

THE BULL SHEET, official publication of the MID-WEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPER-INTENDENTS.

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Bull Sheet printed by Ever-Redi Printing, La Grange, Illinois 60525. Phone: (312) 352-4378.

The Bull Sheet is published once a month. All articles are required by the 10th of the month to make the next issue. Advertising rates are: \$12.00 per column inch, \$45.00 per quarter page, \$75.00 per half page, and \$135.00 per full page. All artwork to be finished and in black and white, circulation is over 500.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Sports Editor:

How on Earth do you describe the type of season we have had this year? Think back to the killing frost we had as late as May 22. Most of the Spring was cold and wet; not a good start for developing deep roots in preparation for summer stress. Now we are in one of the toughest seasons one could imagine with intense heat, humidity and the ensuing problems that follow the peculiar weather that Mother Nature has scheduled. Since we are all in pretty much the same boat, (sinking ship?), I thought maybe it would be a good idea to contact the media and attempt to explain the situation to the professional writers. Then maybe most of the golfing public might be a little more understanding about what the local Golf Course Superintendent is up against. All I wanted to do was stimulate some interest in the fact that golf courses in the midwest might not be in tip-top shape because of the severe weather we have experienced this season. I wanted to explain that in spite of the comparative poor conditions, the superintendents have done so much to avoid even worse conditions. Dedication to the golf course has saved a good deal of turf, and golf courses have stayed open for golfing enjoyment when they probably should have been closed on some days because of the emergency work that had to be done. Yes, inspite of the heat, desiccation and/or diseases, golf carts were permitted to be used on the golf course, even though they kill fairway turf when it is severely stressed. I wanted to explain that, once again, the Golf Course Superintendent has no control over the conditions when weather extremes prevent us from doing what we normally do each day. Storms, uprooted trees, brown-outs, pump failures, insects, strange diseases, sun scald followed by wilt, and other frustrations that are too numerous to mention, have prevented us from doing our usual good job by providing the best playing conditions possible all year long. The irony of the situation is that the golfing public really is getting the best conditions possible because the man in charge of the golf course is working his fanny off. And so is his crew. I wanted more people to understand the complexities of this business; keeping golf course turf.

The problem is, according to my journalistic friend or his editor: "people out there won't read that. It doesn't make good copy. Golf is boring reading to the average sports fan." "They would rather read about sports scores, injuries, trades and winning." Well, I have news for you Mr. Sports Editor. You are wrong! People love their golf courses. They pay a lot of money to play, and they care about what is happening out there and why. Golf is important to millions of participating

sports fans. You sports writers are missing the boat because of your failure to do some investigating about things you don't understand. You are not doing your job because you haven't figured out that golf courses and the Golf Course Superintendents are the most important part of the golf course operation. You should get to know the Superintendents in the Midwest area. They are touted as having the best golf courses in the world. You should find out what it is all about so that you could become more sensitive to the needs of the sport fans. You should visit the golf course and see what the Superintendents see. I know you would be amazed at the expertise and sensitivity of a Golf Course Superintendent and the product he puts out. You could do a better job of reporting golf tournaments, too. I'll never forget when Johnny Miller blamed his first 3 putt green on the greenkeeper in the 1975 U. S. Open at Medinah C.C. He thought the practice green was different than the regular greens. No one bothered to check with John Jackman about that. There are lots of things that don't get checked out when it comes to reporting golf. My suggestion to sports writers is to check with the Golf Course Superintendents if you care about better golf course reporting for our tens of thousands of golfers who do care about the condition of the golf courses they play.

Peter Leuzinger

COMMITMENT ...

is a word, I believe, that applies to the profession of Golf Course Superintendents. I admire their cooperation, helpfulness and genuine concern among their peers.

I'm taking time out to write about my devoted friend and companion, Dale W. Pieper, Golf Course Superintendent, and to share some of my observations about the golf course business. Dale has been in the business over 27 years, first as a crewman, for his now deceased father, Walter Pieper, Supt. of Flossmoor C.C., Flossmoor, IL, then as Walter's assistant, and finally as Supt. of Cherry Hills C.C., Flossmoor, IL. Dale, and all the other superintendents that I have met are conscientious professionals who enjoy watching things grow and enjoy the progress of their toils. Sometimes recognition is not given until they retire, but I believe that they all need a moral boost every now and then before they retire.

Here in the Midwest, the four seasons can have a favorable or detrimental effect on the total look of a golf course. Superintendents are challenged by the ubiquitous Mother Nature everyday ... bad winters, bad summers, (which is what we are having now), too much or too little rain, humidity, insects and fungus. Their experience and knowledge is indispensable in combating all the elements.

Then there is the other side of Mother Nature, which is human nature with which to contend ... good crews, bad crews, good bosses, bad bosses, and sometimes disrespectful golfers. During the playing season, their job is monumental just with everyday maintenance seven days a week. If the course looks good, everyone shares the complimentary remarks, but if the superintendents have some bad luck, the consequences are theirs to bear alone.

Through Dale, I've taken a different perspective and appreciation of golf courses. I share in his pride when things are going well and I worry with him when he has problems. Thank you, Dale and all the other superintendents that I have met through you. Here's looking ahead to some well-deserved R and R for all of you.

Rose M. Crockett

MAGCS DIRECTORS COLUMN

Let me begin by explaining to those who don't already know, each member of our board of directors is assigned one month of the year that he is to write an article for **THE BULLSHEET**. Well this is my month, that is if I can finish here and then figure out how to get this to our editor yet today, because, naturally, today is the deadline. It really is not that I didn't know ahead of time, our current leader, Pete, very thoughtfully told me of my assignment last December. The problem is that no one tells you what to write about. I have spent 9 months now trying to come up with a topic. I made list after list of possibilities (the first topic that came to mind was, of course, croquet) then after careful deliberation I realized that anyone who was once even remotely interested in building croquet courts or about the game itself, has probably already been cornered by me somewhere and already heard enough.

Then I considered writing about my use of AG grade fertilizer on my bluegrass fairways and tees. There are a lot of pros and cons about this procedure, some of which I am still uncertain about, so I scratched that one.

Of course, I didn't want to overlook the ever popular topic of sand top dressing. I am currently experimenting with sand on one of my croquet courts. (There I go with croquet again). The results after one year look good, but still inconclusive. I hope I never have to go to sand. That about sums up how I feel on that topic.

The next thought on my list of possibilities is the field modification of turfgrass equipment. I really liked that title the best. The problem with it is how much can you say about moving a battery from under a seat to out in the open where you can at least get to it with jumper cables when it goes bad because you forget to check the electrolyte level for a couple of months. Or, the engineering marvel of moving an air filter from an enclosed area on a sand trap rake to a place where it can get fresh air. Most superintendents I know are smart enough to figure these things out for themselves. Maybe I could write one on the topic for the engineering geniuses who design equipment for us someday.

The list is getting smaller and smaller, and my article is getting longer and longer.

The topics remaining on my list really all sound pretty good. Unfortunately, people smarter than me have pretty well covered them. Let's be realistic, if I were to write an in-depth article on maintaining bluegrass tees and fairways and Doctor So-And-So did one on the same subject, who would you listen to?

It is beginning to appear to me, and probably to you too, that I have absolutely nothing profound to say here. (So much for becoming a professional writer, I guess).

The one subject I really wanted to write on was "Why Be a Superintendent." I gave this subject a lot of thought, but my feelings are sometimes hard to put into words. Certainly, this business is not for everyone. The problems we face with the weather each day. The equipment always seems to break down when you need it the most. And it seems that the golfers almost never understand us or the problems we have. Still after twenty-two years on a golf course, I wake up every morning looking forward to whatever the day is going to bring. I cannot imagine what it would be like to not want to go to work, but to **have** to go. I truly enjoy being a professional golf course superintendent. I am also proud of what I have accomplished as a professional and can only hope that our job will always be as rewarding for you as it has for me.

So much for my obligation to the September **BULL SHEET**.

J. Michael Hart, C.G.C.S.

BY TONY LITRELL, PRES., KGCSA

Did you ever look into a cookbook and see all of the different recipes that there are for cakes? There are all kinds of cakes from chocolate to angel food to strawberry, with hundreds of others in between. A person desiring to bake a cake, can for all practical purposes simply read the directions and if they are coordinated to a certain extent, combine the ingredients as specified in the recipe, slip the total accumulation into one or more cake pans and then into the oven and in a certain amount of time have a cake or a resemblance thereof. I have tried to bake a cake on certain occasions, probably two that I can remember, and despite the fact that I followed the directions to the letter of the book, the results were far less than desirable. On the other hand, there are people who can bake and do an amazingly superb job of it and almost never have to resort to a cookbook for any part of a recipe.

Not too long ago I overheard a golfer rambling about the ease of maintaining a golf course and how easy it had become with all of the modern chemicals, machinery and irrigation. I laughed to myself, as I usually do when someone begins to downplay the significance of our profession. He then made one more comment about the turfgrass profession and said something along the line of, "hell, anybody can do it now, the directions are right on the bag." I thought about making him an offer of taking my job for a couple of weeks while I went on vacation, and even considered throwing in a couple of textbooks to go along with the different directions that are on the back of the bag.

I had to let this person's words sink in for a little while before I started to realize just what it really requires of an individual to be in this profession. Sure the directions are on the bag, just as they are in a cookbook, but that is all that they are. Among the many demands and facets to this business of being a golf course superintendent is a certain feeling or touch that is required that can't be taught in any school or textbook. It is that certain knack that all of us in this profession has, which enables us to perceive the attitude of nature and how it is best to blend the various ingredients that are at our disposal for success. Another thing that occurred to me is that none of us use the exact same recipe. Oh sure, a lot of the ingredients are the same, but the amount and how we do it differs in all cases. Yet, in the end we each have our own cake, so to speak. Sometimes we trade recipes and even though they work for one, doesn't mean that they will work for someone else. We all have our own number of variables that will affect the success. In a way it makes us all entities unto ourselves, and when I stop to think about it, even the recipes are different, and in the end all that we are looking for and sometimes get, is that perfect cake.

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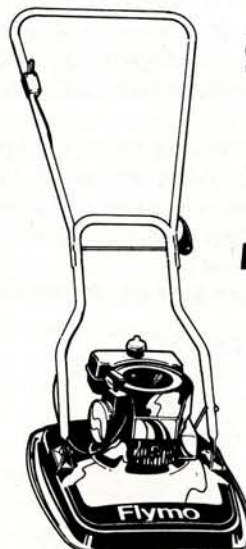
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ITF FIELD DAY JULY 27, 1983

The ITF Turf Field Day on July 27, 1983 at Urbana, Illinois was well attended by over 100 turf managers from across the state. The day began at 8:30 A.M. with registration and after welcoming address proceeded into the various turf trials and experiments being conducted by the University of Illinois. Dr. Wehner, Dr. Fermanian, and Dr. Wilkenson explained the various projects they were working on as each group went from one area of the test plots to another. Continuing research on Bentgrass fairway trials and sand topdressing trials were observed by the crowd and Roscoe Randall filled us all in on the insect activity affecting turf in Illinois. Roscoe also gave a brief question and answer session on the latest controls for insects and how they are most effectively used.

A catered lunch was provided in the welcome shade of a group of ash trees on the west side of the field building. At lunch, Dr. Bill George made the long awaited announcement that the turfgrass pathologists position held by Dr. Hank Wilkenson, has been made a tenured position. This is due to the support from the ITF, CDGA, and turf managers across the state. Congratulations to Hank and all those who helped make this position possible. Dr. Wilkenson is already busy with many projects from Fusarium research to a bacterial control Pythium, to a natural control for Brown Patch, to his involvement in researching the interface between soil and sod and it's role in Fusarium Blight of Bluegrass.

After lunch, the ornamental portion of the program provided an insight into the work being done on trees and shrubs. New varieties were exhibited, herbicide experiments and recommendations were discussed by Dr. Dave Williams, and Martin Meyer showed us his conifer propagation experiments. Dan Neely from the Illinois Natural History Survey gave an excellent presentation on proper pruning methods and held an impromptu discussion on the problem of Oak Wilt.

There were, by this writer's count, less than twenty golf course superintendents at the Field Day and less than half of those represented the Midwest. Look, I know it's HOT, and I know it's the middle of JULY, and I know it is a 2½ hour DRIVE, but really, less than 10% representation from the MAGCS was a little discouraging. Please plan now to attend next year. These people at the U. of I. plan this day for US. Let's show them we are interested in the work they are doing to help us out and not just show them we are interested only in what they can do when our turf is brown and we are hoping they have found some miracle cure. Get a group of superintendents in your area and ride together to next year's Field Days. What you see is what you are getting and it's something you shouldn't miss.

By the way, have you all made your plans to attend the ITF Golf Day at Turnberry C.C. on September 19, 1983? If not, do so now. Bring your greens chairman, golf chairman, pro, owner, or president. See Mike Nass, Don Spiers, or Jim Reed for tickets.

Roger Stewart, Riverside G.C.

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Ripple soled shoes were banned years ago,
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Sure feels good when you stop."

Superintendently,

Kenneth R. Zanzig



Dr. Tom Fermanian explains topdressing trials



L. to R. - Conrad Stynchula, U. of I. Golf Courses; Roscoe Randall, U. of I. Extension Entomologist; Mike Nass, Supt., Bryn Mawr C.C. & President of ITF.

The American Phytopathological Society announces the release of a new title in its Compendia of Plant Diseases series -- **Compendium of Turfgrass Diseases**.

This book is a practical reference for anyone involved in the culture of fine turf. It includes contributions from recognized scientists and agribusiness leaders from more than a dozen countries on all six continents. It reviews diseases as they occur on the most common grasses maintained for fine turfs on lawns, sod farms, sports fields, golf courses, bowling greens, cemeteries, airport and highway rights-of-way, and other areas. In addition, it represents a collection of the most common diseases occurring on fine turfs throughout the world and includes a "World Checklist of Turfgrass Diseases" reviewing turf diseases across the globe.

Contents include: Introduction--Grasses Managed as Turfs. Part I. Noninfectious Diseases--Algae; Moss; Insects: Pesticide Damage; Animal Urine; Salts; Air Pollution; Chemical Spills; Extremes in Temperature and Water; Mower Injury; "Scalping"; Abrasion, etc. Part II. Infectious Diseases--Red Thread; Powdery Mildew; Leaf Smuts; Rusts; Snow Molds; Fusarium Diseases; Fairy Rings. Ecology and Taxonomy of Pathogenic Fungi in Turfgrass. Disease Control Strategy. Disease Diagnosis. Guide to Diseases and Disease Groups. World Checklist of Turfgrass Diseases. Glossary. Index.

Compendium of Turfgrass Diseases was prepared by Richard W. Smiley, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. It contains 136 pages, 185 color plates, and 66 illustrations. To obtain a copy, send a check for \$15.00, payable to TURF, N-423 Turner Hall, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL, 61801, attention: Dr. H. T. Wilkinson.

EVERYTHING YOU DID NOT WANT TO KNOW ABOUT MOLES

I will tell you about those pesky little buggers. They have a name; the common mole and they belong to the Mammalian classification; order of Insectivora and family Talpidae and their general species of *T. Micrura*. But, what I REALLY call them would make Abdulla, the camel driver blush!!!

The mole is not very big; about 5¼ inches long and has a cylindrical body with a club-shaped tail. The female is slightly smaller and they have a long snout which is rather pointed. Moles have small eyes that are hidden in the fur; an internal ear that is no more than a ridge. The head and snout have long bristles.

The fur is velvet and very soft to the touch. Usually, it is dark gray to almost black; although, moles have been found that were grey-yellow, orange, cream, or white.

All four limbs are short and enclosed within the skin of the body. The limbs are well forward; the front paws are broad with 5 toes and an extra crescent bone, giving even greater breadth. Each toe has a strong claw; the hind feet are small by comparison but not as weak as they are usually described.

Moles are solitary and are seldom seen together except at maturing times when females will build a nest from 18 inches to 3 feet below the surface and will stack it with dead grass and leaves. They usually mate during late March and early April and the litter is born in 5 to 6 weeks. They are blind, naked, and pink in color and start getting their fur in 2 to 3 weeks. There are usually 3 to 4 moles in a litter but there can be as many as 7 and as few as 2. Young moles leave the nest at 5 to 6 weeks and go out on their own. They become sexually mature at 10 to 11 months old.

The mole is a restless creature and will alternately rest, feed and hunt every 3½ to 4 hours. It is quite common for them to be tunneling right after sun-up, right after noon and at sunset.

Their natural habitat is the forest or woodland areas but they will seek any place that may offer food. They live almost wholly underground, seldom coming to the surface and when they do, it is only for short spells and they are looking for a new run.

Their chief senses are smell and hearing and they have an extraordinary sense of touch at a distance. They can pick up the slightest of vibrations.

Surface runs are primarily for feeding and hunting and they can travel at a rate of 7 to 8 inches a minute. When in an area they have as many as 3 layers of tunnels; surface, as mentioned; another at 3 to 6 inches below the surface (also for feeding); and then a set 18 to 20 inches below for resting. There is no pattern for these tunnels. They seek the path of least resistance or if the soil is distasteful, they will go in another direction. A mole can cover anywhere from ½ to 4 acres with intersecting tunnels. When not digging, he can move rapidly through these tunnels, using a swimlike method. It can move equally well either backwards or forwards. When a large mound is seen in an area of a surface run, this is usually a nesting or resting area and may be a vertical tunnel to as much as 3 feet in depth.

The mole eats insects, wireworms, cutworms, grubs, etc., however, its principle food is earthworms. It cannot survive more than a few hours without feeding and when earthworms are plentiful it may store them. It bites off the tip of the worm's head. With its four teeth it twists the worm into a knot and pushes it into a cavity in the soil. These stores can sometimes include hundreds, even thousands of earthworms. Should the mole not need them, the worms in time regrow their heads and burrow away. When eating a worm, the mole holds it



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down with its' forepaws, bracing the body with its hind feet and chews it from the front end backwards. A single mole will eat 40 to 80 lbs. of food per year. It does not need to drink when feeding on worms, as they are 85% water.

The moles have no natural enemies except possibly man and then only when he leaves a wooded area and trespasses into lawns, parks, and golf courses. There is a long list of remedies to rid moles but most of them are old folklore. But as a personal note, I think at one time or another, I have tried them all with various degrees of results. The examples are:

Drowning: Not practical because of the length and depth of runs: you can have water in a lot of places where you don't need it.

Carbon Monoxide & Other Gases: again, due to runs, gas can be all over and create some problems, especially on Ladies' Day.

Strychnine Treated Worms: somewhat effective but you do not know if you really got him or if he moved.

Poison Peanuts: moles will avoid these because they recognize that the run has been disturbed and also they do not normally eat peanuts.

Trapping: somewhat effective, but care must be used in setting trap; mole can recognize run has been disturbed.

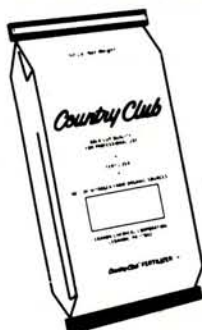
Physically Catching: being at the run when mole is working; kicking him out of the run, then killing. After getting a mole out of the run, don't stand there and admire him; just that quick, he can be back into the ground and gone. I feel this is the best way.

Distractors: windmills or anything that will cause vibrations; the moles extreme sense of touch will sense the vibrations and move to another area.

Chemical Distraction: Spraying barrier strips with an insecticide using 1½ rate and 6 to 10 feet wide; the mole doesn't like the taste and will move on and will not cross it if it is wide enough.

John Stephensen, CGCS

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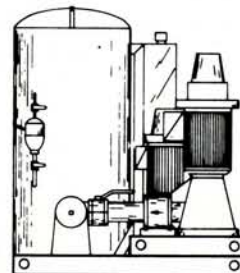
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After 7 years of testing, federal label approval for a new organophosphate insecticide manufactured by the Ciba Geigy Corporation was submitted to the EPA in 1982. Previously known only as CGA-12223, the new product will bear the trade name "TRIUMPH™". Three formulations will be made available: a 4E (emulsifiable) liquid for professional use by golf courses and the lawn care industry; and 1% granular and 1% emulsifiable formulations for home and garden use. Requests for approval of the 1G and 1E formulations were submitted June 1982 and November 1982 for the 4E. Approval is expected in 1983. If registration is granted, the product should be available in late 1983 or early 1984.

The toxicology of technical grade TRIUMPH™ shows it has an acute oral LD₅₀ (rat) of 100 mg/kg, acute dermal LD₅₀ (rat) of 700 mg/kg and an acute inhalation LC₅₀ (rat) of 1,500 mg/m₃. These characteristics place the insecticide in the moderately toxic category.

Research data on the effectiveness of TRIUMPH™ shows it to be very effective against a broad range of turfgrass pests, including: grubs, chinchbugs, billbugs, sod webworms and cutworms. The label rate for grubs is expected to be 2 lb. AI (active ingredient)/acre, and 1 lb. AI/acre for surface insects. Rapid effectiveness against grubs and the fact that the material moves through thatch readily, are two of its advantageous characteristics. The duration of residual effectiveness against grubs is still under investigation.

Dr. Harry D. Niemczyk
Department of Entomology
OARDC - The Ohio State University

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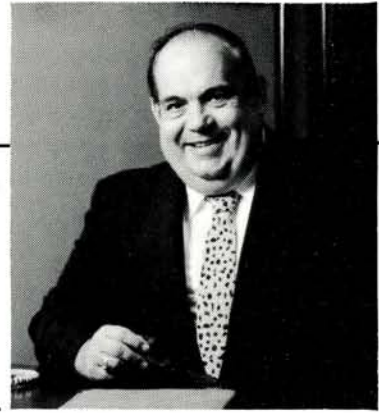
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