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**Bull Sheet** printed by Ever-Redi Printing, 5100 East Ave., Countryside, IL 60525.

The **Bull Sheet** is published once a month. All articles are required by the 10th of the month to make the next issue. Advertising is sold by the column inch, by the quarter page, half page, and by the full page. All artwork to be finished and in black and white. Circulation is over 600 issues per month.

## President's Message



**Ray Schmitz**

As the holiday season has passed I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable period during which one makes an effort to relax and reflect and spent some time with their families.

The NCTE was held December 2-4 and was well attended even though some of us had to plow snow the morning of the second day. Over 1000 persons had preregistered to attend the 3 day event. The MAGCS presented a check for \$2000 to the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation at their December 3rd annual meeting. This money was targeted for research at the University of Illinois. Hopefully, we will see and hear more from the turfgrass research that is going on the U. of I. It is disappointing to hear that the University plans to continue to cut back on some of its agriculture programs.

At the December meeting of the MAGCS board of directors it was decided to have a representative of the commercial advisory committee sit in on future board meetings, in a non voting capacity. After much discussion, the board of directors made this decision to create a better exchange of information between all membership classes. When last counted the class E or associate members account for 35% of the 620 total members. The MAGCS board of directors does recognize all the contributions the commercial members have provided at monthly meetings, ads in the **Bull Sheet**, and sharing sponsorship at the hospitality room during the GCSAA convention.

The next MAGCS meeting will be held Monday, January 13th at Arrowhead C.C. Dave Blomquist, chairman of the education committee has promised to have an enlightening speaker for the educational session. Hope to see you there to gain from this experience and to share in some fellowship.

# Director's Column

by Dave Blomquist

The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents is a leader in the field of golf course maintenance. I have always been proud to be part of the association and now as a member of the Board of Directors I look forward to giving my time and effort to help the MAGCS maintain its status in the industry.

I've been assigned to the Education committee. Our primary responsibility is assembling speakers for monthly meetings as well as the Annual Turf Clinic and the NCTE. This year's committee is made up of the following members:

Len Berg (Cross Creek C.C.)  
Marty Bauman (Mt. Prospect G.C.)  
Kevin Czerkies (Sportsman G.C.)  
Kevin Deroo (Bartlett Hills G.C.)  
John Gurke (Aurora C.C.)  
Tony Rzadzki (Cantigny)  
Renny Jacobson (Carillon)

We are already working on next year's agenda. If anyone has any ideas, please feel free to contact any member of the committee. We will endeavor to provide the membership with lively speakers providing topical information. Additionally, we are going to continue to pursue "mini seminars" throughout the season. This idea has been popular in the past. Computer technology and environmental regulations are two ideas we are looking at for this season.

I'd like to thank everyone who supported me. The upcoming year should be very successful as the Board of Directors, led by Ray Schmitz, is dedicated and motivated to providing the best services to the membership. Once again, please feel free to contact anyone from the education committee with ideas. Feed back is essential if we are to be successful and after all, this is your association so if there is someone you would like to see, let's hear about it.

## Education Topic January Meeting

by Dave Blomquist  
Chairman, Education Committee

To keep in line with the traditional Arrowhead agenda, our speaker's topic is in the area of self-improvement. Mr. Robert Mills, Green Chairman of Naperville Country Club, will be speaking to us about how we can better market ourselves to the golfing public and the community outside of our profession.

Bob Mills is the founder and president of Direction One Ltd., an advertising, marketing and public relations firm located in Naperville, Illinois. He is a graduate of Southern Illinois University where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Communications.

Throughout his 23 year career in communications, he has provided promotion and public relations counsel to a variety of local, regional and national accounts such as ABC radio, AT&T, Pizza Hut, Old Republic Insurance and King Richard's Renaissance Faire to name just a few.

Mr. Mills also brings with him a unique perspective into our profession. For six years he worked on the Grounds Department and in the Pro Shop of Countryside Golf Club in Mundelein while attending high school and college.

The title of his talk is "From Groundskeeper to Superintendent — How to Successfully Market Yourself."

## Don't Read This

by Dennis Wilson  
Sunset Ridge Country Club

The weather man says, "Normal temperature for this day is \_\_\_\_\_." Well, what is normal? Is it normal or average temperature for that day? More than likely, all temperatures recorded for that day are put in a big box, shaken not stirred, and out comes the normal temperature.

Have you been to a MAGCS meeting lately? It's great to see what our fellow superintendents have done to improve their courses. Talk is cheap. Hosting a meeting proves what you say is what you have. Look around man, hear the growl of these young loins, they are doers and are they hungry.

What about all these new fungus! Pretty scary right, or are these fungus really new. It seems that every time the EPA ban a chemical, a new fungus appears. So what, you say. Maybe, just maybe, we were controlling something we didn't know we had until a new chemical, to replace the old, came on the market which doesn't control all that the old one did. If you're lost, go back to the beginning and don't collect what it is that I'm trying to say.

We all seem to be talking about layers in greens, but what about fairways. Those of us who aerate fairways, chop up the plugs and work back in the soil, aren't we creating layers? At Sunset Ridge Country Club, we have 68 years of thatch on clay. If I keep bringing clay to the surface each year, won't that equal layers? Last fall, we cleaned all the cores off of the shortest par four fairway here and for the summer of 1991, it was in the best shape. You think I'm nuts, well maybe.

Ever have a year where you think everything fell together, conditions of the course were above normal and you go to a Board of Directors meeting feeling good and come out thinking, "Did I leave the toilet seat up?"

Today, universities are teaching students to be Golf Course Managers. So the people you hire to be Assistant Superintendents are really Golf Course Managers like yourself. So somewhere along the chain of command someone should know how to physically do what ever needs to be done. Boy, this is confusing. Now, I think I know what Big Dave, from the Wendy's commercials, is trying to say.

Ok, ok, I'm ending this real quick. I recently had a catscan of my brain. Doc said, "Not to worry, there was nothing in there." I thanked him and said a lot of people already know that.

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## Leaves, Limbs, Needles and Boughs

by Fred D. Opperman

This month's selection is one of the most common trees we are to find in our landscape. *Acer platanoides* (a'ser plat-an-oy'dez) the Norway Maple. This tree has been over used and over planted to some extent. Grass is difficult to grow under a mature Norway due to the heavy shade and extensive shallow root system.

Leaves: Opposite, simple, 4-7" across, 5 lobed, lobes sharp pointed, remotely dentate, dark green above, lustrous beneath often with hairs in axils of veins; milky sap is visible when petiole is removed from the stem.



Bud: Terminal imbricate, 1/4 to 3/8" long, rounded, scales plump, fleshy, lustrous, greenish maroon to maroon, essentially glabrous except for pubescence at edge of scales, to 8 scaled, two accessory buds 1/3 to 1/2 size.



Stem: Stout, smooth, glabrous olive brown, lenticelled, leaf scars meet to form a sharp angle; pith solid, white; 2nd year stems lose luster, become more gray-brown.

Size: 40 to 50' in height, occasionally over 90', usually spread is 2/3's or equal to height.

Leaf Color: Dark green in summer; sometimes changing to handsome yellow in fall; leaves hold late and color toward the end of October and into November; when fall color is maximally expressed.

Culture: Easy to transplant, well adapted to extremes in soils, will withstand sand, clay, acid to calcareous soils, seems to withstand hot, dry conditions better than Sugar Maples; tolerates polluted atmosphere; intolerant of 2-4-D.

Cultivars: There are many cultivars but most nurseries grow only a few. To list a few: *Almira*, *Cleveland*, *Columnare*, *Crimson King*, *Crimson Sentry*, *Deborah*, *Emerald Queen*, and *Faasen's Black*.

Credit: *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants*  
by Michael Dirr



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# Tall Fescue Turfs in Illinois

by Tom Fermanian, Associate Professor  
Dept. of Horticulture, University of IL

It wasn't long ago that tall fescue (*Festuca Arundinacea* Schreb.) was considered a weed species within the borders of Illinois. This perception is just now beginning to change across the state. A little more in southern and central portions. Even the Chicagoland area and northern Illinois are loosening up.

Many new cultivars of tall fescue are becoming available. The National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) is currently sponsoring a national tall fescue cultivar evaluation trial with 65 entries. A new test is approaching with well over 100 entries. Only eight varieties were available in 1980. Where there was once little choice among available varieties, now there is confusion. What has prompted this increase in breeding and release of new varieties? Certainly its increase in performance, particularly for uses in which tall fescue is best adapted.

When the expansion of breeding began in the early 80's, many new varieties of tall fescue were reported to have finer texture, a more prostrate growth habit, and darker green genetic color. While the prostrate growth habit and green color were found to be true, leaf texture in mature stands was similar to pasture-type varieties. Even with today's finer, dwarf-type tall fescues, leaf blades appear wider than most other cool season species. This has limited the use of tall fescue in truly high-performance, high-aesthetic turfs.

Tall fescue has gained popularity for medium to low maintenance areas with its rougher, courser turf. Would a golf course be interested in tall fescue? Are there areas on your course where you are trying to maintain turf with lower maintenance costs? For most courses there is at least a small area and for many courses there is considerable acreage that would be suitable for use with tall fescue.

What type of niche does tall fescue flourish in? It is a moderately dense, upright growing species. Turfs that require adequate cover, but not high densities and are mowed among 1.5 to 3 inches are ideal. One of the more valuable attributes of tall fescue is its ability to avoid injury in droughty soils. Tall fescue uses as much water for its growth as other cool season species. Its deeper (18 to 24 inches) root system allows it to draw required water from a greater volume of soil. It is not unusual to see green tall fescue contaminating dormant perennial ryegrass or Kentucky bluegrass turf.

Tall fescue is also extremely resistant to mechanical wear and tear. It is one of the tougher cool season turf species, providing excellent wear tolerance for well trafficked areas. Tall fescue provides an excellent turf in areas receiving high cart traffic and might be the solution to bare areas at the end of cart paths.

(cont'd. page 7)

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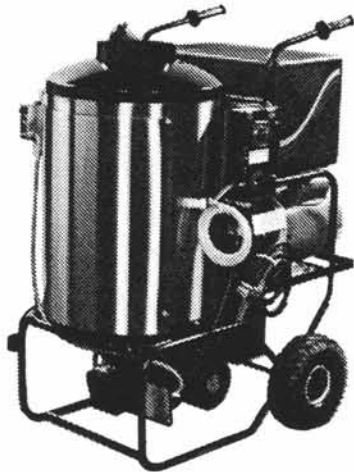
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There is also a lot **not** known about the use of tall fescue in Illinois. Not being one of the more commonly used species, there is a lack of research information on its relative performance throughout the state. Additionally, because of the availability of many new varieties, their specific performance is unknown.

With the assistance of an Illinois firm, Seaboard Seed Company, we set two years ago to examine the performance of a few selected tall fescue and perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne L.*) cultivars that might be particularly adapted for use in the Midwest. This project encompasses five separate experiments, looking at a range of performance indicators from growth in shade to disease resistance. One of the past limitations for using tall fescue has been its relative susceptibility to summer diseases such as brown patch and pythium blight. These two diseases still limit its overall performance in many poorly drained areas. Many of the new turf-type cultivars have increased resistance to these pathogens and have showed better performance than pasture-type tall fescues. Dr. Hank Wilkinson, of the University of Illinois, Department of Plant Pathology, is cooperating in the project by examining the genetic resistance of the selected cultivars to brown patch and pythium blight. This will be conducted in small greenhouse plots this fall.

In addition to an evaluation of disease resistance, many of the growth attributes of tall fescue are being examined. An advantage to using either tall fescue or perennial ryegrass is their rapid germination and establishment. Either species provides rapid germination and excellent seedling vigor, making overseeding a successful method of maintaining proper stand density. A field experiment was established at the University of Illinois Ornamental Horticulture Research Center (OHRC) to examine the germination potential and seedling vigor of the selected cultivars. Table 1 shows the percent germination of the selected cultivars 7 days after they were sown. This particular experiment is in full sun located on a well drained fertile soil. The analysis of the germination data indicated excellent performance for both the perennial ryegrass and tall fescues in comparison to Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis L.*).

Table 1. Percent Germination of Selected Tall Fescue and Perennial Ryegrass Cultivars Seven Days after Establishment in Full Sun.

cultivar	% germination	
Premium Sod Blend	1.0	a
Midnight	1.0	a
WVPB-88-TF-89-201	3.7	a b
WVPB-88-TF-F-16	6.0	a b
WVPB-88-TF-B-21	6.0	a b
WVPB-88-TF-C-10	11.0	a b
Hounddog	11.7	a b
Pennlawn	15.0	a b c
Pacer	15.0	a b c
WVPB-88-PR-D-10	18.3	a b c
WVPB-88-PR-D-12	21.7	a b c d
Mojave	23.3	a b c d e
WVPB-88-PR-89-57	23.3	a b c d e
Gallway	26.7	b c d e
Arid	26.7	b c d e
Rebel	28.3	b c d e
Delray	28.3	b c d e
Rodeo	36.7	c d e f
Stallion	45.0	d e f
Pennfine	46.7	e f
Manhattan II	46.7	e f
Citation II	53.3	f
Patriot	55.0	f

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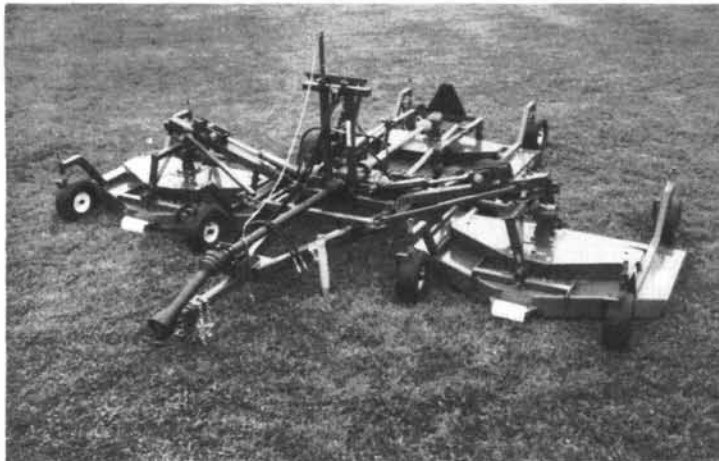
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(Tall Fescue continued)

This experiment was again evaluated 20 days after seeding to provide an indication of relative seedling vigor. The results of the evaluation are shown in Table 2 indicates a strong performance on the part of many of the tall fescue cultivars and, in particular, most of the perennial ryegrass cultivars. This experimental area will be maintained over the next 3 to 4 years for the continued evaluation of general performance.

Table 2. Percent Ground Cover of Selected Tall Fescue and Perennial Ryegrass Cultivars 20 Days after Establishment in Full Sun.

Cultivar	% cover	
Premium Sod Blend	28.3	a
Midnight	31.7	a
Pennlawn	45.0	a b
WVPB-88-TF-89-201	45.0	a b
WVPB-88-TF-B-21	51.7	a b c
Hounddog	56.7	b c d
WVPB-88-TF-C-10	56.7	b c d
WVPB-88-TF-F-16	56.7	b c d
Citation II	59.0	b c d e
Pacer	60.0	b c d e f
Galloway	63.3	b c d e f g
Mojave	66.7	b c d e f g h
Rebel	70.0	c d e f g h
Arid	70.0	c d e f g h
WVPB-88-PR-D-12	78.3	d e f g h
WVPB-88-PR-D-10	80.0	d e f g h
WVPB-88-PR-89-57	80.0	d e f g h
Patriot	81.7	e f g h
Rodeo	81.7	e f g h
Delray	83.3	f g h
Manhattan II	86.7	g h
Stallion	88.3	h
Pennfine	90.0	h

LSD.01= 24.2

WARNING! This evaluation is an initial evaluation of cultivar performance. Subsequent evaluations may show different responses.

Fisher's Least Significant Difference Test (LSD) is a statistical procedure that determines if the difference found between two treatments is due to the treatment or if the difference is simply due to random chance. For each set of data a value (LSD<sub>01</sub>) is calculated at a chosen level of significance. If the difference between two treatment means is greater than this calculated value then it is said to be a 'significant difference' or a difference not due to random chance. For each set of data, a letter(s) is placed by each treatment mean to show its relationship to every other treatment mean. If two means have one or more letters in common, it is probable that any difference between them is not significant but is a result of random chance. The level of significance that we use is 0.01 (LSD<sub>01</sub>). In other words, 99% of the time these treatments are compared this difference will occur.

Table 3 shows the evaluated quality of plots in the experiment 10 months after establishment. After one year, most of the grasses achieved full maturity with several of the tall fescues showing maximum performance. In particular, two of the experimental varieties, WVPB-88-TF-C10 and WVPB-88-TF-89-201, provided excellent performance and showed good potential. It is important to note that true performance can only be judged over a period of several seasons and that initial evaluations can change dramatically in subsequent years.

In the northern half of the warm-season growing area, tall fescue is used as one of the principal shade species. For cool season areas, we generally depend on fine fescues for performance in low light areas. Tall fescue can also provide excellent turf in limited light. Use tall fescue for rough areas that would otherwise be limited if tree-lined areas provided too much shade.

(cont'd. page 10)

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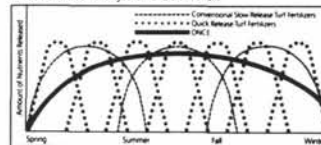
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(Tall Fescue continued)

Table 3. Estimated Turf Quality of Selected Tall Fescue and Perennial Ryegrass Cultivars 10 Months after Establishment in Full Sun.

Cultivar	Turf Quality	
Pennlawn	3.0	a
Rodeo	3.3	a
WVPB-88-PR-D-12	3.7	a
Stallion	3.7	a
WVPB-88-PR-89-57	4.0	a
WVPB-88-PR-D-10	4.0	a
Delray	4.0	a
Pennfine	4.0	a
Patriot	4.0	a
Manhattan II	4.0	a
Citation II	4.0	a
Premium Sod Blend	5.7	b
Gallway	7.7	c
Hounddog	8.0	c d
Rebel	8.0	c d
WVPB-88-TF-B-21	8.0	c d
Midnight	8.0	c d
Mojave	8.0	c d
Arid	8.3	c d
WVPB-88-TF-F-16	8.3	c d
Pacer	8.7	c d
WVPB-88-TF-C-10	8.7	c d
WVPB-88-TF-89-201	9.0	d

9 = best quality  
LSD.01 = 1.1

WARNING! This evaluation is an initial evaluation of cultivar performance. Subsequent evaluations may show different responses.

Because tall fescue has an ability to grow well in shaded areas, this species can be used from the edge of the fairway through the edge of wooded areas. This degree of tolerance to low light is variable among cultivars and to evaluate the relative performance of the selected cultivars in the study, a shade tolerance study was established. The same selected perennial ryegrass and tall fescue cultivars were established at the base of a green ash grove at the OHRC. The trunk diameter of the ash trees ranged from 3'' to 6'' providing moderately dense canopies and partial to high levels of shade. While the overall performance of the cultivars was lower in the shade than in full sun, many entries in the experiment performed well under the stressful conditions. In particular, Arid and WVPB-88-TF-89-201 tall fescues provided good quality when evaluated ten months after their establishment (Table 4).

Table 4. Estimated Turf Quality of Selected Tall Fescue and Perennial Ryegrass Cultivars 10 Months after Establishment in Partial Shade.

Cultivar	Turf Quality	
Midnight	3.0	a
Pennlawn	3.0	a
Pennfine	4.0	a b
Delray	4.3	a b c
Manhattan II	4.7	a b c d
Rodeo	4.7	a b c d
WVPB-88-PR-89-57	5.0	a b c d
WVPB-88-TF-F-16	5.0	a b c d
Citation II	5.0	a b c d
Pacer	5.3	a b c d
WVPB-88-PR-D-10	5.3	a b c d
Patriot	5.3	a b c d
WVPB-88-PR-D-12	5.7	a b c d
Hounddog	5.7	a b c d
Mojave	5.7	a b c d
Stallion	6.0	b c d
Rebel	6.0	b c d
Gallway	6.3	b c d
WVPB-88-TF-C-10	6.7	b c d
WVPB-88-TF-B-21	6.7	b c d
Arid	7.0	c d
WVPB-88-TF-89-201	7.3	d

9 = best Quality  
LSD.01 = 2.9

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