

Dutch Elm Disease Control Program

by Dr. Thomas L. Green
Research Plant Pathologist
Morton Arboretum

The majestic American elm is still found throughout the Chicago region despite the Dutch elm disease (DED) epidemic. There are a few municipalities, cemeteries, parks, and golf courses that have managed to preserve most of their original elms. However, the disease continues to take its toll. Although costs for DED control can be high, they don't necessarily have to be.

1. Establish a priority for the elms on the course. This is best done with an inventory of the golf course trees. Rank landscape and key trees higher than fairway and rough trees. Landscape trees are those around the buildings that add value to the property by their size, stature, and location. Key trees are those so positioned on the fairway that their loss would affect the play of the game, making the hole less difficult.

2. Look for a source of the disease from the properties surrounding the golf course. If DED is not being controlled on the properties surrounding the course, there is a greater threat to the golf course elms. The courses surrounded by forest preserves stand the greatest threat of all.

3. The most important control strategy is sanitation. It is absolutely essential to remove all diseased trees before the beetle vectors can emerge and transmit the disease to adjacent healthy elms. The beetles begin emerging in April and continue emerging until cold fall weather. Therefore, dead elms should be removed before April. Trees that begin dying during the spring and summer should be removed immediately. The wood has to be removed from the grounds or burned. It should not be kept for firewood. When a tree begins to die, do not wait more than 30 days after the onset of symptoms. The disease may spread to adjacent trees via root grafts when they are left standing and will provide a source of beetles.

4. If there is a threat of root graft transmission, especially to key and landscape trees, root grafts will need to be interrupted. This can be done with a trench (24-36" deep) or chemicals (under the direction of a trained arborist).

5. Surveillance: If disease symptoms are observed early enough, there is about a 75% chance to save the tree by pruning. The pruning MUST be done immediately.

Elms are most susceptible to DED in the spring when they are growing rapidly. Beetles emerging in April and May will carry the disease to healthy trees. The disease, often transmitted to the top of the tree, will begin moving downward. The windier and hotter the weather, the faster the downward spread.

This makes May and June the period for an active surveillance program. Once each week someone should be scanning the tree tops looking for the "flags", an off green, yellow, or brown leaf color. This can be done by someone mowing around the trees. If a flag is spotted, it should be watched for a day or two. The flagging symptoms for DED will move progressively down. DED causes the wood beneath the bark to turn brown, healthy wood is white. When the flag is high in the tree the brown streak will fade out. If the branch is cut 7-10' below the point where the brown streak fades, there is a 75% or more chance of saving the tree by pruning alone.

A tree that has had DED pruned out must be closely watch-

(cont'd. page 16)

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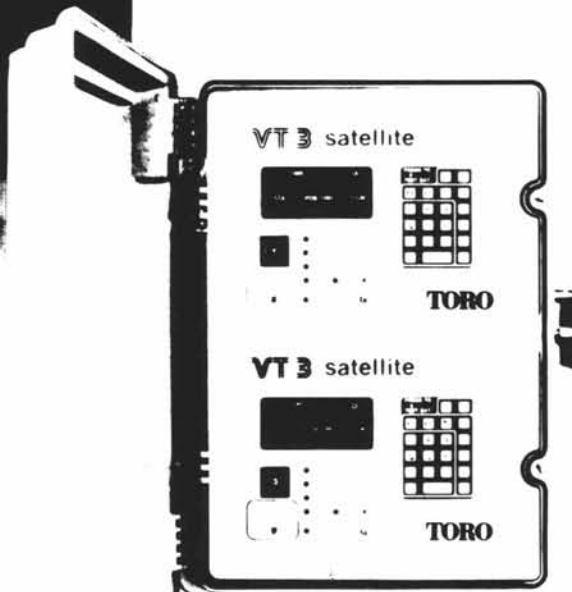
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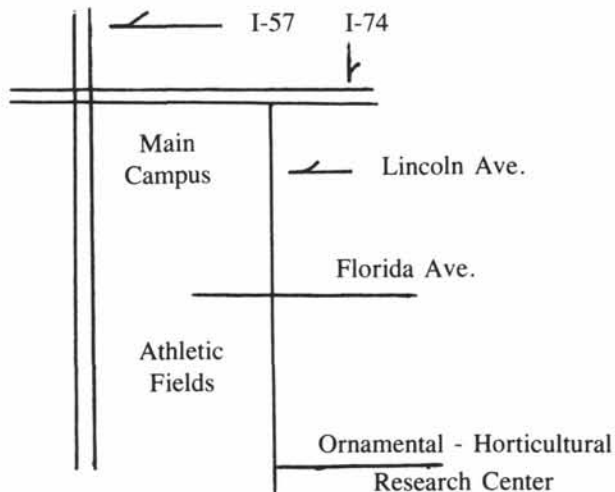
Upcoming Events — Mark Your Calendar

- June 17th — MAGCS Monthly Meeting at Sunset Ridge C.C.
- June 24th — Illinois Turfgrass Foundation Golf Day at Glen Oak C.C.
- July 8th — MAGCS Monthly Meeting at Deer Path G.C. in Lake Forest
- July 17 — University of Illinois Field Day at Urbana Turf Plots
- August — MAGCS Monthly Meeting needs a place.
- August 7th — Illinois Landscape Contractors Association Summer Field Day at Kishwaukee College, Malta, IL. (6 miles west of DeKalb). This is the site of the "All American Vaughn Trial Gardens"
- September 9th — MAGCS meeting at Briar Ridge C.C., Dyer, IN
- September 19-24 — GCSAA Mid-Year Turfgrass Conference & Show, Indianapolis
- November 10-12 — Penn State Turf Conference, State College, PA

A belated "Happy Birthday" to Herb Graffis who turned 92 on May 31st.

Did we have a fantastic Spring this year or did we? Wow! The weather was great, a little on the dry side but if one had to do any construction work it was just great. It was so unusual to see all of the Spring flowers blooming within a two week period. Everything was at least two weeks ahead of any other year.

Remember the Illinois Turfgrass Field days are July 17th. Registration starts about 9 a.m. with the tour scheduled at 10 a.m. Get a group together and go ...



Wow, what a turnout we had at Silver Lake for our joint association May meeting. We had 135 golfers and 167 for dinner that evening. Dudley outdid himself that day. He even provided showers for all the golfers in the morning - but he forgot to give us the soap. On some of Silver Lakes greens you could have almost a 100 yard putt if you were on the opposite side of the green than the flag. I for one was impressed with Silver Lake with all of the work that has taken place there. There is one course that puts back into it the revenue that it makes. Other than Dudley's shower in the morning without the soap, it was a perfect day.

We had Superintendents from the Northwest Association, Central Illinois, and Michiana all there. It was a fun day enjoyed by all. Cushman/Ryan was the sponsor of the day and they thru the Illinois Lawn Equipment Agency donated to the University of Illinois a riding aerifier and a frontline rotary mower.

Next year look to have this joint association meeting take place at Eagle Ridge in Galena. Eagle Ridge has been rated as one of the top 10 best resorts in the country.

Fun for all and better turf too. Attend the June 24, 1985 ITF Golf Day at Glen Oak Country Club. Entry fee is \$60. This donation goes to ITF and will be used for turf research in our state. It also guarantees your entry into the 18 hole golf tournament. A huge pig roast will be served following the tournament. Plenty of golf prizes will be given away. Lunch will be available on the golf course. Bring extra money for raffle tickets and win a set of golf clubs.

Call ahead for tee times as the field will have to be limited on this beautiful golf course. The number is 669-3637 or 3638. Foursomes are preferred. You may play after 10 a.m. and will either tee off on the first or tenth tee.

Don't forget! A great day has been planned for you on June 24, 1985. Support your turf foundation at Glen Oak Country Club. It's the perfect location at the right time of the year.

**Peter Leuzinger, CGCS
Golf Day Chairman**

Position Open: Head Mechanic. Responsible for all equipment and golf cart fleet. Must have references. Contact - Pete Lieponis at 349-3344.

Be looking for a family picnic to take place sometime in September. Instead of the annual fall dinner dance we thought it might be more fun and draw a better attendance to have a picnic. Details will be coming out later on this fun event.

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History of Glen Oak Country Club

Established 1911

Membership 275

Condensed History — (formerly Pickwick Country Club)

1909 — Going (bankrupt ... 1910 — Going (to receivers) ... 1911 GONE!

(to **Glen Oak Country Club**)

What almost became a subdivision in the Western suburbs of Chicago now stands as one of the finest, most picturesque Golf Clubs in the country.

Due to the untiring efforts of former officers of the defunct Pickwick Club who had the foresight and wisdom to retain this rolling, wooded acreage, Glen Oak Country Club is today an active, busy center of family entertainment — going strong 73 years after it was formed in 1911.

The original Pickwick Country Club was founded January 7, 1909 and was to include 130 acres of the McGarry farm with nine so-called fairways and greens which was purchased under option in 1911 for \$300 per acre.

The name, Glen Oak, was selected as being representative of both Glen Ellyn and Oak Park and became permanent when the official corporate papers for Glen Oak Country Club were approved on January 17, 1911 by then Illinois Secretary of State, James A. Rose.

However, the opulence of the Pickwick Club was not included in the purchase, and the newly formed Glen Oak Country Club "inherited" with the 130 acres the old house and barn for the clubhouse and lockers (with unheated shower water!) and all the debts, which meant a big headache.

Fortunately over the years, Glen Oak has been blessed with administrations and leaders who have been conscientious, energetic, capable and talented. Due to their untiring efforts, administrators have weathered the many years of financial stress and have met the problems, challenges and opportunities of their times most enthusiastically and efficiently.

It is impossible to realize the extent of personal sacrifice of time and effort so generously given by these administrators in their earnest, on-going endeavors to please the majority of members that includes a vast variety of temperaments.

1924 — The present clubhouse was constructed at a cost of \$207,000 including the landscaping. The first floor was composed of the present lounge, dining rooms, kitchen, grill room, mixed lounge and men's locker room. The second floor housed the ladies' locker room and 19 sleeping rooms (four with adjoining baths).

1924 — A fire destroyed the old clubhouse, which turned out to be a fortunate misfortune as the insurance settlement money

was used to purchase furniture for the new clubhouse.

In 1929 a statue was constructed which stands near the main clubhouse entrance in the pathway leading up to the parking area.

It is unique since at the time one of our most popular and capable caddies, nicknamed "Pinky" because of his complexion, was the model.

"Pinky" caddied many rounds for the pro at Glen Oak at that time, "Lighthorse" Harry Cooper, and the famous Dawson brothers, who were members of Glen Oak.

Two members donated the ensemble to the club. It is a work of art and stands as a memento of the club spirit which helped to make Glen Oak one of today's outstanding Country Clubs.

Also of interest is that in the early 1920's, a Gun Club was organized and operated as a separate enterprise. In February, 1929 it was taken over by Glen Oak, and it became a part of the Glen Oak Country Club operation on April 18, 1945. In 1950 it was expanded and modernized to include bar and sanitary facilities, and in 1955 a new trap house was built. Today, it boasts one of the most modern gun club and accommodations in the area and also enjoys a Life Membership in the U.S. Skeet Shooting Association.

1939 — The swimming pool was built. It took only 70 days from the time ground was broken to the day it was open. The cost was \$27,500.

In 1922 the club purchased 22½ acres to the west and southwest for \$11,075 enabling them to improve the general layout of the course which is about the same layout today.

Two other major improvements to the golf course were: In 1966 we diked the east side of the golf course which paralleled the east branch of the DuPage River. This stopped us from being flooded many times during the season. In 1973 we installed an automatic water system for the whole golf course.

Glen Oak also enjoys the prestige of having hosted the Western Open Championship in 1915.

Superintendents at Glen Oak have been few, the first was a gentleman known now only as "Fernie" who was followed by David McIntosh, greenkeeper/professional. McIntosh served from the mid to late teens up to 1935 when Ray Gerber became the "greenkeeper". Ray served Glen Oak for 35 years when he retired in 1970. At that time he was given an honorary membership in the club and appointed as consultant for Fred Opperman who succeeded him. In 74 years there have been only 4 "Greenkeepers".



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(Dutch Elm Disease cont'd.)

ed. If additional symptoms are observed, the trees should be completely removed if there are any elms within 50 feet to prevent root graft transmission. Branch samples can be sent to the Extension Service for DED identification. But don't wait for the results. By the time the results come back, it may be too late to save your tree.

6. Insecticide Sprays: Key and landscape trees can be considered for insecticide treatments. A dormant oil spray (in late winter or early spring) containing Methoxychlor is recommended. The insecticide is like an insurance policy, but sprayed trees can still get DED. Some Chicago area municipalities have dropped spray programs because of costs. They found spraying only reduced losses by about 1-1.5%.

7. Systemic Fungicide: Systemic fungicides can be used to prevent DED and also to "cure" trees infected with DED. When more than 20% of the crown shows symptoms, the chances of recovery are greatly reduced. Again, key and landscape trees should be considered for fungicide treatment. There are three year guarantees being offered by some arborists.

When DED is discovered early, pruning (below brown streak) and fungicide injection have been found to be quite effective.

The key to a successful DED program is regular surveillance by a trained scout and immediate action (i.e. removal, pruning, fungicide injection) when DED is suspected.

For additional information on DED and its control, see Illinois Cooperative Extension Publication No. 647.

The Relationship Between Water pH and Spraying

by Richard Kensinger

Ken Lock Links G.C., Lombard, IL

Have you ever wondered why some of your spray applications did not accomplish the job you had expected? After spraying at known targets, such as, dollar spot, brown patch, or cut worms, etc., with proven chemicals, the results did not meet your expectations - or - perhaps you did get some control, but only for a few days. The problem may not be with the chemicals you are using, but with the pH of your water.

Many golf courses are irrigated with well water which contains high amounts of calcium, iron, and magnesium (known as hard water). Such water has a pH of 7 or greater.

The definition of pH is the measure of the hydrogen ions in a solution, which stated in equation form is: $pH = -\log [H^+]$. Because this is in the logarithmic form, an increase or decrease by one number would indicate a solution ten times more acidic or basic. For example, a pH of 7 is ten times more acidic than a pH of 8, and a pH of 6 is 100 times more acidic than a pH of 8.

The high pH of well water could cause a pesticide to undergo alkaline hydrolysis. This could greatly reduce its effectiveness, or in some cases, even cause it to be totally inoperative. Chemicals such as Actidione, Proxol, Sevin and Malathion are quite sensitive to a high pH. In general, most fungicides and insecticides should be applied with a slightly acidic pH.

(cont'd. page 18)



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(Water pH and Spraying cont'd.)

However, 2, 4-D, MCPP and dicamba are best applied with a slightly alkaline pH. Methylarsonates are not effected by the pH.

As a result, it is necessary to monitor and adjust the pH. I first treated the pH of my water with litmis paper. I compared my results with the results of three other employees, and ended with a range from 6.5 - 8.0. A more accurate method was found through the Enviro-Test Perry Laboratories in Downers Grove. This is a state certified and approved lab with all the latest lab equipment, which allows them to perform almost any test you might require. After testing my water, they found my pH to be 7.9. This then explained why I only receive a 5 to 6 day control after spraying TGF, thiram and iron sulfate under average conditions.

It was obvious I needed to lower the pH to slightly acidic. I first used a product called water acidification and chelating agent made by WA Cleary. The chelating agent chelates the calcium, magnesium and iron salts thus making them usable for the plant. This product will work alone or in combination with iron sulfate.

Another way to lower the pH is to use Lesco's Iron Plus N which supplies some of the minor elements, sulfur and a very small quantity of nitrogen. One application of 1 oz/M (50 oz/200 gal water) prevented my greens from turning chlorotic for 14-21 days. On the other hand, using the Cleary's acidifier at 12 oz/200 gal water plus 36 ounces of iron sulfate/200 gal, prevented chlorosis for only 10-14 days.

Both products extended the length of control by 75-100%. I now can get 10-12 days control from the TGF-thiram combination; 10-23 days from Daconil WP; and 25-30 days from Chipco 26019, under average conditions. This has resulted in a savings in chemicals and labor, not to mention a little more peace of mind.

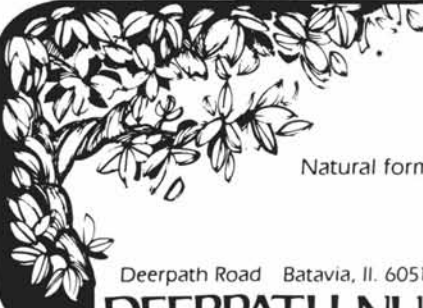
I now regularly modify my pH for all fungicide and insecticide applications throughout the year. However, applying iron sulphate during cold temperatures can blacken a green in a matter of hours.

The following chart illustrates some of the results I have obtained through various combinations and products. Remember, this is for my particular well water. You may get different results from yours. Always check your pH after adding chemicals to see how it has been altered.

CHEMICAL ACIDIFICATION CHART

Product/200 gal.	pH
Normal Well Water	7.9
8 oz. Cleary Acidifer	7.3
12 oz. Cleary Acidifer	7.3
16 oz. Cleary Acidifer	7.1
2½ gal. Sulfur F	7.1
50 oz. Iron Plus (1 oz/M)	6.6
8 oz. Acidifer plus 36 oz. Fe (¾ oz/M)	6.3
10 oz. Acidifer plus 36 oz. Fe (¾ oz/M)	6.0
64 oz. Iron Plus (1.3 oz/M)	5.9
12 oz. Acidifer plus 36 oz. Fe	5.8

ITF Golf Day - Glen Oak C.C.
June 24th



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A Great Man

For the first time in 18 years, a Herb Graffis golf story does not appear in this issue of TROPIC NEWS. At age 91, the dean of American golf writers has finally slackened his pace, but continues to live a luminous life at his gracious Fort Myers Beach home where he remains the most knowledgeable historian on the game he has covered for some 70 years.



Herb is still one of the world's wittiest, most proficient after-dinner speakers and he continues to make occasional sorties onto the golf course, particularly at his home course, Cypress Lake Country Club.

He is the only writer ever enshrined into The World Golf Hall of Fame. Inducted into this Pinehurst, N.C. showcase in 1977, Graffis joined the likes of Hagen and Hogan, Berg and Zaharias — all contemporaries and close friends.

In 1963, along with his late brother Joe, Herb received the Richardson Award, given annually by the Golf Writers Association of America (GWAA) for consistently outstanding contributions to golf.

In 1978, Herb and Joe again shared a prestigious honor, The Donald Ross Award presented by the American Society of Golf Course Architects for achievement in architecture.

And then in 1983, Herb won his own award — The Herb Graffis Award of the National Golf Foundation. This honor is presented yearly to an individual for his contributions to golf as a recreation, good fellowship and as a happy pastime. No one is more qualified for this tribute than Herb Graffis!

A friend of kings and presidents — The Duke of Windsor, who abdicated the throne of Great Britain for the love of a woman; and President Harry S. Truman — Graffis is probably one of the game's best-known personalities.

He ghost-write Tommy Armour's immortal book, "How To Play Your Best Golf All The Time," the only sports book to ever make the No. 1. spot on the Nation's Best Seller list.

For Herb Graffis is a very humble guy. No matter that just about every notable figure who has ever appeared on the world golf scene holds him in high esteem and awe ... Graffis laughingly sloughs this off with some self-deprecating phrase of blue humor.

The year 1984 was not the best of years for Herb Graffis. He underwent three major operations within a period of five days — a supreme test of courage for any one person ... but for a guy of 91?

Still very active in the United States Golf Association's Green Section, Herb was delighted to discover the organization was going to promote the slogan "Golf Keeps America Beautiful" on as many sites as it can find. Herb will never admit it, but "Golf Keeps America Beautiful" was his own catch-phrase from the very beginning.

Stories of Herb Graffis are legend ... just ask Barbara Nicklaus, Jack's wife; or Harry S. Truman's daughter, Margaret, among others ... or Patty Berg or Ben Crenshaw or Ben Hogan ... they'll all tell you what the name Herb Graffis means to golf and to the United States of America.

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