Fairway Mowing Questionnaire

Today with so many people mowing their fairways with light weight units and still so many others who are not but may be thinking of doing so, I thought that a questionnaire would help answer the many questions that arise. I would like all of you who are mowing with light weight equipment to take the time to answer the following questions and then send this page to me. I will compile the answers and in another issue run the results.

1.	What machines are you using?			
2.	How many machines are you using to mow fairways? (You may have 4, but only use 3)			
3.	Diesel or Gas (circle)			
4.	Number of cutting units the machine has:			
5.	Type of cutting unit: Floating head or fixed? (circle)			
6.	. Number of blades in reel?			
7.	. Roller type? Wiehle, full roller, swedged (circle)			
8.	. Do you weigh the cutting units? Yes No			
9.	Number of manhours to cut one acre of fairway?			
10.	Number of acres of fairways that you mow?			
11.	. How often does a fairway get cut?			
12.	. How many machines do you use when mowing fairways?			
13.	. Are these machines used to also mow other areas, such as tees? Yes No			
14.	. What height of cut do you mow your fairways?			
15.	. Do you collect clippings? □Yes □No If yes, do you do it at all times? □Yes □No If no, when do you not? □			
16.	. If you collect clippings — how do you dispose of them? Spread in roughs, haul to dumpster, haul to dump (circle) other:			
17.	. If you collect clippings, what equipment do you use to dispose of them?			
	What is your cost of disposal? Weekly Monthly			
	. About how many manhours does your mechanic need per week to service and repair these units?			
	. How many extra cutting units/reels do you have on hand as spares?			
	What were your start up costs to go to light weight mowing?			
22.	What machine would you change to today for mowing your fairways if budget was no object.			
	Why?			

Please return to: Fred Opperman, Editor, 1022 Shady Lane, Glen Ellyn, Il 60137

Please return by: October 20, 1987

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Upcoming Events — Mark Your Calendar

October 8 - MAGCS meeting at Woodstock C.C.

October 23 — Dinner Dance at Riverside G.C.

October 28 & 29 — The Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium Contact: Bob Welch (414) 225-2222

November 4 — MAGCS Annual Meeting at Cyprus Inn

November 9-11 - Penn State Turf Conference

December 8-10 — NCTE at Pheasant Run, St. Charles, IL

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Kenneth R. Zanzig

I guess I should really know better by this time than to expect people (no, not people, but golf course superintendents) to really send me photos and news items of what is happening. Last month as we went to press the Chicago area was hit by severe flooding and I had asked for photos and stories of how hard hit the courses were by the flooding. I heard from only one person — Tom DiGuido from Oak Meadows (old Elmhurst C.C.). Tom had water coming in the windows of his shop and lost most of his equipment. The course will be closed for the remainder of the year. The Western Open was cut short and played on only half of the course with the other nine played next door on the public fee course. There were a lot of greens lost, let alone the vast amounts of fairway turf.

I hope my request for sending in the questionnaire on lightweight fairway mowing gets a better response.

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The Ohio State University Golf Course Management Short Course

The second annual OSU Golf Course Management Short Course will be conducted from January 18 through 22, 1988, at the Parke University Hotel in Columbus, Ohio. This short course will provide general and basic information on golfturfgrass management. Emphasis will be placed on principles of agronomy, entomology, and plant pathology. The short course is designed for all golf course personnel including golf course employees, foremen, assistant superintendents and superintendents seeking a more formalized training in the basics of golf-turfgrass management. The registration fee is \$225.00 and is tax-deductible. The deadline to register is December 14, 1987 or until 50 applications are received. Lodging facilities are available at the Parke University Hotel or other hotels in the area. For more information, please contact Sue White at 614-292-7457 for course content, or Doug Thompson at 614-292-4230 for course registration.

Proposed By-Laws Change

One of the goals of the By-Laws Committee was to upgrade the class of the Assistant Golf Course Superintendents, also update Article III, Dues, Section 3.

The conclusion was to make Class C for Assistant Superintendents and do away with a class for inactive members. Those who currently qualify as Class C members will now be known as inactive members.

Proposed By-Law:

Class C — Assistant Golf Course Superintendent

To qualify for Class C membership an applicant shall have completed at time of application for membership, at least one (1) year as a Class D member and/or have been an Assistant Golf Course Superintendent for one (1) year and is currently employed as an Assistant Golf Course Superintendent. Class C members shall have all of the privileges of the Association except that such members may not vote or hold office.

It was also proposed, Article III, Dues, Section 3, the fiscal year begin October 1st instead of January 1st.

Both by-laws changes will be presented in detail to the members of the Association at the annual meeting on November 11, 1987 at the Cypress Inn.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Dennis Wilson, By-Laws Chairman

Bruce Williams recently spoke at a seminar for the Greater Cincinnati Golf Course Supts. Association and is scheduled to speak at this year's Milwaukee Turf Symposium. Bruce will team up with Roger Stewart and Al Fierst presenting seminars for the PGA this Winter. The seminars will give an introduction in the basics of golf course management and will be held in Philadelphia, Minneapolis, Orlando, Indianapolis, and Atlanta. In his spare time Bruce will present the GCSAA Seminar entitled "The Assistant Superintendent". This will be offered in Houston, Connecticut, and Virginia.

Assistant Supt. from Florida at 36 hole club, is looking to relocate to Midwest. Write for resume or call: Andy Durmester, 2481 Waldemere St., Sarasota, FL 34239. (813) 951-2235.

The pH Factor

by Paul Sartoretto, Ph.D.

Almost everyone knows that water with a pH reading of 7 is neutral, neither alkaline or acid. Perhaps, not as well known is the fact that pH numerical readings are expressed on a logarithmic scale. In other words a pH of 8 is ten times more alkaline than a pH of 7, and a pH of 9 is one-hundred times more alkaline than a pH of 7. Likewise, a pH of 6 is ten times more acid than 7, and a pH of 5 is one-hundred times more acid, and a pH of 4 is one thousand times more acid than a pH of 7.

The pH of water that is available to the golf course superintendent is something over which he has no control. He can be blessed with a source that runs 6.5 to 7, or he can be cursed with water that runs as high as 8, 9, or even 10. Constant irrigation of a golf course with highly alkaline waters is a serious problem which can only be corrected safely by repeated applications of elemental sulfur which slowly and safely oxidizes to sulfur dioxide and sulfur trioxide neutralizing the alkalinity.

However, this discourse is confined to the effect of pH of water on various pesticides in the spray tank and the measures one can take to partially compensate for some of the deleterious effects of alkaline waters.

In general the loss in effectiveness is due to hydrolysis; and rate of hydrolysis is determined by (1) pH, (2) the chemistry of the pesticide, (3) time of exposure in the spray tank, (4) temperature of the water in the spray tank.

(1) As stated before, pH is measured in logarithmic units and the hydrolysis rate of an alkaline sensitive chemical will increase by a factor of ten for every pH unit.

- (2) The chemistry of the pesticide is an extremely important factor. Most chemicals will undergo alkaline hydrolysis. On the other hand, some are acid sensitive and will undergo acid hydrolysis.
- (3) Time of exposure in an alkaline medium is also a critical factor. What comes out of the spray tank during the first hour of spraying could be more effective than what comes out during the last hour of spraying.
- (4) An increase in temperature of 10°C (18°F) will double the speed of decomposition. The sun ray's beating down on a spray tank will have some effect on the rate of hydrolysis, and so will constant agitation tend to warm up the spray mixture.

Various pesticide manufacturers have supplied date showing the effect of pH on the half life of their pesticides and is being reported here in table form.

Surprisingly, the insecticides Dursban and Diazinon, although affected adversely by pH, still have extremely long half-lives at high pH's. This is not consistant with what the golf course superintendent is finding in the field. Perhaps resistant strains of insects play a more important part than pH.

On the other hand products like Sevin, Malathion, Dylox (Proxol), and actidione are severely affected by high pH's. Adjusting the pH of the water in the spray tank would most assuredly improve their effectiveness.

Aside from pesticides, there are tremendous amounts of iron, magnesium, and other trace elements being used as adjuvants in spray mixtures. With the exception of boron, which is not

(cont'd. on page 16)

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(pH Factor cont'd.)

truly metallic, all of the metallic salts will undergo hydrolysis at pH above 7 and end up as hydroxides and oxides which are totally inactive. The classic example is ferrous sulfate which hydrolyzes rapidly and will end up as inactive iron oxide rust, sometimes in sufficient amount to clog the sprayers.

When these metals are chelated they become immune to hydrolysis and are totally and completely available to the plant.

Correcting the pH of the water in the spray tank is possible and achievable, but should not be done haphazardly. The accurate way to monitor pH is with a pH meter. But these meters can go haywire unless they are checked and standardized on a daily basis. The use of pH paper is a cruder way of checking pH and will not be accurate within 0.5. But since a pH of between 6.5 to 7 is an acceptable range, one can get by with pH paper.

The one acid that is readily available to everyone is vinegar. It should be carefully added to the water in the spray tank in small increments, checking with pH paper. If too much vinegar is added and the pH drops below 6.5, the pH can be brought back with household ammonia. Always adjust the pH of the water before adding the chemicals to the spray tank.

W. A. Cleary Chemical Company has developed a very safe acidifier which also acts as a chelating agent. Although, slightly more expensive, it comes with a supply of pH paper and instructions for use. I don't know of any other chemical company that has a comparable product.

There is an important caution that the superintendent must be made aware of — the effect of pH on postemergent herbicides. Specifically, herbicides such as 2, 4-D, MCPP, MCPA, and Dicamba are water insoluble acids that have been put into solution with amines. These solutions are always alkaline, and if they are acidified these herbicides drop out as water insoluble gums, which will foul up the spray tanks. They are best sprayed with the alkaline water. **Never adjust the pH of herbicidal sprays.** However, methylarsonates such as MSMA and DSMA are unaffected by pH.

The best way to conclude this article is to remind the superintendent that unless he carefully and painstakenly adjusts the pH of his water within the narrow limit of between 6.5 to 7, it would be better for him to accept the alkalinity of his water and do nothing at all.

Common Name	Chemical Name	рН Н	alf Life Time
Dylox	Trichlorophon	6	89 hr.
Proxol	•	7	6.5 hr.
		8	63 min.
Malathion	Malathion	⋖ 5	1 hr.
		7	7.8 hr.
		▶8	1 hr.
Sevin	Carbaryl	6	100-150 days
		7	24-30 days
		8	2-3 days
		9	3 hr.
		10	20 min.
Betasan	Bensulide	4 (20°)	28+ days
		7	27+ hrs.
		10	21+ hrs.
Diazinon		3	706 min.
		5	31 days

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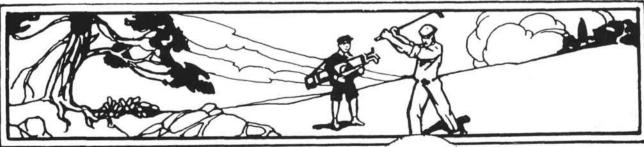


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Fall Colors: What Causes Them

Ahh! The beautiful crisp days of fall and all those beautiful colors! What causes these brilliant leaf colors, and why do they occur at this time of year? Much credit has been given to "Jack Frost' but erroneously so, says James A. Fizzell, University of Illinois Horticulturist in Cook County. A hard frost would quickly destroy the colorful beauty of fall, killing the leaves and resulting in the brown of winter.

How do we become the beneficiaries of such a brilliant display of fall color? The fall colors come from five major pigment groups. The green colors, evident in summer are a product of the chlorophylls. The yellow colors are from xanthophyll pigments. The orange, as well as some yellow and red colors, are a result of the presence of carotenoid pigments, while the very showy shades of dark red, scarlet and crimson are due to anthocyanins.

Anthocyanins are also responsible for the tints of blue, violet and purple seen mainly during spring and summer. The least noticeable pigments seen in fall are the tannins, which are responsible for the deep browns of oaks. Fall color is controlled by hereditary factors and environmental conditions.

The kind of pigments, and the color the leaves turn in the fall, is genetically controlled. Every fall, for instance, birch trees all turn yellow, red oaks turn red and Ohio Buckeyes turn

The intensity of the fall color for each tree or shrub is influenced by light, water, temperature, nutrition and the soluble sugar produced by the plant.

Sugar accumulation in the leaves is the most important factor in production of anthocyanins in the fall, and the intensity of the red and orange colors. Trees and shrubs kept healthy during the summer and receiving full sun and enough water have the best chance for good fall color from anthocyanins. The amount of color depends on fall weather conditions. Sunny fall days followed by cool (40 to 45 degree F) nights favor accumulation of sugars in the leaves. Cloudy fall days and warm nights result in decreased sugar production and a movement of sugar out of the leaves, and less fall color.

The yellow fall colors so dominant in the landscape because of xanthophyllis and carotenoids, are actually present in the leaves during the summer. These are hidden by the dark green chlorophyll in the leaf. As temperatures and light intensity decrease in late summer and early fall, chlorophyll breaks down, exposing the yellow pigments.

What are our chances of brilliant fall colors this year? In much of the Chicago metropolitan area we had little rainfall this summer. To the north of us in Wisconsin and Michigan there was a lot of rain and trees and shrubs have had good conditions for sugar production. If fall weather turns sunny with cool nights and no severe freeze we can expect those colors.

> James A. Fizzell, Sr. Ext. Adviser Horticulture



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Life in the Sun

by Edwin Wollenberg, Retired Supt.

Bob Breen's fine article on this subject in the May issue of the **Bull Sheet** was excellent. I hope everyone read it.

The superintendents, who chose the vocation they did, are subjected to this risk daily. It's outdoor work and precaution should be exercised by those who feel they may be susceptible, and maybe should return to their office whenever they see their shadow — sort of ala groundhog way.

Of course we know that the warnings by the dermatologists isn't going to stop sunbathing, swimming and the likes, because it's something we're going to do. And some weeks ago the Associated Press released an article saying a Dr. Russel J. Reiter, professor of some sort of neurology department at the University of Texas, said exposure of the sun is good for everyone. Sooo, here we go again, and we have to weigh the pros and cons.

Dr. Reiter is an internationally-known expert on the pineal gland, which produces the hormone melatonin in the brain. The hormone is found mostly during darkness and too much of it can lead to depression, he said. The answer, he suggested, is more exposure to sunlight.

"Certainly sunlight justifiably has gotten a bad rap in terms of its effect on skin cancer", Dr. Reiter said. "Positively, however, sunlight generally seems to improve mood, sexual performance, possibly, and general attitudes".

Well, ever since I retired I have been taking it easy. I only do the things I flike to do, and forget about the things I had to do before. I sleep and nap a lot, because I read several months ago that this was an easy way to burn calories, instead of the way that leaves you weak and exhausted. And I draw the shades when I take my naps, to keep it cool, dark and restful. Gosh, I thought I had my life pretty well together.

It was about a week ago that I first noticed that something seemed out-of-whack with me, physically. I seemed depressed and lethargic, and my sex drive didn't want to slip into over-drive. I seemed to be a mess and wondered if it could mean the end of the trail.

I was about to make an appointment to see a doctor, when I remembered Dr. Reiter and his suggestion to get more sunlight. "Light can be used as a drug in various types of depression. What is more convenient, and what is more non-invasive than light? You don't have to take anything internally", he added. Yep, it had to be I wasn't getting enough sunshine, and it was causing me to have a melatonin build-up. What the hell, it was worth a try, I figured.

So, I started taking my naps in the backyard on a lounging chair in the sun, and believe it or not, my depressive moods and sluggish feelings have left me, and a quiver has returned to a portion of my body considered dead a few weeks ago.

Dudley Smith coersed me into going with him to the Field Day at Purdue, July 22nd. It was sunny, sultry and very hot. Dudley knew how to cope with the elements and wore a Sam Snead hat. Not only was he shielding the sun rays, he was also the epitome of sexiness.

I didn't wear a hat, because I was burning off too much melatonin — but I thought I looked pretty sexy too.

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