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President's Message

Words of Praise

Most golf course superintendents would fall into the category of professions that receive more criticism than praise. The burden of criticism has been on the shoulders of golf course superintendents for many generations and will probably continue in that direction. It seems as though we get it from all sides at times. It might be disgruntled employees one day and dissatisfied members or customers the next day that vent their frustration on us. It seems that all of our dealings with criticism could use some detailed understanding.

Criticism is like any other form of communication. It can be in the form of a monologue or be a part of a dialogue with two-way communication. Accepting or handing out criticism without giving or getting proper feedback is a process that will lead to frustration and low morale. The recipient of one-way criticism becomes a mere whipping post and has no control over the situation. By using dialogue to your advantage we can hopefully turn a negative confrontation into a tolerable situation and possibly a favorable outcome.

When receiving criticism on the condition of your golf course try to avoid the hidden meanings and deal with the real issues. Are your greens too slow? Maybe you should respond with the comment that good greens are consistent in speed and should putt true. A response to criticism can be beneficial in the form of education for the golfer. Now we certainly don't want to get into a war of words as these battles are never won by an employee. Some times we need to ascertain the reasons for the criticism. Did the member have a bad round that day? Isn't it funny how well the course plays when someone scores well and how poor the course is maintained when someone has a bad round. Emotion plays a large part in criticism. Don't get tangled up in an emotional duel. Use logic when handling complaints, it will also prevail over emotional issues with no foundation.

Criticism can be both positive and negative. Try to use positive criticism when dealing with your own staff. We receive enough negative criticism ourselves that it is not necessary to describe the terrible feeling derived from this type of confrontation. By using the golden rule of treating other people like you would like to be treated yourself, we can reap positive benefits from our staff and correct deficiencies without a negative attitude.

Words of praise can go a long way to develop a good working atmosphere. It is something that can become contagious. I've never met a person who is too polite, or too considerate, or too complimentary. We all know someone who shows a lack of the above. In order to create a favorable environment in the workplace I suggest you think of nice things to say that can accomplish the same task as negative criticism. Words of praise will long be remembered after threats and criticism are forgotten. By letting those around us know how much we appreciate their efforts we are acting as responsible leadership rather than insensitive employers.

I would hope that the attitudes of the golfers could learn from our actions. We'll never know until we develop a positive environment in the workplace void of negative criticism. Words of praise are like money in the bank when it comes to personnel management and productivity.

Best of luck for a successful growing season,

Bruce R. Williams, CGCS
President, MAGCS



Director's Column

by Joel Purpur, CGCS
River Forest Golf Club

Hopefully everyone is ready for the 1991 season because we're in it for the duration. What kind of weather will we get this season? I hope easy enough that we don't get burned and challenging enough that our talents can be recognized.

So how do we get through the tough times without losing it? Other than sex, sports and hobbies are all a good release for stress, but for me golf on the home course can create stress. Getting away from your course once in awhile can be what the doctor ordered.

At our M.A.G.C.S. monthly meetings some might question the value of the meeting if little or no education is on the program, but the comradery and "shop talk" on and off the course can be just as valuable. It's great that people in our business seem to be open with their opinions and methods. Golf at someone else's course can be a breath of fresh air, as well as looking at maintenance from someone else's perspective. I hear a lot of other superintendents say that they don't enjoy golfing at their own clubs as much because they're constantly evaluating the course and seeing things that have not been done or should have been done, therefore they can't relax. That's one reason why I enjoy getting away for the M.A.G.C.S. Golf Events.

Planning and looking forward to off-season is an enjoyable form of stress diversion for me. Having these events to look forward to helps get me through the season.

You may have heard of a group that has gone White Water Rafting in September the past four of five years. This is a great end of season release and something to look forward to when it's 95 degrees and humid. Anticipation and memories from past trips on the river are fun to talk about and won't be soon forgotten. Like Don Spiers' exciting run down a good section of river ... outside the raft, or when Pete Leuzingers' tent mates turned his tent around to reposition the door. Watching Pete try to get in the wrong end after a few "pops" was something that should be on video. Even though Len Berg paddles with the strength of two men, and Steve Crow paddles backwards when he's not supposed to causing the boat to slam into a rock called "Postage Due", we've always managed to survive.

Another favorite off season get-away is to hit the ski slopes. I've had a lot of fun skiing with fellow superintendents and hope more will join us. Everyone goes at their own pace and when you ski with Don Cross you don't even need a trail map. Al Fierst keeps us up to date on the latest apparel but you have to look fast because Al skis for speed (at least he tells us he's



Dave Blomquist,
"Super Form"



Kevin DeRoo,
"I think I'll make it"

under control). Dave Blomquist will go down just about anything, it's getting him up the mountain that can be a challenge. Me, I really love skiing, but the older I get the more noises I make when I get up in the morning.

We've also played around on the Nastar Race Courses. Standing in the starting gates looking down the race course with your heart pounding makes you feel like you're on Wide World of Sports, although realization sets in at the finish line when our times are posted. Mike Sauls claimed a few stitches in his lip from kissing a gate while racing, but it hasn't affected his skiing ... or snoring. Mike says he never hears a thing and wonders why everyone else is not well rested.

When it's all over, after spending several days with a bunch of guys there's a lot to say for getting home to the women or families in our lives. A little time away seems to turn up the flame a bit and give the relationship a fresh start.

It is these short adventures that keep me going and give me something to look forward to. Work hard, play hard. Come along next time, the more the merrier.



"Who said we couldn't have fun at a convention and that Vegas is in the desert?" Left to right: Peter Leuzinger, Bob Padula, Rick Wilson, Ed Braunskey. Taking the picture was Don Ferreri and the Captain of the boat Art Benson. Picture taken on Lake Mead.

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New Preemergence Herbicides For Use in Turf

by J. E. Haley

Crabgrass (*Digitaria* spp.) is a common and persistent weed in Illinois turf. It germinates in late spring and throughout the summer on sunny, moist sites. Once established, crabgrasses, with their spreading growth habit crowd out desirable turf. This is especially a problem in spring plantings or areas where the turf is weakened by disease or poor maintenance. Crabgrass can be controlled by application of preemergence or postemergence herbicides. New crabgrass control herbicides that should receive full registration during 1991 are Barricade, Dimension, and Impact.

Barricade

Barricade (prodiamine, Sandoz Crop Protection), a new preemergence crabgrass control herbicide, is similar to other herbicides currently available. It must be applied early in the spring prior to weed germination and has no postemergence properties. Irrigation or rainfall should follow application to carry the herbicide down to the soil surface. Very little of the herbicide is translocated to leaves, stems and seeds. Barricade is strongly absorbed on the soil and is not readily leached so there is very little runoff with this herbicide. It degrades more rapidly under anaerobic conditions than under aerobic conditions. This would indicate that herbicide breakdown might present a problem during very wet years, on heavily irrigated sights or in locations that flood frequently.

Barricade is safe to use on Kentucky bluegrass, fine fescue, tall fescue, perennial ryegrass, zoysiagrass, bermudagrass, centipedegrass and St. Augustinegrass. Bentgrasses are not tolerant to Barricade. Annual grasses controlled or partially suppressed with preemergence applications of Barricade include annual bluegrass, crabgrass, foxtail, goosegrass and rescuegrass. Among the many broadleaf weeds controlled or suppressed with Barricade are common chickweed, henbit, prostrate spurge and knotweed.

One advantage of Barricade is that it is a very long lasting herbicide. Rates as low as 0.3 to 0.75 lb. ai/A can control crabgrass from 2 to 6 months. Studies at the University of Illinois indicate that rates of 0.5 lb. ai/A when applied in late April, consistently provide season long control of crabgrass under a variety of environmental conditions. The long residual activity of Barricade is important to those turf managers that can't return to a site to reapply preemergence material. Since Barricade does not degrade rapidly, it may inhibit germination of desired turfgrass if seeded too soon after herbicide application. This could present a problem with fall renovation of a site that was treated with Barricade in the spring. It is necessary to wait 4-6 months before broadcasting seed over an area treated with 0.75 lb. ai/A Barricade. If slit seeding, a 3-4 month waiting period is needed. Turf established in the fall should not be treated with Barricade the following spring until the turf has completely filled in.

Dimension

Another new preemergence herbicide soon to be released is Dimension (dithiopyr, Monsanto). What makes Dimension different from other available preemergence materials is that Dimension can also control crabgrass in the early postemergence (cont'd. page 6)

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(Herbicides in Turf cont'd.)

stages. Dimension does not prevent the weed seeds from germinating but stops their development probably through inhibition of cell division or development. It is absorbed through the roots and shoots and unlike many preemergence herbicides does not need to be watered in, however, irrigation or rainfall after application improves herbicide performance. Dimension is broken down in the soil by both chemical and microbial action.

Turfgrass species that are tolerant to Dimension include Kentucky bluegrass, tall fescue, perennial ryegrass and some varieties of fine fescue. It is also safe to use on creeping and colonial bentgrass maintained at fairway mowing height. Warm season turfgrasses tolerant to Dimension include buffalograss, zoysiagrass, bermudagrass, centipedegrass, bahiagrass, kikuyugrass, and St. Augustinegrass. Weeds that are controlled or suppressed with preemergence applications of Dimension are barnyardgrass, annual bluegrass, crabgrass, foxtail, goosegrass, chickweed, henbit, oxalis, woodscorrel, spurge and corn speedwell. It is likely that more weeds will be added to the label as research continues on this herbicide.

Turf managers have greater flexibility in their weed control program when using Dimension for late preemergence — early postemergence crabgrass control. Lawn care operators can offer crabgrass control to new customers contracted in late May or early June. Golf course superintendents can apply crabgrass control materials later in the spring when time and seasonal help are more plentiful. If some of the crabgrass plants have tillered, Dimension can be mixed with MSMA for quicker and better control of older plants. Fall renovation of a turf treated with Dimension in the spring should not be a problem. The site can be overseeded 3 months following herbicide application, although it is a good idea to increase the seeding rate. Dimension should only be applied to a mature turf that has developed a secondary root system or has been mowed 1-2 times. Dimension application rates vary depending on the site and weeds to be controlled. Preemergence or early season postemergence control of crabgrass is found with 0.25 to 0.5 lb. ai/A of Dimension, while preemergence control of goosegrass, annual bluegrass or broadleaf weeds may require rates of 0.5 to 0.75 lb. ai/A. When applied very early in the season, reapplication may be necessary as some herbicide breakdown has been observed when applied in late April.

Impact

Impact (quinclorac, BASF) is another new herbicide with both pre and postemergence crabgrass control properties. It is absorbed by the coleoptile, the leaves and the roots. To maximize herbicide uptake, Impact should not be watered for 24 hours following application. However rainfall or irrigation 2-7 days after application will improve weed control. Some adsorption to the soil occurs with Impact and leaching varies depending on soil type, organic matter and soil percolation rate.

Impact is safe to use on annual bluegrass, Kentucky bluegrass, annual and perennial ryegrass, tall fescue and zoysiagrass. Bermudagrass is thought to be tolerant to Impact, however injury has been observed in some university studies. Fine fescue is only moderately tolerant. It should not be applied to bentgrass, bahiagrass, St. Augustine, or centipedegrass. Impact controls a variety of weeds found in turf. Some weeds that are highly

(cont'd. page 8)



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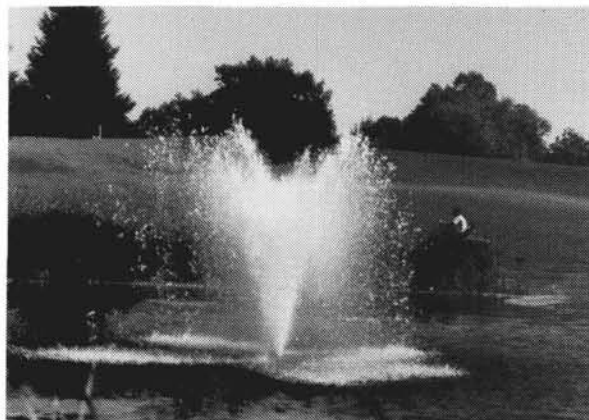
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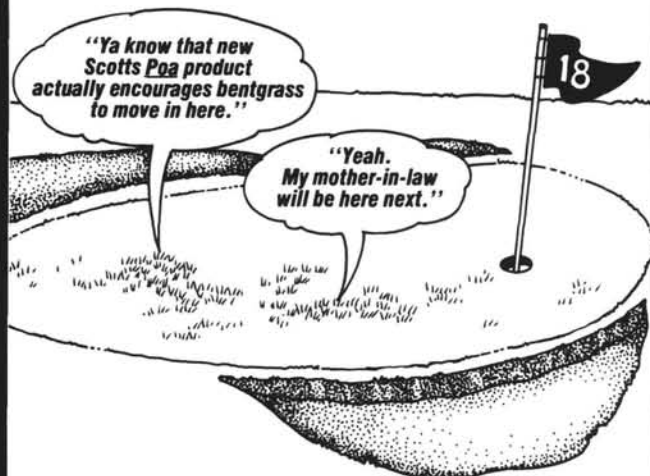


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(Herbicides in Turf cont'd.)

or moderately susceptible to applications of Impact include crabgrass, foxtail, barnyardgrass, white clover, speedwell, dandelion, buckhorn plantain, and spurge. For crabgrass control, Impact is best applied in late spring or early summer. It can control susceptible grasses up to the 3-5 tiller stage of growth and some broadleaf weeds in the seedling to 4 leaf stage.

Unlike Barricade or Dimension, Impact can be used in conjunction with overseeding or establishment. Slit seeded grass is thought to be more tolerant but seed can be broadcast with good results. This is an important advantage when establishing or renovating a site in late spring. Impact also provides good crabgrass control once the crabgrass begins to flower. Lawn care applicators could find this a selling point when promoting their service to potential clients in mid to late summer.

Barricade, Dimension, and Impact have unique properties that may have a place in your weed control program. When using these products or any of the herbicides currently on the market please follow label instructions carefully.

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Openings		Under Construction		In Planning	
1. Florida	41	1. California	43	1. California	116
2. South Carolina	21	2. Michigan	42	2. Florida	93
3. California	17	3. Florida	39	3. Michigan	35
T-4. Michigan	15	T-4. Georgia	28	T-4. Pennsylvania	30
T-4. North Carolina	15	T-4. Ohio	28	T-4. Virginia	30
6. Texas	13	6. Illinois	24	T-6. Ohio	28
T-7. Georgia	11	T-7. North Carolina	21	T-6. New York	28
T-7. Illinois	11	T-7. South Carolina	21	T-6. Georgia	28
9. Minnesota	10	T-7. Virginia	21	9. North Carolina	27
T-10. New York	8	T-10. New York	20	10. Illinois	26
T-10. Pennsylvania	8	T-10. Pennsylvania	20	11. Indiana	25
T-10. Arizona	8	12. Minnesota	17	12. South Carolina	23
All Others	111	All Others	236	All Others	292
Total	289	Total	560	Total	781

Rieke Heads "Down Under"

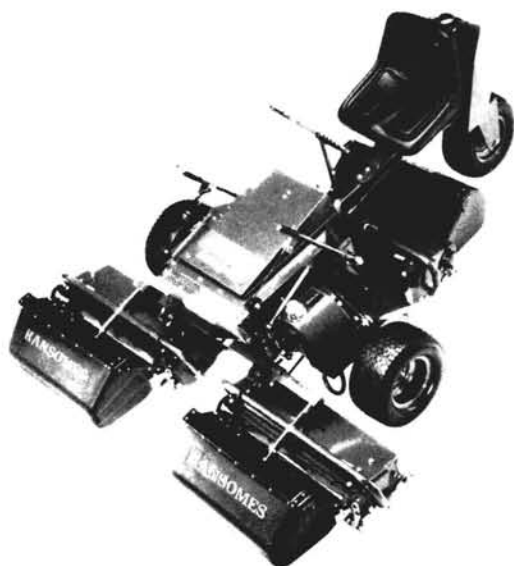
Dr. Paul E. Rieke, noted turfgrass soils specialist, is leaving Michigan State University; but only for a six-month sabbatical leave in the land of the Kiwi, New Zealand. Paul and his wife, Anne, departed March 1st for Palmerston North, New Zealand where they will be based during the sabbatical. It has been 20 years since Dr. Rieke last had a sabbatical leave and he has been looking forward to rejuvenating his own knowledge and skills during his stay "down under".

Throughout the next six months Dr. Rieke will be studying and writing at Massey University. He will also be conducting some research at the New Zealand Institute of Turf Culture nearby. One of Dr. Rieke's goals during his sabbatical will be the starting of a book on turfgrass soils and fertility. Besides doing research and writing, Dr. Rieke will also have an opportunity to visit turfgrass installations throughout New Zealand.

Current plans call for Dr. Rieke to return to East Lansing in early September in time to prepare for fall term classes. In addition to sharing his experiences with students he will be reporting on his trip at the 62nd Annual Michigan Turfgrass Conference next January.

Golf Course Openings in 1990 - National Summary

	Daily Fee	Municipal	Private	Total
New courses	123	26	57	206
Expansions	43	11	29	83
Total courses	166	37	86	289



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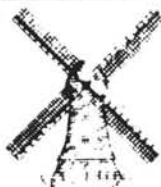
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Leaves, Limbs, Needles & Boughs

by Fred D. Opperman

Fraxinus americana (frak'si-nus a-mer-i-ka'na) White Ash

This is one of the more common trees that one sees in the landscape and on the golf courses. It will give more color than the Green Ash in the fall with shades of yellow thru purple. The White Ash is a very handsome tree when it is allowed to grow to it's full size. Some of the best cultivars are: "Autumn Applause" which has outstanding dark maroon fall color. "Autumn Purple" which is a male seedless variety and has great fall color. "Champaign County" has good growth habit with smaller and darker green leaves. "Rosehill" which is seedless, dark green summer foliage; bronze red fall color and tolerant of poor alkaline soils. At the present time any of these varieties are hard to find in the 3 to 4 inch caliper size.

LEAVES: Opposite, pinnately compound, 5 to 9 leaflets, usually 7, stalked, 2 to 6" long, ovate to ovate lanceolate, usually or slightly dentate toward apex, dark green above, glaucous beneath and usually glabrous. (Glaucous=green with a bluish cast or covered with a whitish bloom that can be rubbed off, as grapes and plums. Glabrous=without hair, smooth)



BUD: Terminal present, 2 to 3 pairs of scales, semi-spherical to broadly ovate, scurfy and more or less slightly downy, rust to dark brown to sometimes almost dark. Terminal about 1/5" long, usually broader than long. Buds insert in the leaf scar.

STEMS: Stout, rounded, smooth and shining grayish or greenish brown often with slight bloom, flattened at nodes at right angles to leaf scars. Leaf scars "U" shaped with deep to shallow notch; vascular bundles forming open "C" shape.



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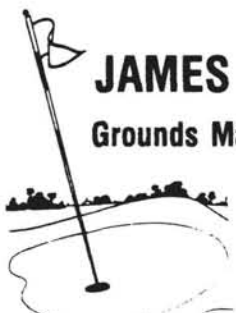


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