

MIDWEST BREEZES

As of this date, June 5, summer has made its' appearance for a few days. After a few good rains the turfgrass on the golf courses has taken on a new look. Most of the winter damaged areas have disappeared. This editor visited **Don Gerber**, Supt. at Chicago Golf Club, the first week of June and to my surprise the greens were free of Poa annua due mainly to the severe winter we experienced. Will the Poa annua come back remains to be seen. We will have to wait and in the meantime keep our fingers crossed.

Topdressing with sand has received considerable publicity - some good and some not so good. This editor would like to publish a story from a member of a club that has been playing his golf on old greens that were built with the best top soil mixture that could manually be made and then was forced to play on greens that were constructed with predominately sand. Also I would like to have a true article from a Supt. comparing the good top soil green with one that sand is the basic ingredient of the soil mixture.

Articles of this nature would make good reading. It would also answer many discussions.

This editor on May 20th visited with Oscar Miles, Supt. at Butler National Golf Club, the site of the Western Open Golf tournament, which will be played the first week in July. As of this date the course is in super condition and I am sure that Oscar and the members at Butler National are very happy. Oscar said that your G.C.S.A.A. 1982 membership card will be acknowledged at the gate. At this time take a look at Oscar's new maintenance building. It is magnificent.

The M.A.G.C.S. June 7 meeting held at Lincolnshire Resort had an attendance of 70 that enjoyed a wonderful dinner, of this 70, 62 played golf on a course they reported as being in fine condition. It was made possible by Supt. **Rick Hahn** who has the know-how in golf course maintenance work.

The format for this meeting was somewhat different then our meetings in the past years. Is a meeting with a schedule such as this one the kind we are happy with? Can the Association afford to continue. Think it over and let the Board know if you agree or not. Now is the time to let your wishes be known. This editor feels a little house cleaning is in order.

Our July 12 meeting will be held at Randall Oakes C.C. Sterling Hamilton, Supt. will be our host. This is our yearly seniors day. So all of you come out and enjoy

yourself. You do not have to be a senior to attend - you are welcome regardless of your age. If you play golf, tee off time is between 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. There will be no locker room service. Lunch will be available in the club house. The barbecue dinner will be outdoors. This is something you do not want to miss. Come with a good appetite as the barbecue will be bigger and better, if that is possible. Bring your golf clubs and an empty stomach with you on July 12 to Randall Oaks Golf Club. I am sure you will not be sorry you did. We will be looking for you. Randall Oakes C.C. is our Randall Rd. northwest of the town of Dundee. Consult your road maps.

Tom Rodems and wife Pamela have a new addition to their family. A baby girl (Jessica) born May 22nd.

Dear Ray;

Mail rates have gone from 2 cents to 20 cents and they still can lose a letter. I presume that's what happened to my last letter. Anyway it still carries a thought:

"JUNE APPEAL"

June is here, with the last of Spring,
One wonders, what song will Summer sing?
Will it charm us with it's serenade,
Or confuse us amidst it's masquerade?
Will it soothe the soul, appease the heart,
Like Heaven sent, from the start?
Or will it surprise us, while on the wing,
Nip, bite and try to sting?
Whatever be Summer, it's contenting to know,
It sure beats shoveling snow.

On observing current trends, our illustrious philosopher Ching, intimates:

"BIT BY CHING"

A person once said, "May I please",
When asking for a favor.
Soon it passed to "May I",
Like when talking to a neighbor.
Then came, "I", "I'd like", "I want",
Finally to "I demand".
What a change came over our gracious land.
Politeness! Where have you gone?
Let's pray you're not forgotten,
Does one bad apple, in the barrel,
Turn the whole barrel rotten?

Superintendently, Kenneth R. Zanzig Green Garden C.C.

Editor's note: Postage goes up, service goes down?

WHY WORRY

It is easy enough to say, "Don't worry," but to avoid it is a real trick. A friend of mine who has been through many critical times told me about his plan, which he said saved him many a grey hair.

His idea is to have a plan of action for every contingency. In every situation there are only three possibilities. It can get better - it can stay like it is - or it can get worse. If it gets better there is nothing to worry about. If there is no change he has a plan of action. If it gets worse he has another plan ready to go into effect. In his words "the secret is to know just what you are going to do whatever happens. The mere fact that you have settled on a plan of action for each event that may occur reduces the tendency to worry."

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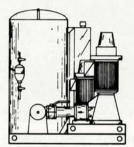
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NOTES FROM SCOTTS SEMINAR

What is the role of Golf Course Superintendent? Basically, according to the opinion expressed by the seminar spokesman, the turf superintendent is mainly interested in providing fine playing conditions and turf

I. Nitrogen, Potassium, and Phosphorous sources affect plant growth.

A. Role of Nitrogen in Plant Growth.

1. It is part of the chlorophyll molecule

2. Necessary element in the photosynthetic

3. Promotes vegetative growth

- 4. Effects the competitiveness of turf
- B. How much Nitrogen does one use?

Depends on turf species

2. Existing or desired soil characteristics

- 3. Level of effort and its intensity directed toward maintenance of the desired turf i.e., sandy soils will probably require more N2. Too little N2 might encourage more dollarspot activity
- C. Nitrogen Fertilization: the following factors should be considered when selecting a particular product and fertilizer ratio:

1. The growth rate of the species

2. Solubility of the fertilizer (release characteristics of fertilizer indirectly affects all other factors involved in balanced turf nutrition)

Greening response of the turf species

D. The growth rate of a turf species is a key factor in fertilizer selection and ultimately an important ingredient of turf management. Therefore, in selecting fertilizer:

1. There is a tendency now to select controlled

release products.

2. Human and mechanical labor plus efficiency in the product in achieving the desired response from the plant must be considered.

E. Fertilizer, nitrogen sources:

1. Ammonium sulfate: quick-release nitrogen, good growth response & color for about 4-5 weeks. Definite decline in performance by the eighth week.

2. Urea formaldehyde: (Ureaform), 66% intermediate to long term release material. Color response peaks in the 12th week from the

initial application.

3. IBDU: contains little quick release No. 90% of the material is intermediate to long-term release. It peaks during weeks 6-12 from the initial application.

4. Methylene: 62% of this material is N2: Provides initial and short-term response to color and growth throughout 15 week application.

*One can come into problems with physically mixing N2 source materials (fertilizers).

F. Characteristics involved in fertilizer selection:

Spoon-feeding vs. Controlled release

- 2. Solubility of N2 sources determines release
- 3. Greening response is big factor with fertilizer

4. Clipping and mowing frequency

5. Salt Index and burn potential *Percent of N2 does not tell safety of material rather it tells you the source of the Nitrogen. (IBDU performed well during the summer months.)

II. Phosphorus influence to plant growth

A. Involved in the photosnythetic process

B. Necessary to build healthy tissue

- C. Insures a healthy root system, development of new seedlings
- D. Physiological functions:

1. ATP

- 2. New cell production
- E. Phosphorus fertilization:

1. Solubility

2. Slightly acid soil pH desired

3. Supplemental feeding at seeding time

F. Phosphorus Source:

(Monoammonium phosphate is best 11-48-0) MAR

- 1. Ammonium stimulates the uptake of phosphorous
- 2. MAP is completely water soluble (and therefore available) compared to other sources

III. Role of Potassium in Plant Growth

A. Aids in the development of chlorophyll

Credit - Tee to Green

By the Sweat of Thy Brow

"I am the foundation of all prosperity. I am the fount from which all blessings flow. Everything that is of value in this world springs from me. I am the salt that

gives life its savor.
"I am the sole support of the poor, and the rich who think they can do without me live futile lives and fill

premature graves.
"I have built America. I have built her matchless industries, laid her incomparable railroads, created her cities, and reared her skyscrapers.

"I am the friend of every worthy youth. If he makes my acquaintance when he is young and keeps me by his side throughout his life, I can do more for him than the richest parent.

"I keep bodies lean and fit, minds alert, and when I am neglected, both bodies and minds grow fat and

sluggish. I am even the parent of genius itself.

"I am represented in every paper that flies from the press, in every loaf of bread that springs from the oven, in every train that crosses the continent, and in every ship that steams the ocean.

"Fools hate me, wise men love me. The man who keeps his hand in mine throughout his life never dies because that which he has created with my help lives on after he is gone. The man who shirks me and scorns my aid never lives - never really lives, even though he may continue to breathe.

"Who am I? What am I? I am WORK!"

Author Unknown

MIDWEST LAWN CARE PROFESSIONALS TO MEET JULY 21

The Midwest Professional Lawn Care Regional Seminar will be held at the Elmhurst Country Club, Wooddale, Illinois on July 21, 1982.

The clinic is co-sponsored by the University of Illinois Extension Service and the Professional Lawn Care Association of America.

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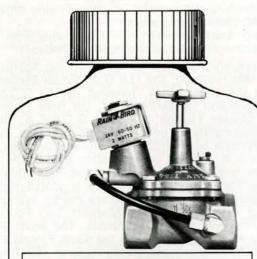
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O. J. NOER FOUNDATION, INC. REPORT

The O. J. Noer Foundation was initiated in 1959 by associates and friends of O. J. Noer, to honor him for his lifetime of work in turfgrass improvement throughout North America. Noer was a native of Stoughton, Wisconsin who graduated from the University of Wisconsin and did graduate work there which resulted in the production and marketing of Milorganite.

The Foundation is dedicated to the generation of original research through grants to universities and experiment stations. Most of these projects, being basic in nature, would have no "commercial" support. But being **Basic** research, the information will have

value over a broad range of interests.

Much of the data generated has no immediate, direct effect on turf management since it is fundamental in nature. It does, however, form a base from which more practical projects can be developed. Dr. Jim Beard calls this the ''fallout effect''. If basic facts have been developed, a great deal of time, money and effort has

been saved to do other things.

An example of this fallout effect can be illustrated by thatch studies. The Foundation established grants at Michigan State and Texas A & M con-currently to study the Identification, Cause and Effect and Control of Thatch on cool - and warm - season grasses. Since then, there have been many projects on thatch dealing with subjects like insecticide effects, disease generation, etc., all based on data accumulated by the initial projects.

The very first project was at the University of Wisconsin by Dr. Jim Love. This was the first time anyone had shown visible nutrient deficiency symptoms in turfgrasses. The paper by Love and the photographs are classics in the field. The color plates, by the way.

can be found in Dr. Beard's forthcoming book.

Wisconsin does not have the extensive turfgrass research facilities found in other states. It is incumbent upon superintendents, however, to put money into research since they will be the beneficiaries in the long run. To do this on a orderly basis, an organization such as the O. J. Noer Research Foundation, Inc. is the best vehicle to use.

Most of the monies contributed to the Foundation comes from Milorganite distributors, who have a self-assessed fee on tonnage sold each year. Superintendents' Associations across the country also make gifts along with interested individuals and companies like Jacobsen and Toro.

Noer grants have been made toward worthwhile projects in all sections of the country, from New Jersey to California and from Florida to Washington. The following list provides a partial view of the range of subjects covered.

University of Wisconsin - Visual symptoms of plant nutrient deficiencies, major and minor.

Iowa State University - Effect of fertilization on turf diseases.

University of Wisconsin - Effect of cutting height on root growth and chemical composition of Merion Bluegrass.

Iowa State University - Nutritional influence on dollarspot disease in bentgrass.

Michigan State University & Texas A&M University -Thatch on golf greens, North and South -- its cause, composition and control.

University of Florida - Fertility problems with sandy soil mixtures.

Pennsylvania State University - Special soil testing techniques required in turfgrass areas.

Iowa State University - Influence of herbicides on turf diseases.

University of Washington - Fertility levels in Poa annua control.

New Mexico State University - Development of new grass varieties requiring less water and fertilizer.

University of Illinois - Management practices that influence thatch development on golf greens.

Rutgers University - Improvement of root growth on golf greens.

Texas A&M University - Water management in relation to heat and drought stress.

University of Nebraska - Nitrogen-fixing organisms for cool season grasses.

Ohio State University - Microscopic time lapse photographic studies of root nematodes.

There are four national-level funding agencies for turfgrass research: the U.S.G.A. Green Section provides the most money, followed by the G.C.S.A.A. Research and Education Fund, the Noer Foundation and Musser Foundation. Most G.C.S.A.A. projects are, and rightly so, on a more practical plane, such as the Toronto bent problem in Chicago last year when G.C.S.A.A. and the Green Section went to the aid of members to try to solve a local, but vexing problem.

There are many local or regional support systems for research. Michigan and Ohio are nearby examples of strong local support. The Midwest Turf Foundation gives regional support to Purdue. The South Florida G.C.S.A. primarily supports the South Florida Experiment Station now that a strong research staff has been

assembled there.

One final word. Noer Foundation grants are made from investment profits. Thus, any donations continue to bring dividends from now on. In addition, since there are no paid employees, there is a minimum overhead. In 1980, the management cost of managing the \$164,000 fund amounted to only 2%. Officers and Directors receive no pay, no transportation or living expenses at meetings. They serve because of their remembrance of O. J. Noer and their commitment to the field from which their livelihood comes. That's how the Foundation has generated \$180,000 for turf research in the last twenty years.

James M. Latham, Research Director O. J. Noer Research Foundation, Inc.

FACING UP TO AN EXPERT

•Charge your mental motors so you won't have to start out cold. Before facing any expert, it pays to mull over the information and/or advice you are seeking. Think about the questions you should ask ... "Why is this particular change being proposed? ... "How will this move affect employees?" Certainly, taking the time to jot down queries like these can clarify your thinking. Moreover, knowing just what you want to ask can help you keep the discussion on track and ease any feelings of awkwardness.

Another good idea is to check the file for material that is similar in content to the matter that will be discussed — for example, a compensation report that was prepared last year for another company. That way, you will be somewhat familiar with some of the common terms and jargon — and this familiarity can provide

clues to what the expert is getting at.

•Prime the pump. Most people — experts included — are willing to share their knowledge and experience. But they do so more enthusiastically when they can see that there are personal benefits involved. It's important, therefore, to alert the expert to the advantages of an on-the-spot discussion. For example, "Mr. Taylor is so sorry he can't be here today, and he has asked me to get the basic information on the plans you're propos-

ing. When he comes back, I'll brief him - and this should save time for both of you. Equally important,

your visit here won't have been wasted.'

There is no reason not to mention that you are not an expert in this particular field. In fact, it's wise to do so ... "I must admit that I don't know much about this, but I'd like to learn as much as I can." Put on notice, the expert will be more inclined to expound - patiently and clearly — on his or her specialty.

·Use your lack of expertness to advantage. Absorbing specialized information comes slowly even to bright people. If a point is unclear, don't be inhibited by the fear of asking a foolish question or saying, "I don't understand." Admit that you don't know and have the expert explain in terms that you do understand. And keep asking questions until you are satisfied that you have grasped the meaning of what has been said.

 Take notes. When someone gives you new information or describes a process with which you are not familiar. simply trusting to memory is not a good idea. It's better to jot down a few key words, phrases, or even sentences to jog your memory. You can expand on the notes later while the discussion is still fresh in your mind.

Another useful memory jogger: asking the expert to put certain things in writing. You can peruse this at your leisure. Sometimes, too, an expert can refer you to written information which covers the same ground

succinctly.

·Pave the way for a follow-up. What seems perfectly clear during your discussion with the expert may not seem so later on. You may find that, rather than trying to grasp everything in one sitting, you would prefer to get back to this person after you've had a chance to absorb what has been said. Hence, you may want to set the stage for further discussion - "After I've had a chance to think this over, I may have more questions." Or, "I'd like a chance to absorb all this before going on. Can we discuss this again — either in person or on the phone?'

Observation: There may be times when, like Sara Frazier, you are asked to stand in for your boss facing up to an expert who can supply you with necessary information. In other cases, you may be consulting an expert for your own reasons. The important thing to remember is that you are there to learn, and this is not a passive process. An interested attitude, direct questions, the willingness to admit that you don't understand something - all these can help you add to your knowledge and broaden your mental horizons.

Research Institute Personal Report

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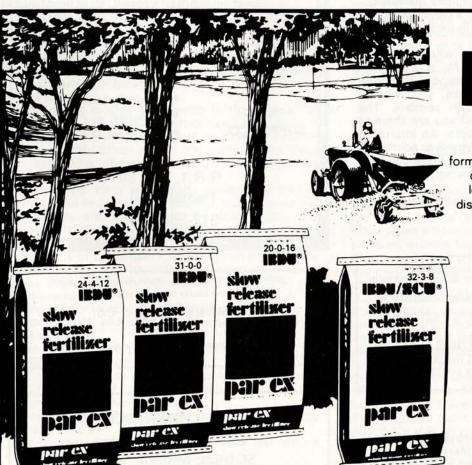
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