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President's Message

The days of mixing Milorganite with Calo-Chlor and throwing it off the back of the truck with shovels, wearing only a handkerchief over your face for protection are over. The public is being made increasingly more aware of the risks involved with pesticide usage. Many times their information comes from over dramatic news shows or media headlines, but we as professionals cannot ignore the issue.

On March 29th of this year the EPA banned the use of Diazinon on golf courses and sod farms but left its use intact for the individual homeowner. A move that leaves me scratching my head wondering what's next.

What are we as individual pesticide users suppose to do? First, we must practice safe application techniques. That means that our operators must wear the appropriate safety equipment ie; respirators, goggles, rubber gloves, rain suits etc. Warm weather cannot be used as an excuse for not wearing proper gear.

Second, even though the Illinois Pesticide Test has in the past been scorned and sometimes ignored, this cannot be the case anymore. The public and media are looking for any excuse they can find to crack down on pesticide usage. An unlicensed applicator is just the kind of thing that they can sink their teeth into. Don't give them the opportunity.

Third, keep meticulous records. If you are visited by local EPA officials you must be able to prove that you are applying materials in strict accordance with their intended use. Only by **constantly** demonstrating responsible pesticide application can we hope to offset the negative publicity generated from just **one** incident of misapplication.

This issue is not going to go away and it is everyone's responsibility to follow all the rules of safe pesticide application to insure that the list of banned products doesn't continue to grow.

Mike Nass

Director's Column



From the Other Side of the Table

by Dennis Wilson, CGCS

When I first joined and started attending meetings, I could not understand why the meetings were held a certain way. I would say why can't we do this or that without really knowing what I was talking about.

A fellow superintendent called me one summer and said if I didn't like what was going on, run for the Board of Directors, then instead of just talking, do something.

My first job was to be Ray Schmitz's assistant for golf operation. I never realized how nice it was to come to a meeting, play golf, have a cocktail and dinner, listen to the program and leave. Now it's help with scores, pick out golf prizes, hunt down guys who forgot to put down their handicaps and then listen to someone complain about their prize they won. I said to myself this is work and being assistant for Ray was nothing. Ray was doing all the talking to the host pro's and setting up the game of the day, what he would like the pro to do, such as scoring. In return, we would buy x amount of goods from his shop. All I was doing was a little leg work.

Now that I'm on arrangements, it's a new game altogether. The first thing is to find clubs willing to have a meeting. Then it's talking to the host superintendent and manager months in advance to set up times for golf, to have lunch or not, figure out a cocktail hour with hors d'oeuvres or not, dinner menu, and then work around each club's rules and regulations. After that go back and try and find sponsors for lunch or beer and pop on the course and maybe someone to pay for hors d'oeuvres during cocktail hour.

On the day of the event, it's collect money, try to make sure everyone has paid, pay the bills, and **then** finish the day with a beer.

Of course no one man can do it all and that's why we have a Board of Directors. It's a team effort and because of that things always seem to work out.

Guidebook — "Experiencing Golf in Scotland", 400-plus course descriptions, colored maps, photos, indexed, personal autograph travelogue: \$7.95. Send check to: Jerry Mosca, P. O. Box 3371, Mankato, MN 56001.

Beautiful & Educational Trial Gardens at Kishwaukee College



Beauty or Beast

by Larry Marty
Horticulture Instructor

Many of you struggle and struggle to find new flowers and new color for your tees, clubhouse, flag poles and entryways every spring. You've found out you've opened up a whole new can of worms as your membership appreciates and now expects more surprises. You enjoy the positive comments over lunch but now you're finding out they think you're an "expert" on flowers and "what will you do next year".

Perhaps the Horticulture Department at Kishwaukee College can help you out for next year. Sunday, July 24, 1988, 12:00-5:00 we will host our 13th annual All American Field Days. The gardens are planted and cared for by Kishwaukee College horticultural staff and students and sponsored by Vaughans Seed Co. from Downers Grove, IL. Striving for excellence in seed selection and evaluation the Kishwaukee/Vaughans partnership is one example where education and industry can work together to benefit the total horticultural industry. Approximately 1000 varieties of flowers and vegetables are grown, including hundreds of new introduction in side by side comparisons. Vaughans and the seed industry compare the Kishwaukee evaluations with twenty some other sites in the North American continent. From this, Vaughans offers the best adopted varieties in their catalog.

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Problems with Disease on New Greens High Sand Content Greens and Pythium-Induced Root Dysfunction

by Clinton F. Hodges, Iowa State Univ.

A *Pythium* disease of creeping bentgrass has been recognized that attacks the roots of plants grown in high-sand content greens. The disease occurs primarily on old golf courses where the greens have been rebuilt with sand the disease is rarely found, however, on newly constructed golf courses with sand greens. Creeping bentgrass, established on renovated greens in the fall of the growing season, grows well and establishes a good cover by winter. The grass grows well during the mild periods of spring and early summer of the following year. With the arrival of hot, humid weather, the turf begins to die in a pattern typical of *Pythium*-induced "cottony blight" or "foliar blight". Close examination of diseased plants, however, fails to show any *Pythium* infection of above ground portions of the plants.

Examination of root systems of diseased plants reveals white, normal appearing roots that are field diagnosed as being healthy. No lesions or rot are present on the roots. When such roots are incubated under laboratory conditions, *Pythium* species frequently grow from the root tips, cortical cells, and vascular system within 6 to 12 h. The *Pythium*-infected roots can result in the complete killing of a green within 7 to 10 days. Case histories of greens that have been attacked show that the disease may reoccur up to three growing seasons after the first outbreak of the problem. After three years, the disease may cease to be a problem or may occur at a much reduced level of activity.

Research has established that *Pythium arrhenomanes* and *P. aristosporum* are the pathogens responsible for the disease. *P. arrhenomanes* is the more common of the pathogens and occurs in all regions of the North American continent. This species causes a root rot of cereals in Canada and the northern U.S. and has been a severe pathogen of the roots of sugarcane in the Southern U.S. *P. aristosporum* is restricted to the cooler regions of the north central and northwest U.S. and Japan. This pathogen causes snow blight of cereals and grasses in Japan.

Inoculation of creeping bentgrass roots with either *Pythium* species in controlled studies results in severe reduction of plant growth. Total weight of plants with roots infected by *P. arrhenomanes* or *P. aristosporum* is 16% and 32% respectively, of healthy control plants. Examination of roots 3 to 4 weeks after inoculation reveals *Pythium* mycelium in root hairs and in somewhat swollen regions behind root tips. It seems that root hairs and root tips provide the primary sites for infection. Roots examined 8 weeks after inoculation are completely penetrated by the mycelium; the pathogens are found in abundance in the cortex, vascular tissue, and root tips. Some root tips are devitalized and the roots may be slightly buff-colored compared to healthy roots. It is remarkable, however, that with the extensive infection of the roots there is no rot and visible lesions are extremely rare. The fact that growth of infected plants is severely reduced and that there are no rotted roots suggests that the reduction in growth of infected plants is due to the inability of infected roots to function properly. Infection may interfere with water uptake and/or other metabolic functions of the root. Because infection seems to interfere with root function, the disease is referred to as a "*Pythium* induced root dysfunction."

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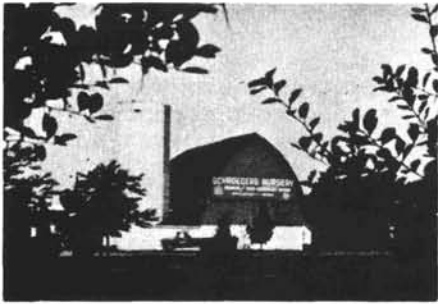
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June is Rose Month

James A. Fizzell

Sr. Ext. Adviser, Horticulture

June is the month set aside to honor everyone's favorite flower. Roses have a place in every yard, and there are no secrets to having beautiful roses.

SITE SELECTION comes first. Roses need at least six hours of sunshine each day. Failures usually result if gardeners pick sites that please them rather than the roses. So, avoid shady areas.

DRAINAGE is second only to sunlight in importance. Roses need a soil that is well drained or the plants will have difficulty surviving the winter. It may be necessary to build raised beds to provide adequate drainage in some area.

ANY GOOD GARDEN SOIL will produce roses. Heavy soils and sandy soils can both be improved by adding organic matter such as peat moss, leafmold, or composted animal manure. Spade 3 to 6 inches of the organic matter into the top 6 to 8 inches of soil.

SELECT PLANTS with thick canes which show no signs of shriveling, and choose only varieties recommended for this area. Dig the hole deep enough so the bud union is just at the soil level when planting is completed.

ROSES ARE AVAILABLE now in containers so they can be planted anytime. This makes selection more fun too, since you can see what the blooms will look like.

THE IMPORTANT THING about cutting, is knowing where to cut. Starting at the flower, examine the stem until you find a leaf with five leaflets on it. Above this five-leaflet leaf you will see leaves with three leaflet and possibly some single leaves. Fully developed leaves with five-leaflets are most likely to accompany buds that are mature enough to develop into strong flower-bearing stems. By cutting just about a 5-leaflet leaf in the middle of the stem, sufficient foliage will be left on the plant but you will provide adequate stems for cut flowers too.

Floribundas which bear clusters of flowers are not usually used as cut flowers but faded blooms should be cut to stimulate continued flowering. As each bloom in a cluster fades, remove it. And when the last blossom in the cluster is gone, cut the stem back to a point one-quarter of an inch above the first five-leaflet leaf.

Taking too much stem, when cutting can harm roses. A bloom cut with a long stem takes a large number of leaves and the reduction of foliage may slow growth delaying further blooms.

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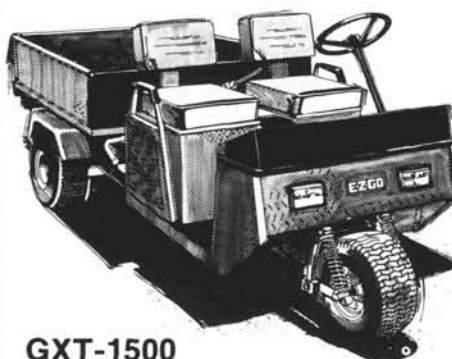
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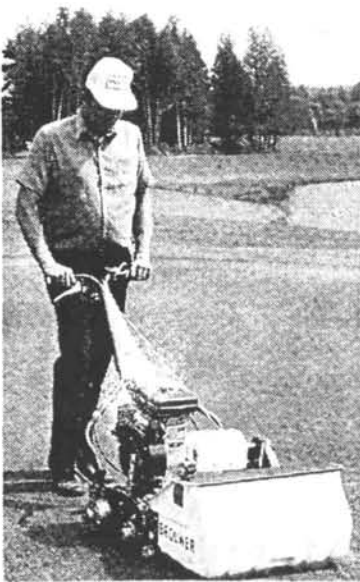
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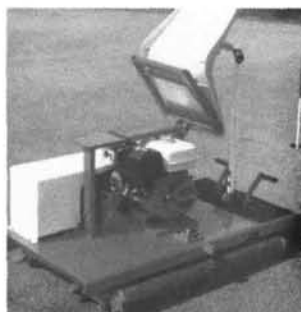
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"A New Tool From Down Under"

by Fred D. Opperman, CGCS
Glen Oak C.C.



A year ago when I was visiting Australia and stopped at a golf course, I saw an interesting tool that I thought might have a use here on our putting greens. The machine was a roller that was being used at the time on a bowling green. The bowling green that I watched this machine roll was Penncross cut as low as any of

our golf greens. This machine was/is used daily after each mowing to help "iron" the surface. The bowlers are as fussy as our golfers on the quality of their bowling greens and the speed of their bowls.

After returning to the states, I wrote to the company asking if their machine was used on putting greens and if anyone in the states handled this machine. It wasn't too many days, that one evening I received a long distance phone call from John Ellul of the Golf & Bowling Machinery PTY. LTD. John was enthusiastic over my inquiry and questioned me more on how the machine could or would be used in the states on putting greens. Well, this discussion and interest in this type of a roller led to many more phone calls and letters over the past 8 months.

In early May a roller was air freighted (cost of \$2,000) to O'Hare and in a week, John Ellul followed up and came here to show the machine to me. I had John talk to Ron Jones, from Chicago Turf & Irrigation who agreed to help demo the unit this coming year and see what kind of response it may have in this area.

I was really surprised and pleased to see how well it did function on rolling our greens. The machine is different in that you sit on it facing one end and it rolls left and right. The speed of the roller is really surprising for it travels at about 4-5 miles per hour with a qualified operator at the controls. It takes about 10-12 minutes to roll a 5,000 square foot green. It would be a perfect machine for rolling the greens in the spring. The machine measures 3 feet by 2 feet and has three 4 1/2" rollers, with one roller being the drive roller. The machine weighs just over 600 pounds (or about 43 stones, as John would say) with the weight of the operator. This machine was made special for golf putting greens by being only 3 feet long instead of the normal 5 feet used for bowling greens. I foresee the use of this machine for the final rolling of tees and greens just before seeding or sodding. Then using it after the seed is spread or after the sod has knitted and needs rolling before mowing. My main purpose was to be able to roll a green and then not cut it as low as some people are now doing. At the present, I have not had the time to check it with a stimp meter since the deadline of "The Bull Sheet" is a month before you receive it in the mail. By the time you are reading this, I will have some test data and will write another article to bring you up to date.

If anyone is interested in seeing this machine in operation you need to talk to your local sales representative from CT&I. Any other questions you may also call me.

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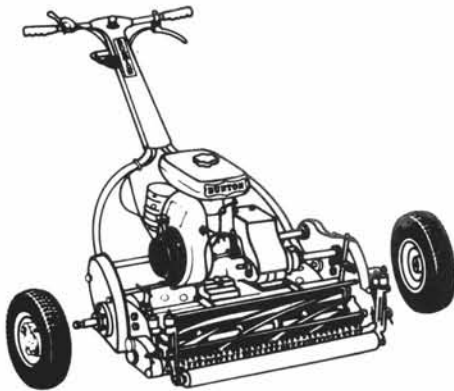
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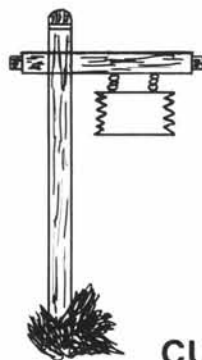
by Paul Voykin
Briarwood C.C., Deerfield, IL

Perhaps golfers in our state would be interested in knowing that it was a golf course superintendent from Illinois who helped initiate golf courses to the natural Scottish golf course look, including wild grasses and wildflowers. Some people still think it was the golf course architects Pete Dye and Jack Nicklaus who started the trend toward this Scottish look. Almost everybody now is taking credit and I think that’s expected. Famous people always bring highlights to whatever they are doing. Their influence certainly has promoted what I helped start and brought to attention with a controversial speech about 15 years ago in New York at the August U.S.G.A. meeting entitled **Overgrooming is Overspending**. Since that eventful presentation, I have given the same speech more than a dozen times across the country and in Canada. **Golf Digest** published my story and the prestigious industry magazine **Public Works** gave me much credit for pioneering golf course perimeters into wild grass and flower meadows and allowing some areas to grow natural like St. Andrews and other old country courses.

In essence my presentation was simply that we superintendents should not overgroom the **whole** golf course so meticulously. Yes, concentrate even more on greens, fairways, and tee management, but don’t carry out the ridiculous wall-to-wall manicuring and overgrooming to such a steep degree that we are pricing ourselves out of golf course business. Leave some golf land for wild animals, birds, and flowers. Make the golf game more challenging and enjoyable, the way it was meant to be by the founder and architects of this wonderful game, and not this present-day look of synthetically manicured and expensive backyards clipped to an unnatural perfection.

Whenever I gave that overgrooming talk to my fellow superintendents and others, or wrote about it, or was quoted in articles and magazines, the reaction by some was that I had lost my marbles. Most of the others didn’t take me seriously. But then something happened. The high cost of maintaining country clubs drastically accelerated in the 70’s and rose each year at a relentless pace and everything changed. Concern set in about the high cost of maintaining golf courses, and slowly my idea of wildflowers and the natural look suddenly didn’t sound so looney, because it saved money. Now the elite golf course architects were the first to begin shouting its virtues whenever they broke expensive land for a new golf course. Something else happened, also. People began to be deeply concerned about our ecology and environment. Scientists who had been warning us for years about old mother earth and the dangers facing it due to too much technology and poisonous emissions began to be closely heeded.

Today I am happy to say thousands of golf courses have set aside natural areas to prosper and spread. Many golf courses enhance these restful areas even more (like I have) with beautiful native flowers and grasses. And, of course, golf course architects continue to build courses with that “Scottish look.” Landscape firms and seed companies are making a bundle by providing the natural look to golf courses, parks, industries, schools, highways, verges, and even homeowners. The natural look has taken over in our landscape and not just grown and forgotten in old graveyards and railroad rights of way.



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1-800-233-0628