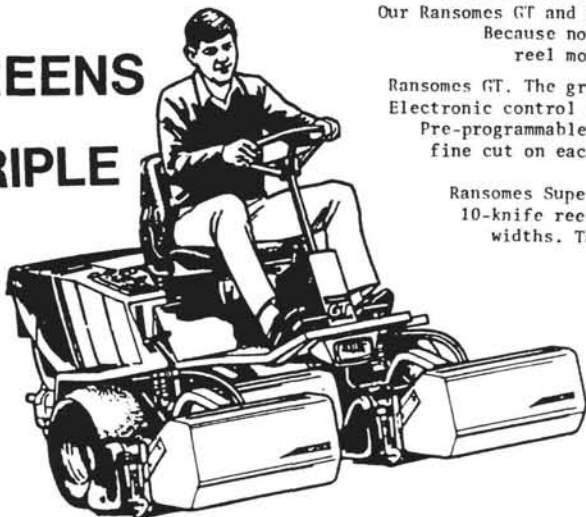


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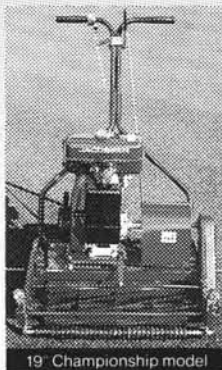
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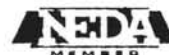
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## Midwest Breezes



### Upcoming Events — Mark Your Calendar

**August 15** — MAGCS meeting at Popular Creek G.C.

**September** — MAGCS meeting at Woodmar G.C.

**October 2** — ITF Golf Day at Flossmoor & Ravisloe C.C.

**October** — MAGCS meeting at Prestbury C.C.

**November** — MAGCS annual meeting

**November 28-30** — Turfgrass and Ornamental Chemical Seminar, Purdue University. Contact Jeff Lefton (317) 494-9737

**December** —

**January 22-24** — Midwest Regional Turf Conference

-----  
All superintendents wishing to attend the PGA Championship August 10-13 at Kemper Lakes Golf Club in Hawthorn Woods, IL need to present their GCSAA card for entry for yourself and wife. Your MAGCS card WILL NOT BE HONORED.

-----  
Oscar Miles has submitted his resignation at Butler National effective the end of this year. Oscar will be involved in the building of a new golf course located in the Libertyville area on property owned by the Getz family of the north shore.

-----  
Art Benson of Butterfield Country Club has come up with a novel way of ridding the course of geese. I understand that the procedure is being copyrighted and he may even apply for a patent. It has something to do with fencing and a gate.

-----  
Your Editor just returned from another trip to the north west (Idaho, Washington, Vancouver Island, & Oregon) where he visited Jacklin Seed Company in Post Falls, Idaho. The seed harvest is just beginning and the outlook looks very good for the bluegrasses, ryes, and fescues. Dr. Bill Meyer of Turf Seed, Hubbard, OR., also reports that it looks like a good harvest coming. The seed industry is going thru some hard times at the present with the restrictions on field burning. Many people are opposed to the burning of the fields due to the extreme smoke and air pollution. Last year there was a terrible burning and a few people were killed. The industry and the purity of our seed depends on the burning of the fields. Some sort of way is needed to be found to sterilize the fields to equal the effect that burning has.

-----  
John Ebel had a nice article on him and the Prayer Breakfast in the July issue of "Golf Course News". John states that "Adam was the first greenkeeper, if you read the scripture (Gen. 2:15), God put Adam in the garden to work it and take care of it."

Not being tied down to a golf course seven days a week has had a benefit for your Editor this year. He was able to take his first summer vacation in 29 years! I know that there are others in the profession who haven't had a summer vacation in 30, 40 or 50 years. It is unfortunate that this is so, and we really have no one to blame but ourselves, we tell ourselves and our clubs that we can't get away during the summer or the season. But that is untrue. If one's crew is trained like we tell our clubs they are, then they can handle the course for a week or so. What happens when an emergency arises and one has to leave — does the place fall apart? Usually not. The crew comes thru and if a problem comes up another Superintendent neighbor could always give a hand or advice.



*How were you keeping cool July 15th? Your editor was on a snow bank at about 7400' in Idaho.*

-----  
Too bad one couldn't sell the idea of "Rent a Superintendent" for a day or a week. It would open up another job opportunity for the retired or for person like myself who are temporarily unemployed. We would be able to come in when a persons goes on a vacation or when there is an emergency and the superintendent has to be away. Surely one with the experience of years of running a course could keep things going with help from the crew on certain items like the idiosyncracies of the irrigation system. It would be fun, it would be a heck of a challenge and it would be beneficial for all parties concerned.

I'll toss my hat into the ring — rent me for a day or a week. I'm flexible. Call me at (312) 858-0601. Now who has the guts to go to their club and ask for a summer vacation and say that they could get a replacement Superintendent while they are gone?

-----  
Dr. Randy Kane has a new 18 minute video tape entitled "Bent Grass Fairways: Renovation and Management." This video is for the Green Committees, club members or the Board of Directors. Call Dr. Kane (312) 954-2753 for further information.

-----  
Looking for an assistant? Call Craig Kosiba at (815) 727-1664 or (815) 725-1178. He is a graduate of Joliet Jr. College and SIU major in Plant & Soil Science. Has been working for a lawn service for 4 years.

-----  
Congratulations to Joel Purpur on becoming Certified!

-----  
Paul Wagner from Chevy Chase C.C. is now Superintendent at the new Boulder Ridge course. Congratulations Paul!

-----  
Jim Evans of Turnberry reports that the members may (they may already have) buy the club from the previous owners who had financial problems.



(Pregermination cont'd.)

submerged in water that was kept at a constant 75°F for a period of five days. Further, the water had to be changed every 12 hours and seed bags hung to allow complete water drainage and water change. His past experience also showed the best results from using water under continuous aeration.

These steps seemed simple enough on a small scale, but the space requirements of 350 pounds of bentgrass seed presented the physical challenge. After a great deal of thought and quite a bit of experimentation, we arrived at our equipment needs.



**Bags of seed too heavy to lift being winched from tank.**

A small heated section of our shop basement was sectioned off to be used as our nursery area. A 110 gallon livestock watering tank proved to be just the right size vessel to allow for the submersion of the seed. A hose bib was added to the bottom of the tank to facilitate the previously mentioned water changes. The seed was hung for drain down on the twelve hour intervals with the much needed aid of a ceiling mounted winch.

Some relatively inexpensive equipment was purchased from a local pet store to meet the temperature and aeration requirements. Two 300 watt aquarium heaters were purchased. These heaters were submergeable and were capable of keeping the water at the desired 75°F. Water already warmed was added to the tank at each change as these heaters were capable of holding the constant temperatures but could not be used as water heaters. An aquarium pump and two 12-inch airstones were also purchased to facilitate aeration and water movement.

Seed was transferred from its original poly lined bags into canvas bags capable of allowing water to pass through but holding the tiny bentgrass seeds in. Seed was pre-weighted and separated into bags containing the proper amount for each fairway to be reseeded. This was done due to the fact that weighing wet seed for a proper seed rate would have been impossible.

(cont'd. page 16)

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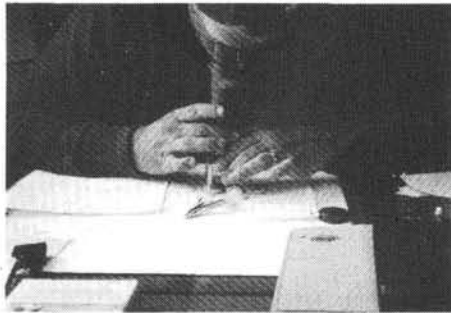
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(Pregermination cont'd.)

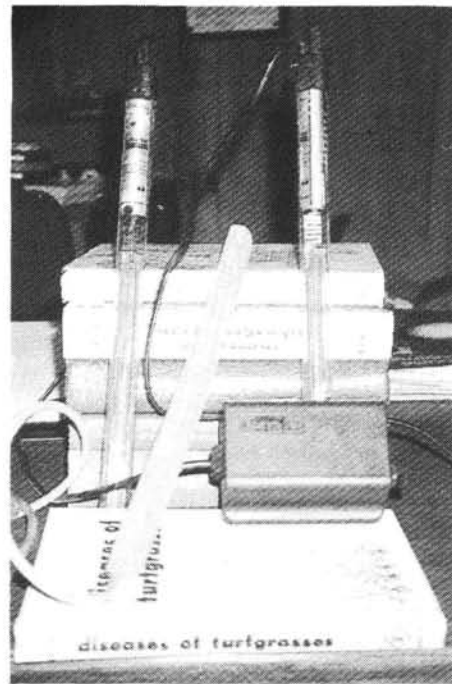
The soaking seed was monitored closely to be sure that water temperatures remained at the constant 75°F. Starting on the fourth day seed samples were removed from the bags at each water change. Samples were scrutinized with the aid of Scotts 8 x 30 power macroscope for signs of radicle emergence. In



**Monitoring for Radicle Emergence.**

seed germination, the radicle is always the first actively growing part to emerge. True to form, radicle emergence was first noted on the fifth day. This is the point when the pregerminated seed is ready to be planted and also, I suspect, the point when the potential for failure is greatest. Seed which has developed beyond this point is extremely fragile. Overdeveloped or overgerminated seed could be desiccated during the planting operation. There is also the thought that overdeveloped seed could quickly succumb to nutrient deficiency because of a lack of phosphorous.

With these thoughts in mind, it is important to anticipate the five day pregermination period and to have your seedbed prepared accordingly.



**Aquarium heaters and aeration pump.**

The methods we used to prepare our seedbed are not a mystery and have been employed by numerous superintendents. The affected fairways were thoroughly aerified and the cores were dragged for a topdressing. Grooves were then cut using a Rogers AeroBlade three point hitch seeder. One variance from normal was that the seed was not loaded into this machine and cut into

(cont'd. page 19)

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(Pregermination cont'd.)

the grooves but was broadcast over the area later with a Vicon Spreader. This was done to ensure a more accurate calibration and to more evenly distribute the seed between the grooves and the aerifier holes.

The wet seed, ready for planting, was dumped on a cement floor for drainage and mixed with Milorganite for further drying. The Milorganite also acted as a seed carrier further aiding in the broadcasting of the correct seeding rate. Milorganite was added on a 4-to-1 basis, four pounds of Milorganite to one pound of seed, with the use of an electric cement mixer to ensure a homogeneous mix.

The broadcast seed mixture was dragged with a harrow mat and rolled to enhance seed to soil contact. A high quality starter fertilizer was then applied and the all important irrigation water was started. As with any seeding, the seedbed must be kept moist and watering schedules adjusted accordingly.

Our results were outstanding. Bentgrass plants were identified in a two leaf stage 10 days after seeding, even with soil temperatures of much less than 60°F. Fairways which had been seeded on April 26th healed quickly and were opened for regular membership play one month later. A reasonably mature stand of turf allowed not only good playing conditions but unrestricted golf car movement on Memorial Day weekend.

The efforts of pregerminating on a large scale were well worth the results and would be worthy of your consideration should you be forced with recovering from water damage.

Credit: "The Grass Roots", Vol. XVI, No. 3

(Looking for Poa cont'd.)

**5) LEAF SHININESS.** POA ANNUA leaves are somewhat shiny. BENTGRASS leaves tend to be somewhat duller in appearance and you may notice a "dusty" look to the top side of the leaf.

**6) STOLENS.** Stolens are unlikely on POA ANNUA plants growing at greens mowing heights. Spreading occurs through short, near the surface connections which soon rot off leaving each crown as a separate plant throughout most of the year. BENTGRASS plants will usually sprout stolens and spread by this means across the surface of a green.

**7) TILLERS PER CROWN.** From late spring throughout summer, POA ANNUA plants appear as groups of similar independent tillers growing together in a relatively roundish configuration. During early spring and fall you may find two or more crowns still connected together. However, the connections soon rot off leaving each crowns and tiller independent of the others. Some plants spread more rapidly than do others but not as rapidly as do bent plants. BENTGRASS plants usually will have several tillers growing from a single crown throughout the year.

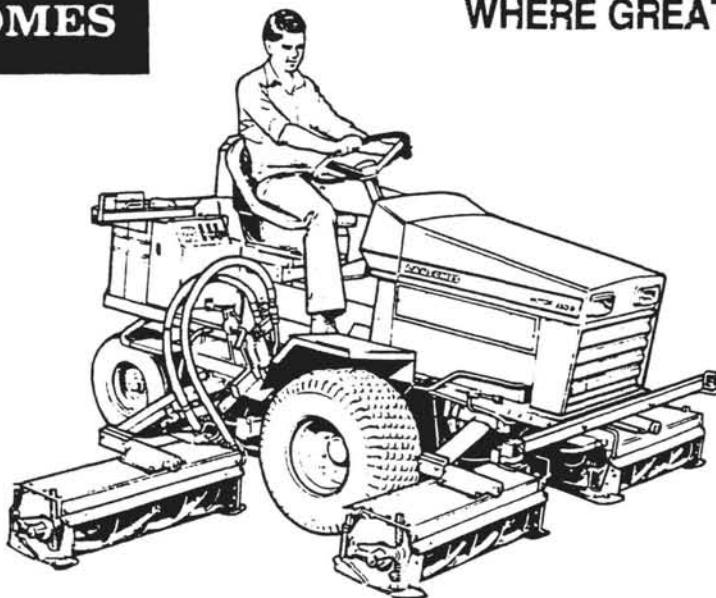
**8) SEED HEADS.** POA ANNUA plants may or may not have seed heads showing. Many plants bloom most of the spring and into the summer. Others produce seed heads for a short time and may bloom only once during the season. A few will not send up seed heads when mowed at greens height. BENTGRASS does not produce seed heads on greens.

Credit: Northern Michigan Turf Times, Vol. 18, #5

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## Director's Column

### A Burger a Day Keeps Cancer Away

by Mike Nass

I found it comforting to read the other day that eating a hamburger every day might keep cancer away. Amidst stories about Chilean grapes laced with arsenic and Alar-coated apples, it was particularly pleasing to think that there still might be something to eat that was beneficial.

The apple scare is especially distressing since my parents had always stressed the fact that eating an apple a day would keep the doctor away.

Now I find (much to my relief) that a new magic elixir has been discovered and what could be better than the All-American hamburger. If this is true than I am destined to live forever.

Unfortunately as I read on I found there were a number of qualifications. First the burger must be grilled. Well, so much for MacDonalds, we all know that they're fried. I can live with that, so what's next? The burgers can't be cooked well done. So far I'm batting 1000. I prefer my burgers pink and juicy as opposed to resembling hockey pucks.

At this point I started wondering where steak tartar might fit in. It's not grilled but it's certainly not overcooked either. Further research told me that uncooked meat could contain harmful bacteria and amoebas. Bacteria I could handle, but amoebas! Maybe I'll just throw my tartar on the grill next time.

At least I still have the good, old, grilled, medium-rare hamburger to fall back on, or have I? Towards the end of the article all my illusions were shattered. The source quoted, confirmed that grilled hamburgers did indeed produce a potent anticarcinogen. The kicker was that the doses fed experimental animals were so high that it would be impractical for humans to consume enough meat to realize any benefit. In fact before I ate enough to fight cancer all my arteries would be clogged and I'd die of heart failure.

As the late Gilda Radner said, "It's always something."

Can any of this be applied to the management of turf? I think some parallels can be drawn. First always read the entire label on pesticides before applying. A Product that controls *Ataenius* might be harmful to *Penneagle*.

Second beware of gimmick remedies. What looks good on paper might come back to haunt you in the end.

Lastly, throw away your deep fryer and buy yourself a good grill.

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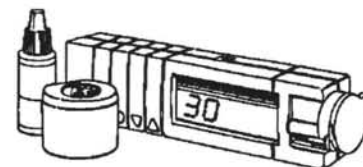
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