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David R. Behrman, CGCS

President's Message

Now that spring is among us, April showers are bringing May flowers. At least I hope things turn out that way. At the moment I am writing this, the April Drought may be more appropriate. Anyway, we are all back into full swing. Having our start up behind us, we can look forward to the beautiful scenes we will groom for the golfers this season.

Spring's beauty also brings to mind poetry and with it the name Ken Zanzig. Ken has chosen to retire this year and my wife and I had the pleasure of attending a wonderful retirement party that was given by Ken's employer, Ralph Krueger. After a fine meal, several superintendents such as Dudley Smith gave testimony to Ken's dedication, as well as to his more spirited endeavors. Finally, I was privileged to present Ken with a plaque commemorating his being a member of the MAGCS and thanking him for the poetry he shared with us each month for as long as I can remember. Again, I would like to congratulate Ken on thirty successful years. We will still look forward to your poems in **The Bull Sheet**.

Speaking of **The Bull Sheet**, did anyone realize that last month's issue was the largest ever produced? We can all be proud of the fine job Fred Opperman does in preparing an informative, well organized, and self supporting monthly publication. It can also be noted that **The Bull Sheet** was again recognized as one of the country's top publications by the National Golf Foundation. You can help Fred continue his success by keeping the flow of articles to his desk.

Finally, I found myself in an unusual situation this past month. This is due to the fact that Sean Daley resigned his position at Ridge Country Club and joined the ranks of Lesco Inc. as their Phoenix, Arizona representative. Sean had been a member of the board of directors for two years and was serving as golf chairman. It is evident he will be missed in both capacities. And even though he left me holding the bag, I wish him the best of luck in his new endeavor.

In the interim I as the president had to appoint a replacement who will take Sean's place on the board, until the elections in November. The individual I chose was Dennis Wilson, superintendent at Sunset Ridge Country Club. Dennis is an enthusiastic person who I am confident will serve the board and membership well for the remainder of the year. Welcome aboard, Dennis.

I look forward to seeing many of you at Eagle Ridge for the joint meeting May 19th. If you cannot attend, use the money you are saving to join the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation and show your support for research and scholarship in Illinois.

David R. Behrman

Director's Column

by Ray Schmitz, CGCS
Flossmoor Country Club



March 20, 1986

Fred D. Opperman, CGCS
Editor
Midwest Association GCSA
1022 Shady Lane
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

Dear Mr. Opperman:

Re: THE BULL SHEET

Congratulations! I am pleased to inform you that your organization has been awarded an Honorable Mention in the 1985 Harry C. Eckhoff Award for excellence in golf journalism.

The Eckhoff Award committee received more than 130 entries from the U.S. and Australia for the 1985 competition. The committee was very impressed with the level of participation in the competition, and the calibre of golf journalism in all entries.

The National Golf Foundation is preparing your certificate at this time, and will forward it to you in the near future. The Foundation will also submit a news announcement detailing all of the 1985 Harry C. Eckhoff Award winners to all national and regional golfing publications.

The NGF is honored by your participation in this competition, and wish you great success with your efforts in the coming year. We look forward to your entry for the 1986 Harry C. Eckhoff Award competition.

With kind regards,

Bill Jasso
Director of Communications

BJ:sh
Encl

Golfers today are much more mobile and they play several courses. They see what other green superintendents are doing and they come back to their "home" club and make comparisons and ask questions. We must be aware of trends and maintenance procedures in the turfgrass industry in order to answer questions and discuss these comparisons.

I would like to see more superintendents play golf. You will be surprised what you might learn about your course from a golfers viewpoint and the additional respect you will gain once the players realize you understand and play the game.

After I was appointed to the educational committee I began to see some of the work that goes into providing continuing education for our membership. I think we should take advantage of these opportunities.

It wasn't too many years ago that a superintendent deciding to purchase a fairway mower had two choices, orange or red. Today the decision is much more complex and a superintendent must have the knowledge to make the right decision because he is dealing with a lot of money and he will probably have to "sell" his mowing concept to the owner or membership of his club.

We have other decisions to make. One example is the use of sand topdressing. From what I understand the application of sand topdressing is irreversible so one needs all the facts before he enters into a project such as this. He must be aware of all of the advantages and disadvantages in order to defend his choice of 100% sand, versus a sand, soil, organic blend that has been used on golf courses since golf evolved from Scotland.

I have mentioned two areas where education is necessary to support major decisions a superintendent has to make. There are countless situations that must be analyzed and decisions to be made. Limited space does not allow me to delve further.

Where do we find education? Educational opportunities surround us. There are trade magazines that are sent monthly, usually at no charge. The GCSAA provides seminars and the annual trade show. The MAGCS holds monthly meetings and the NCTE gives a turf clinic in the fall. The MRTV conference is held every spring at Purdue University. The ITF, which supports the University of Illinois in scholarship and research. The CDGA, believe it or not, provides a doctor who will make house calls to your golf course. If one has trouble figuring out what the initials for the various organizations stand for it should tell you something. You have not been involved with people in our area that are informed and willing to help. A little knowledge is necessary to survive; a lot of knowledge is necessary to succeed.

• • • • •

"Surprise"

Imagine my surprise! There before my eyes,
Were many Friends I saw so many times before.
They came to wish me well in Friendship measure,
A Royal treat my heart will always treasure.
And though upon my tongue I stood in awe,
I will never forget the sight I saw.

Kenneth R. Zanzig

Prune Lilacs to Promote Flowering

by James A. Fizzell, Sr. Ext. Adviser
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You'll get more and better lilac blooms next year if you prune this year's flowers promptly to prevent seed development. Shoots that will produce next year's flowers begin to develop about the time the old blossoms begin to fade.

Since developing seed competes with the growth of new shoots, prompt removal of flowers helps the plant produce more vigorous growth and consequently more flowers next year.

French and Persian lilacs become overcrowded and overgrown unless you prune out old stems each year. This also helps control scale and borer problems which usually are more severe on older stems. Concentrate on the larger stems that are 4 to 5 years old. Remove about 1/4 of them, cutting them off at ground level. It's also a good idea to thin out the younger stems so that each has plenty of growing room and sunlight.

Thumb-sized stems can be just as productive as the large stems if you give them room to grow. Cut back overly long branches to a reasonable height. A few minutes of pruning each year can produce an attractive plant around six feet high.

Other spring flowering shrubs such as forsythia, honeysuckle, privet, etc. should also be pruned soon after flowering by removing all dead, broken, and old stems. Cut off about 1/3 of the oldest stems near the ground line — leaving no more than a one-inch stump above ground.

Old overgrown hedges of privet or honeysuckle that have become unsightly can be renewed by cutting them all the way to the ground. They will grow back in a year or so, and will be full and green all the way to the ground.

Management Practices Affecting Bentgrass Putting Green Speed

by Clark Throssell

Ass't. Professor, Purdue U.

Putting green speed is a familiar and much discussed topic among golfers and golf course superintendents. With the introduction of the Stimpmeter in 1977 by the United States Golf Association, putting green speed could be measured rather than relying on the subjective judgments of golfers. The Stimpmeter was introduced to aid golf course superintendents in achieving a uniform speed among all greens on the course.

Unfortunately, the intended use of the Stimpmeter and the actual use are quite different. Instead of using the Stimpmeter to help achieve uniformity in speed among greens, Stimpmeter measurements are often used to force an increase in speed. The speed measured on a golf course is often compared to the guidelines established by the U.S.G.A. and to speed measured at other local courses. The prevailing opinion is that faster greens provide more of a challenge to the golfer and are better greens. Therefore, golf course superintendents are under increasing pressure to provide faster greens for play.



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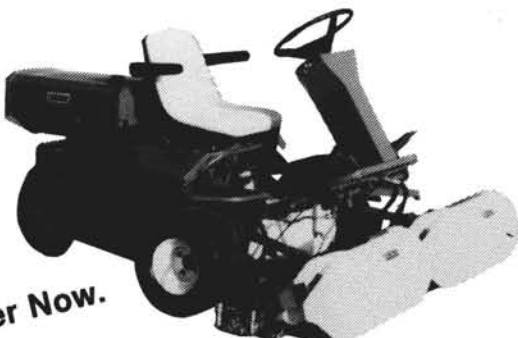
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Faster Greens are Better Greens?

Before discussing putting green management and speed we should consider the notion that faster greens are better greens. A high quality putting green will have many attributes, one of which is a reasonable putting green speed. Each golf course should decide what is a reasonable speed for the greens, based on the desires of the members, the amount of play the course receives, the money and equipment available to maintain the greens and the superintendent's knowledge and experience. In addition to a reasonable putting speed, a high quality green should be uniformly turfed and free of disruptions from disease or insects. The green should have a high shoot density of the desired species and individual leaves and tillers should be oriented vertically to eliminate graininess. Also, the green should offer some resiliency to shots played to it. Each of the attributes mentioned above contribute equally to a good golf green. To emphasize putting green speed at the expense of the other components of a good golf green would be a poor management strategy resulting in the diminished quality of the green.

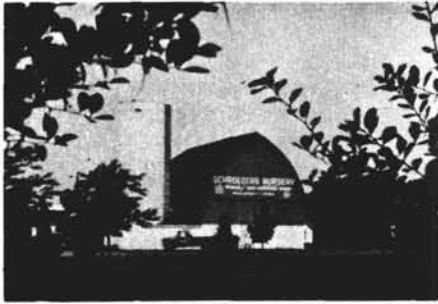
With the above caution in mind we will proceed with a review of the results of a study conducted at Penn State University to determine the effect of management practices on putting green speed. All experiments were conducted on creeping bentgrass turf and speed was measured using a Stimpmeter.

Lower Cutting Height — Faster Green

Of all the factors evaluated, mowing height had greatest impact on speed. Three mowing heights, 2/32, 3/32 and 6/32 inch, were tested on a season long basis. A seasonal summary of

(cont'd. page 7)

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(Putting Green Speed cont'd.)

speeds is shown in Figure 1. Examining Figure 1 it can be seen that as mowing height is lowered putting green speed increases. Putting green speed increased from an average of 7 feet 10 inches at 6/32 inch mowing height to 9 feet 11 inches at 3/32 inch mowing height to 10 feet 5 inches at 2/32 inch mowing height. For each 1/32 inch change in mowing height putting green speed will change by approximately 8 inches in the opposite manner. An increase in mowing height will cause a decrease in speed while a decrease in mowing height will cause an increase in speed. It is very tempting to lower the mowing height to increase putting speed. Extremely low mowing heights should be avoided. At extremely low mowing heights shoot density will decline, weed encroachment will increase and the turf will be very susceptible to any stress.

Speed Fluctuates Day to Day

Another interesting aspect of Figure 1 is the variation in putting speed from week to week. Speed will fluctuate from season to season and even day to day. These fluctuations are thought to be due to climatic and weather changes. It would be unreasonable to expect putting green speed to remain constant through an entire week, let alone an entire golfing season.

Regular mowing is an important tool in developing and maintaining a high quality putting green. Over a three month period it was found that as the number of mowings per week increased from three to seven, putting green speed also increased. However, with each increase in the number of days per week the turf was mowed the amount of the increase in putting green grew smaller. The practical significance of this is that a decrease

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in mowing frequency from 7 to 6 days a week will have a very minor long term effect on putting speed, except on the day the green is left unmowed.

Double mowing is a common and effective way to increase putting green speed for a tournament. The maximum effect of double mowing is seen after 3 consecutive days of double mowing. When comparing single vs. double mowed research plots, 1 day of double mowing increased speed 4 inches, 2 consecutive days of double mowing increased speed 6 inches and 3 consecutive days of double mowing increased speed about 8 inches. After 3 consecutive days of double mowing further consecutive days of double mowing only served to maintain the 8 inch gain in putting green speed. The day double mowing was stopped, the 8 inch gain in putting speed was lost. If double mowing is to be used to increase speed for a tournament, to achieve maximum effect, double mowing should begin 2 days prior to the start of the tournament and continued for the length of the tournament.

Added Nitrogen = Minus Speed

Nitrogen fertility management is another key aspect of putting green maintenance. When trying to decide on the proper nitrogen level, putting green speed is one of the factors that should be considered. The relationship between nitrogen level and putting green speed is that for each pound of actual nitrogen applied per 1000 square feet during the season putting green speed will decrease approximately 4 inches. The decrease in speed is due to increased growth stimulated by nitrogen fertilization. The increased growth increased resistance to a rolling golf ball, causing a decrease in putting green speed.

(cont'd. page 9)



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(Putting Green Speed cont'd.)

Aerification and Topdressing

Aerification and topdressing are two common practices necessary for proper putting green maintenance. Each practice has a dramatic effect on putting green speed. As expected, aerification without being followed by topdressing caused a decrease in putting speed. Aerification with ¼ inch diameter tines decreased speed 2 inches and aerification with ½ inch diameter tines decreased speed 5 inches. The decrease in speed due to aerification lasted 28 days when the aerification was not followed by topdressing.

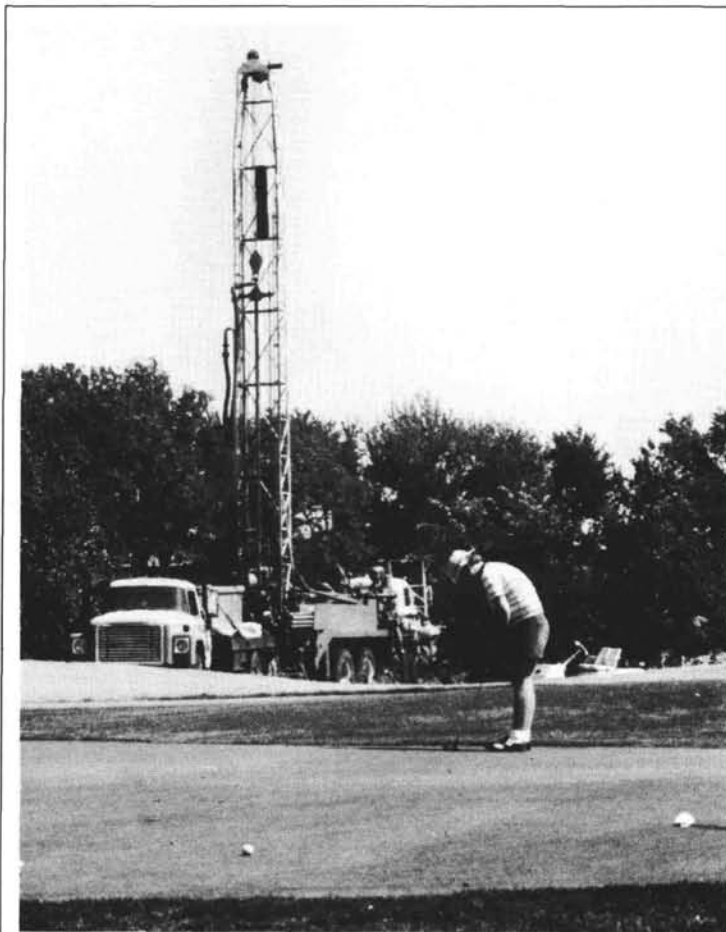
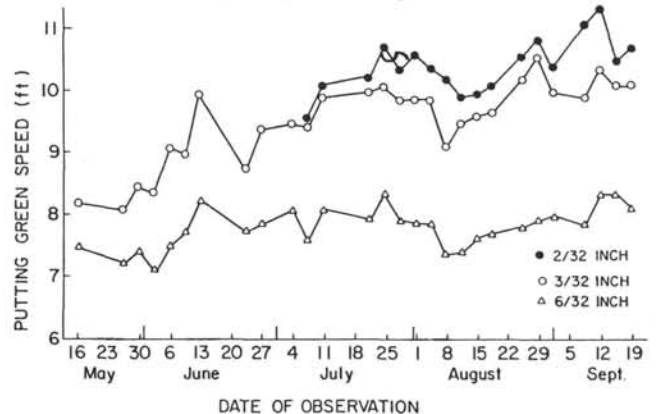
Light and heavy topdressing, following aerification, decreased speed up to 5 and 9 inches, respectively, for 8 days following topdressing. After eight days light and heavy topdressing increased speed up to 6 and 15 inches, respectively, for the next 21 days. Possible reasons for the increase in speed measured 8 days after topdressing are that it took several days for the topdressing to work through the turf canopy down to the soil surface and over the 8 day period excessive topdressing was picked up and removed by mowing.

Although aerification and topdressing initially cause a decrease in speed this does not mean these practices should be discontinued. Both aerification and topdressing are essential to maintaining a high quality putting green. The information presented here should be used to schedule aerification and topdressing operations when a short term decrease in speed will not be too disruptive to play. Topdressing is often used to increase putting speed for a tournament. If topdressing is used for this purpose schedule the topdressing application 8 to 10

days prior to the first day of the tournament so the maximum benefit of the topdressing is realized.

Some of the common management practices and their effect on speed have been discussed here. Uniform speed among all greens should be the goal of superintendents when using the Stimpmeter. If there is a demand for greater putting green speed it is important to remember that many factors affect speed and the over-all management of the greens should be designed to increase putting green speed. It would be poor management to rely solely on a single management factor to alter the speed. Although there have been on long term studies on greens managed to maximize putting green speed, it appears that most management factors that increase speed diminish the quality of turf grown on the green.

Figure 1. Seasonal variation in putting green speed measured at three mowing heights averaged over varieties.



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Daconil 2787 4F ⁴	6 fl. oz.	4.6
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TERSAN® 1991 controls brown patch and anthracnose better than the fungicide you are now using.

If you're not using TERSAN® 1991 fungicide you're not getting the best brown patch and anthracnose control. Test results, like these from Michigan State University on anthracnose and the University of Maryland on brown patch, prove nothing works better than Du Pont TERSAN 1991 fungicide against these two turf diseases.

Many new fungicides provide poor control of brown patch and anthracnose, especially under heavy disease pressure. Their extended spray intervals recommended for other turf diseases, such as dollar spot, are too long to provide adequate protection against brown patch and anthracnose.

TERSAN 1991 is well suited to handle the heaviest disease pressure. Its unique systemic activity withstands heavy rainfall and frequent watering for longer-lasting disease control. And TERSAN 1991 may be applied for anthracnose control either preventively or after the disease is already present.

Schedule TERSAN 1991 in your summer spray program. Apply it in tank mixtures or as supplemental applications from June through August, when brown patch and anthracnose threaten.

You'll get tee-to-green control that hits brown patch and anthracnose hard. Control that university tests

prove works even under heavy disease pressure...TERSAN 1991. Only from Du Pont.

The following products are registered trademarks:
¹Vorlan, ²† Duosan, and Fungo 50—Mallinckrodt, Inc.
³Bayleton—Mobay Chemical Co.
⁴Rubigan—Elanco Products Co.
⁵Daconil—SDS Biotech Corp.
⁶Clearys 3336†—W.A. Cleary Chemical Corp.
⁶Actidione TGF and Actidione RZ†—TUCO Div. of Upjohn Co.

* Not labeled for brown patch control.
 † Not labeled for anthracnose control.

With any chemical, follow label instructions and warnings carefully.

