trees have been so severely damaged that removal is the only solution.

According to James A. Fizzell, University of Illinois Horticulturist in Cook County, trees which have repairable injuries should be treated immediately so that disease organisms and insects do not gain entrance to the tree.

Remove all broken branches and limbs. Clean away all splintered bark and wood leaving a smooth clean wound and paint thoroughly with tree paint. Fizzell cautions against using tar or roof coat which may contain chemicals harmful to the tree.

Partly split trunks, crotches or limbs of small trees can often be mended by restoring them to their original position and fastening them there.

Trunks can be pulled together with through bolts. First clean out splintered bark and wood. Drill holes through the trunk at right angles to the split. Insert bolts with large washers at each end and tighten to pull

the split together. Cover the wound with antiseptic tree paint.

Split crotches and limbs require use of long toggle bolts or cables and turnbuckles. This can be a complicated procedure and should be done by a licensed arborist trained in these methods.

If the damage is such that you are considering the work yourself, the U.S. Department of Agriculture can send you an excellent bulletin on the subject entitled "Pruning Shade Trees and Repairing Their Injuries". Price is 10 cents from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington. Limited supplies are available from county offices of the University of Illinois Extension Service.

Keep in mind, says Fizzell, tree work can be dangerous. Aside from the obvious hazard of falling from a tree, tree limbs are extremely heavy. If you keep in mind how much a little 4" fence post weighs, you can imagine how heavy a 10" limb 20 feet long may be. Do not try to remove large limbs unless they are properly roped and tied.

Do not attempt to use a chain saw up in a tree unless you have been properly trained to do so.

Before working on a damaged tree, make sure no limbs are lying across power lines. If branches are in contact with lines, call your power company. They have crews trained to correct such situations.

Finally, do not attempt large scale repair work yourself. If you are in doubt as to whether you can handle the job, contact a local licensed commercial arborist. These people use proven repair methods so that the tree will have the best chance of survival, and they have the equipment to do the job properly and quickly.

Don't you become a casualty along with your tree.



WARNING

Stay away from trees during a storm when it is lightning, we do not want to lose you. This picture was taken at Glen Oak C.C. It is unbelievable what lightning can do.