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SOIL FOR TURF FACILITIES (continued from page 10)

Native vs. Artificial Soils

If we were farmers, we would be growing crops on one of the types of native soils mentioned above. We would gather information about the nature of our particular soil from state and federal soil scientists who had surveyed, studied, classified and mapped the major soil formations in every county in Florida (and likewise most other states). This information would provide guidelines as to the physical condition and fertility status of our particular soil, and this information would guide our crop production practices.

However, turf managers are not farmers — and, with few exceptions (sod producers, perhaps), they are not growing turf on natural or native soils. Instead, they are managing turf facilities which were built by a mass mixing of soil, through excavation, fill, grading and leveling processes. For example, housing projects, apartment complexes, golf courses, athletic fields and highway sites have gone through mass movements of “dirt.” When finally completed there usually is no resemblance between the resultant “dirt pile” and the original native soil profile that occurred on that same site.

What does this mean to us practically? It means simply that you have to throw the “book out the window” and start over. None of the previously compiled information of soil scientists applies. It could be that the original soil was improved (richer soil hauled in), but usually it works the other way. Often, damaging foreign material is mixed in (debris, chemical deposits, etc.).

Another serious problem is that the mixing process was not uniform and therefore there is much greater variability in the final soil material. This is why we find “spotty” conditions in our turf from area to area. The grass is reflecting the “spotty” soil conditions underlying. In short, all of these factors mean that turf soils are more difficult to manage!

Where do we go from here? Good turf managers have learned the vital importance of proper soil conditions to the success of grass production and maintenance. Therefore the problem is simple. By carefully studying and evaluating the soils you inherit, you can then go about an intelligent soil management program. For intensively managed turf areas (such as putting greens, tees, athletic fields, etc.) you may need to improve that inherited “dirt pile” by the use of soil amendments. We know generally, for example, that heavy, mucky soils can be improved by the addition of coarse sands; or that infertile, ball bearing sands may become more productive by the addition of heavier soil fractions like clay or organic matter such as peat.

Soil Amended to Improve Physical Condition

But just a minute! What really are we doing when we add the above soil amendments (and many others — natural processed or manufactured)? First and most importantly, we are changing the physical condition of the soil.

The management of turf facilities imposes unique and damaging requirements on the turf. Heavy traffic, continuous wear, regular movement of maintenance equipment, high rates of irrigation — all these factors work to destroy soil structure. Thus,

(continued on page 14)



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Midwest Breezes



Upcoming Events — Mark Your Calendar

August 2 — Purdue Field Day at Agronomy Farm

August 3 — ILCA Field Day at Morton Arboretum

August 15 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Balmoral Woods C.C.

September 13 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Crystal Lake C.C.

September 19 — ITF Golf Day at Knollwood G.C.

October 10 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Lake Barrington Shores

November 2 — Annual Meeting & MAGCS Turf Clinic

November 14-16 — Penn State Turf Conference

December 6-7-8 — NCTE, Pheasant Run

Jan. 23, 24, 25 — Midwest Regional Turf Foundation Seminar, Indianapolis

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Dear Editor,

Some golf courses are on water restrictions and others are facing the possibility due to severe drought conditions this spring and summer.

I feel the July 1980 "Midwest Breezes" column by Ray Gerber should be reprinted now.

Sincerely,

TED J. BLACKWELDER

Editor's comment: I agree and here it is:

MIDWEST BREEZES

Most golf course Supts. had hopes that a good spring would be a prelude to the start of a beautiful summer. It has turned out to be the opposite. Poa Annuia has moved in with a bountiful crop of seed. The old saying used to be that when Poa Annuia produces a large crop of seed it is a sign of a hot summer. This is nature's way of being sure there will always be Poa Annuia in the future years. Should this be true, be sure your air conditioner is in good order.

Several golf courses in the Chicago area have started to change their bluegrass turf fairways over to bentgrass. This editor hopes their decision is one that they will not regret. A transition such as this requires considerable time and patience. It will not happen in one year or for several years thereafter, and in the meantime Poa Annuia loves the kind of maintenance that the bentgrass requires. Fairway maintenance budgets will need to be increased. More water will be necessary. More fungicide will be required and more fertilizer. I hope all of these requirements were taken into consideration before this type of transition went into effect.

Many people who can speak with authority have stated that in the not-too-distant future there will be a deficiency of water that will be available for irrigation purposes.

Congratulations to Lucille and Bill Saielli, of Indian Hill Club on their 50th Wedding Anniversary. Their two sons, Bill Jr. and Robert, feted them with a dinner party for 140 relatives, friends and co-workers at Scornavacco's Restaurant in Highwood on Sunday, June 26th.



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GROOMING REELS

(continued from page 8)

• Grooming can cause adverse effects, if used too frequently at aggressive settings (especially during environmental stress periods, i.e., heat, high humidity or traffic).

3. Grooming Reel Adjustments

A word of advice on grooming reel adjustment procedures. When adjusting a grooming reel, the following steps are recommended for optimal results:

First: Set the desired height of cut.

Second: Set one grooming reel in raise/disengage position. Set one flush with the rollers and set one 1/32-inch above the height of cut.

Third: Make several passes, preferably over the practice green or nursery, before using the unit on a regular green.

Fourth: Judge the amount of grass in the basket of number one, two and three, and readjust accordingly.

Fifth: Visually inspect the results and decide which setting to use for the best job. Make further adjustments if necessary.

Sixth: Set all grooming reels to the same desired depth.

CAUTION: A 1/32-inch depth setting can make a very substantial impact on grass removal and, more importantly, on the severity of grooming.

The user must be aware that the groomer may cause adverse effects if used frequently at an aggressive setting. This is especially true during environmental stress periods, i.e., heat, high humidity or heavy traffic.

In summary, the grooming reel may be the best tool available to the superintendent for managing the greens precisely and in accordance with the desire of the golfer. However, timing, frequency of use and depth of setting must be managed properly!

Local Toro Distributors Continue Commitment to Illinois Turfgrass Foundation

Recently, the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation was awarded one year's free use of a Toro Greensmaster 3000 riding greensmower as part of Toro's Turf College Support Program.

The program, which began in 1986, is being administered locally by Beckmann Turf & Irrigation, Chicago Turf & Irrigation, and Tri-State Turf & Irrigation.

Bruce Beckmann, president of Beckmann Turf & Irrigation, says the purpose of the program is to provide college research groups with the free use of the most technologically advanced turf maintenance equipment currently available. This year, however, finding that equipment proved to be a bit of a challenge.

Following its one-year stay at the University of Illinois-Champaign, the rental greensmower will be offered for sale at a reduced price. All warranties on the equipment will remain intact. Last year's greensmower was purchased by Satellite Services, Inc., at the Chanute Air Force Base.

"Commitment by golf courses to purchase the loaned equipment is critical to the success of the program," Beckmann said. "We commend Satellite Services for their involvement and encourage other golf courses to become involved also."

This year marks the third consecutive year that Beckmann Turf, Chicago Turf and Tri-State Turf have supplied the free use of a greensmower to the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation.

SOIL FOR TURF

(continued from page 11)

turf soils must be constructed (remember — no more natural soil, so we must construct a usable soil base from that inherited "dirt pile") to take the punishment and still grow good turf.

Here is where the soil amendments come in — to change the inherited soil to a more desirable physical condition. Briefly, to produce good turf under our demanding conditions, soils must have proper pore space. There must be pores to move water through the soil and pores to move air so the grass can "breathe." Approximately half of the soil is made up of solids (the mineral matter plus a small amount of organic matter). The other half is pore space.

Pore space is of two kinds — large (macro) pores and small (micro) pores. Air moves into the soil (and harmful gases move out) through the large pores, except after a heavy rain or irrigation. Then they may be filled with water temporarily, which soon drains out. This is the ventilation system which aerates the soil. The large pores should comprise about half of the total pore space.

Small pores (also called capillary pores) move water through the soil. These pores conduct water to the grass roots (not the opposite — roots don't "grow to water" — water must be there first), from the water table, like a kerosene "hurricane" lamp moves kerosene up through the wick. The finer the pores, the farther the water will move, and the slower.

Proper Balance of Large and Small Pores

The most important aspect of soil porosity is the proper balance between the large and small types of pores. An excessive proportion of large pores will result in a well aerated but dry soil (like most of our sandy soils). Water will move through (percolate) too rapidly and very little will be retained to grow turf. An excessive proportion of fine pores, on the other hand, will exclude air and may be waterlogged (like heavy clay soils).

Thus, once we have determined our given soil situation, and knowing the physical requirements of our turf facility (percolation rates, drainage, etc.), we can then amend the soil to meet our requirements. A great variety of soil materials are available to do this including calcined clay, vermiculite, peat, colloidal phosphate, sand, etc.).

If we are fortunate enough to take over the turf facility prior to planting, we have a golden opportunity to shape our future soil condition. If we inherit an established facility, the job is more difficult, expensive and time consuming. It can be done gradually, however, by periodically working proper amendments into the soil as topdressing following soil aeration.

The proper proportion of amendments can be determined by a soil testing procedure known as "mechanical analysis." Many soil testing laboratories and industrial firms can provide these tests, and will help you compound or construct a soil to meet your needs based on such factors as percolation rates, etc.

Once you have amended your soil to a proper physical condition, then the previously mentioned secondary symptoms such as compaction, weeds, restricted roots, etc., will be minimized. Then turf maintenance will be a more enjoyable and successful business.

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Computer-Assisted Plant Selection For Professionals and Amateurs

by David J. Williams

Are you looking for a pyramidal plant with fine texture that is hardy in northern Illinois, that will tolerate a wet site and grow in alkaline soils? The University of Illinois Cooperative Extension Service may have just what you need to develop a list of plants that meet these specifications. Three plant selection software programs that run on IBM microcomputers have been developed by cooperative extension staff. These programs are of particular interest to landscape architects and other landscape designers because they enable them to quickly screen a large number of hardy landscape plant materials for both their design attributes and site tolerances. Garden centers may also find these programs useful as sources of information to assist customers in making decisions about their plant purchases.

The first of these is Tree Selection For Landscape Use. It contains 206 different trees including 64 different genera, 202 different species and 32 different crabapples. Eighteen different characteristics can be used for sorting trees. They are as follows: hardiness, growth rate, height, habit, pH, moisture tolerance, light requirements, ornamental bark, texture, summer color, fall color, ornamental flowers, flower color, time of flowering, significant fruit, ornamental fruit, fruit color and fruit duration. Trees can be sorted by the above characteristics or information about each tree can be accessed by either the common or scientific names of the trees. Printouts can be obtained of lists of trees that meet a set of specifications or of all of the data about a specific tree.

Software programs entitled Evergreen Selection For Landscape Use and Shrub Selection For Landscape Use are also available using the same eighteen characteristics as the tree selection program. These programs work in much the same way as the tree selection program except that the sub menus have been changed to reflect the appropriate choices dependent upon plant type. The evergreen program contains 89 different plants and the shrub selection program contains 248 different plants. An extensive list of cultivars is available in both of these programs. The completion of a fourth program, Groundcover Selection For Landscape Plantings, is expected early this summer.

All of the software programs are compatible with IBM PC, XT or AT computers using either a floppy or hard disk. The tree and evergreen selection programs require 128K Memory and the shrub selection program 192K Memory. Each of the programs is available from Illinet Software, University of Illinois, 123 Mumford Hall, 1301 W. Gregory, Urbana, IL 61801, (217) 244-5956. The programs cost \$40 each. They can be previewed at your local county extension office. If further information is desired, call Dr. Dave Williams at (217) 333-2126.

1988 Individual tax rates


Taxable income

Tax rate	Single filer with one exemption	Married filing jointly with two exemptions	Head of household with one exemption
15%	\$0-\$17,850	\$0-29,750	\$0-\$23,900
28%	\$17,851-\$43,150	\$29,751-\$71,900	\$23,901-\$61,650
33%	\$43,151-\$100,480	\$71,901-\$171,090	\$61,651-\$134,710
28%	Over \$100,480	Over \$171,090	Over \$134,710

Note: The 33% bracket increases by \$10,920 for each additional personal exemption claimed. So for joint filers with four personal exemptions, the 33% bracket would end at \$192,930.

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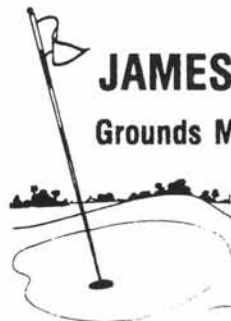
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Here is a quote that needs repeating by John Stephenson, of Pottawatomie Golf Course. The talk was on trailers and John's comment was "I'm a hell of a good go-forwarder." That tells you what kind of a "back-upper" he is.

* * * * *

1988 MAGCS WESTERN OPEN HOSPITALITY TENT

Bruce R. Williams, MAGCS Chairman of Publicity & Finance

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the MAGCS members who worked at our hospitality tent at the 1988 Western Open. The following individuals worked at this year's tent: Keith Kohlman, Rick Elyea, Bruce Williams, Jim Evans, Tony Meyer, Verlyn Strellner, Joel Purpur, Dave Blomquist, Al Fierst, Roger Stewart, John Turner, Bret Rush, Bill Krafft, Keith Johnson, Ken Baker, Mike Nass, and Jeff Smith.

The tent was well attended by MAGCS members and their guests. An ample supply of beverages came in handy as we had three hot and dry days. This year we had a television in the tent providing live coverage of the Western Open as well as a video tape produced by GCSAA.

We are all grateful to Oscar Miles and his staff for all of their help prior to the tournament and during the event. Oscar's golf course was in superb condition and a credit to his hard work after last year's disastrous floods. Oscar's attention to detail didn't end with the golf course. He arranged for the set-up of the tent, wiring, ice and beverage delivery.

Our tent would not have been possible without the cooperation of the Western Golf Association. We thank them, as an allied association, for the opportunity to offer some hospitality to our members.

Finally, I would like to thank the Tee 2 Green Corp. for their continued support of our hospitality tent. Tee 2 Green Corporation sponsors our tent each year and we appreciate the help of Tony Meyer, Warren Bidwell, and Bill Rose.

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Early Warm Weather Accentuates Bug Problems

by James A. Fizzell
Senior Extension Adviser
Horticulture — U. of I.

Insects are cold blooded creatures so when the weather is warm, their activity speeds up. Dry, hot weather is especially to their liking.

Dripping of "sap" from trees, "popcorn" on limbs of maples, garden plants turning to lace are all symptoms of bug problems.

The "sap" dripping from trees is particularly annoying because it covers plants, picnic tables or cars and then turns sooty black. This sap is in reality honeydew dripping from aphids feeding in the trees. The aphid infestation is as heavy this year as in any within memory. The white stuff that drops from infested trees is the old skins shed by the aphids as they grow.

"Popcorn" on branches of trees is the egg masses being laid by cottony maple scale. These eggs are eaten by small black ladybugs that are around in profusion this season. Catch one and take a close look. You will see two small red spots on the back, thus the name, twice-stabbed lady bug.

Nocturnal pests include earwigs which make lace of marigolds, salvia, chrysanthemums; slugs and sowbugs that work over peppers, cabbages, beans; and cutworms that gnaw off anything they can find.

Control the aphids in severely infested trees with malathion or orthene. If lady bugs don't clean up the cottony maple scales, these trees will begin to "drip" again in July and can be treated with malathion at the time. Don't be in a rush; let nature handle it if it can.

Take a flashlight on a night-time safari around your garden to see which pests are out there. Pick off cutworms or wrap aluminum foil around bottom of affected plants so the cutworms can't find them. Dust with Seven to control earwigs, sowbugs.

Methaldehyde snail baits work, especially while snails are small.


Be sure to read the label on any chemicals you use. Then use them exactly as the label directs. There materials are safe when properly used — misused they can cause trouble.

Illinois Landscape Contractor Association's 28th Annual Summer Field Day

Place - Morton Arboretum, Lisle Illinois

Date — Wednesday, August 3, 1988 from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm.

ILCA's Summer Field Day features more than 160 exhibit booths for dealers of tractors, lawn maintenance equipment, stone, mulch, concrete products, pots and containers, chemicals and fertilizers, nursery stock, greenhouse plants, and other green industry services. The day mixes the business of demonstrations and sales contacts with the pleasure of tours of the Arboretum, a grilled steak lunch, beer and soda, music, and the annual horseshoes tournament. Over 1700 attended last year's Field Day and more is expected this year.



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