

the Bull Sheet

Official publication of the MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS.

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On Course With The President

by Timothy Kelly,
President, MAGCS



I remember a director's column article that Bruce Williams wrote a few years back. It was titled, "Presenting a Positive Image for Golf Course Superintendents." In the article Bruce states that as golf course superintendents we feel that we don't get enough respect. Our image as golf course superintendents is very important, and as a certain professional tennis player says image is everything! We are constantly reminding ourselves about the importance of image whether we are at our own clubs and courses, or at a function such as a MAGCS meeting. I would like to comment about the image that the MAGCS membership has conveyed during the past three monthly meetings. 1) Hats. At the July meeting at Poplar Creek, the dress code was to be casual. A group of our members decided to wear their hats in the dining room during the dinner, education, and business meeting. This is well beyond casual. This is not the way to project a professional image. 2) Nametags. I wear a MAGCS nametag to proclaim a positive image to other members and guests, that I am a proud member of the MAGCS. Since the June meeting at River Forest CC the wearing of the MAGCS nametag has declined markedly. Maybe at the October meeting we can have everyone with a nametag on! 3) Conduct. The image that the MAGCS membership conveyed during our educational portion of the monthly meetings in June and August was very poor. As an audience we were not attentive and on occasion outright rude! At times there was so much talking that a loud buzz was in the air throughout the educators presentation. None of us would like to be treated this way. As Dennis Wilson stated in another directors column, if we want to be treated as a professional, be professional!

As Dennis Wilson stated in another directors column, if we want to be treated as a professional, be professional!

Any MAGCS member who is not interested in participating in the education or business meeting would be better off leaving the room, and returning afterwards.

I am sure that everyone has heard that: John Schilling, Diana Green, and Robert Ochs have or are leaving the staff of GCSAA. I am confident that the current Board of GCSAA will search carefully, to find qualified individuals to fill these key staff positions at GCSAA.

There is a good chance that our October 4th MAGCS meeting date, and site could be changed from the one printed in the meeting site/date booklet. Please stay abreast of any announcements for those who are interested in attending. Kevin Czerkies and Ed Braunsy are endeavoring to resolve this issue as expediently as possible. If you have any questions, give them a call.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Meeting is scheduled for October 4 at Bartlett Hills Country Club.

Internet, the Ultimate Computer Bulletin Board Service

by Tom Fermanian, University of Illinois

I read with extreme interest an article by Roger Stewart in a recent **Bull Sheet** describing computer bulletin board services (BBS) for golf course superintendents. For many of you, communicating through a computer is still a foreign activity, possibly an activity far in the future. For others, especially those who have already acquired computers, communicating with fellow superintendents through BBS might not be quite so unusual.



In fact, several Midwest superintendents "chat" regularly on BBS. Mr. Stewart's article last May provided excellent information to help others get started in using these communication tools. TURFTALK, a local BBS, and TURFBYTE, both provide a great way of obtaining information from golf course superintendents and others in the turf management business. I would certainly suggest your first venture into exploring computer BBS be with one of these two excellent systems.

If you would like to go even further into the area of computer-based communication, there are many other opportunities. You might have read in the newspaper or heard on the radio recently of Vice President Al Gore's plan for the federal government to build a communication super highway in the United States.

Vice President Al Gore's plan for the federal government to build a communication super highway in the United States.

Mr. Gore is referring to an expansion of an established computer network called the Internet. The Internet is currently a combination of various types of connections to over 200,000 computers throughout the world. It has grown from a small research project supported by the U.S. Department of Defense to a truly international communication network. The Internet is extremely complex and comprehensive. Its services can be summarized in three main areas. Individuals connected to the Internet can send and receive **electronic mail**. Secondly, an individual connected to the Internet might transfer files, programs, pictures, sounds or other kinds of materials by the **File Transfer Protocol (FTP)**. And lastly, individuals can directly connect to any one of the machines of the Internet and log into that machine utilizing its services through a system called **Telnet**.

We are very fortunate at the University of Illinois to have a direct connection to the Internet which provides access to all machines on campus and throughout the Internet. Through this connection, we can browse the catalogs of many libraries, send mail to colleagues around the world or transfer files from any number of computer software archives. While the Internet was developed initially for University and Federal scientists to communicate results of their research, it is now expanded to many other uses. One of these recent expansions has been a development of access to the Internet through commercial firms

to individuals through monthly or annual subscriptions. Information on how to get started with a connection to Internet will be given at the end of this article. What value is the Internet to golf course superintendents? Let's explore each of the three major activities.

Electronic mail (E-Mail). Most turfgrass scientists have either a direct or indirect connection to Internet and Internet mail. Phone books for various universities are found in directories on the Internet called "PH". If this fails, a direct phone contact with an individual will probably generate the correct E-mail address. My E-mail address is t-fermanian@uiuc.edu. Many commercial BBS provide E-mail access to the Internet. An E-mail connection exists for such commercial services as Prodigy, Genie, America On-Line, Compuserve, and many others.

File transfer protocol (FTP). While a large archive of turf information is not currently available on the Internet, plans for providing TGIF and other turfgrass databases through Internet are being considered. I have placed my lecture notes for "Hort 236 Introduction to Turfgrass Management" on a machine "kbml.plant.uiuc.edu". These files can be accessed through an "anonymous FTP" connection on the Internet. In the near future, additional archives of turf information should be available. Many different archives of computer software and information are available through anonymous FTP. Many databases on the Internet allow you to connect to them under the name "anonymous" giving you access to these materials.

Telnet. Telnet is a system for individuals to directly connect to computers on the Internet. Telenet connection are the same as local connections. While this might be the least used feature of the Internet for golf course superintendents, it represents a great future opportunity for superintendents to connect to larger central computers.

How Do I Get Started? Accessing the Internet can be both simple or complex depending on the type of activities you are interested in. One of the simplest ways to access the Internet is through public access dial-up bulletin boards. An example of one of these bulletin boards is vpnet currently running in the Chicagoland area. To get started with vpnet, simply dial 708-833-8126 and follow the instructions on screen. This bulletin board runs at 1200-9600 baud and has access to mail, selected news, and other services. Several other public access bulletin boards in the area are at 312-338-0632 and 312-248-0900. The last phone number has an online charge.

This brings up a second method of accessing Internet. You can also reach the Internet through commercial hourly charge services. One of the largest and most comprehensive of these services is the Delphi Service in Cambridge, Massachusetts. You may join Delphi by dialing 1-800-365-4636 and answering the information on the screen. Users receive five hours of free access to explore the Delphi system. A Delphi service representative may also be reached at 1-800-695-4005.

I encourage any of you with an interest in exploring the Internet to simply give one of these connections a try. Most of the systems are reasonably documented and provide some type of help by voice if you get stuck. In addition to the three major services, an active news group system is maintained on Internet with over 2,000 topics of interest. Who knows, someday one of the topics might focus on turf management.

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1993 John Deere Team Championship Results

J. W. Turf would like to extend a sincere thank you to Mr. Bill Leith at Elgin Country Club and his club for hosting the 6th annual John Deere Team Championship. The course was in spectacular condition lending to a perfect day. We had 53 teams this year vying for one spot to the National Tournament, to be held at the Dunes Course in LaQuinta, California.

With the pressure on, Short Hills held tough and won the tournament with a 54. Again, thank you to all the participants and their clubs. We hope you enjoyed the day and look forward to next year.

P.S. — J. W. Turf would like anyone who knows PAT KURTZ to contact us, he won long drive in the AM.

Score	Club	Superintendent
1. 54	Short Hills CC	Jeff Scott
2. 55	Knollwood CC	Randy Wahler
3. 55	Itasca CC	Scott Lyons
4. 56	Inverness CC	Mike Bavier
5. 56	Crystal Lake CC	Steve Van Acker
6. 57	Salt Creek CC	Gary Hearn
7. 57	Elgin CC	Bill Leith
8. 57	Randall Oaks CC	Mike Sprouce
9. 58	Orchard Valley CC	Jim McNair
10. 58	Sunset Ridge CC	Dennis Wilson
11. 58	Poplar Creek CC	Luke Strojny
12. 58	Bull Valley CC	Kenny Goodman

From the Workbench

from the Chicagoland Golf Course Mechanics Association
by Wes Danielweicz

TOPIC: Replacement of Jacobsen 321 or 501 two cycle engine on 20" commercial rotary mower.

PROBLEM: Costly Overhaul or O.E.M. engine replacement.

SOLUTION: Engine can be replaced with Tecumseh model number TVXL 840 two cycle engine. Some modifications need to be made.

1. Remove the lower engine flange of the original engine.
2. Remove lower crankshaft bearing and retainer form flange.
3. Saw off evenly the hub that the bearing sat in.
4. Place flange on deck.
5. Cut off approximately 1" of the blade adaptor and remove any burrs.
6. Cut off approximately 3/4" of the P.T.O. end of the crankshaft on the replacement engine.
7. Drill and tap a deeper hole in the crank to accommodate a new blade bolt (3/8-24x2 1/2 bolt).
8. Mount replacement engine onto flange and secure to deck.
9. Install blade adaptor onto crank P.T.O. and secure blade.
10. If more information is needed please do not hesitate to contact me, Wes Danielewicz (708) 595-3423.



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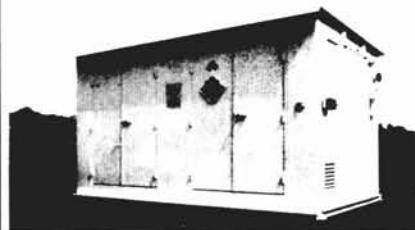


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Black Layer and Root Problems

by Randy Kane, PhD
Chicago District Golf Association

I have come across several cases of turf being damaged by apparent black layer problems on sand-based and sand topdressed greens. Needless to say, there have been significant problems this year concerning root loss, excess water, poor drainage, algae, and thinning of turf on greens. Black layer tends to occur in areas where water sits or drains slowly (low contours), in areas where traffic is high (walk-off, clean-up), and in shady areas. However, once drainage is stopped or the soil surface is sealed, black layer can develop anywhere on a green. It is definitely more of a problem in very wet years such as this one (remember when this all got started with heavy rains in Northern Michigan a few years ago ...?).



What is Black Layer?? Most simply put, black layer is a symptom of anaerobiosis, which is the (mostly) bacterial decomposition of organic matter in the absence of oxygen.

Black layer is a symptom of anaerobiosis, which is the (mostly) bacterial decomposition of organic matter in the absence of oxygen.

Anaerobes are very inefficient at breaking down complex organic molecules to carbon dioxide, so more complex organic acids, and other "sour" organic molecules accumulate. Most notable are organic sulfides, which give anaerobic soils that wonderful aroma, and reduced metals such as ferrous iron (which contributes to the dark color). Many of these compounds are toxic to roots. Also, the lack of adequate oxygen itself is also "toxic" to roots, since roots need adequate oxygen to function properly. Black layers form at an interface where drainage is impeded and oxygen becomes unavailable. In 1993, this occurred at or near the soil surface.

The Role of ALGAE. Algae are often cited as a cause of black layer. My feeling is that algae often contribute to the anaerobic condition that results in black layer and loss of turf. However, algae can be a significant problem in their own right, and can be very detrimental to turf without causing anaerobic conditions in the rootzone. Also, anaerobic conditions can arise on golf greens without the presence of algae, although algae may come in after the fact on injured greens.

Algae are always associated with thinned and weakened turf. Once the canopy thins, sunlight reaches the soil (sand) surface and stimulates algal growth (algae have chlorophyll and utilize sunlight for carbon assimilation, ie autotrophs). Our high pH, high carbonate sands seem to favor algae even more.

(continued on page 9)

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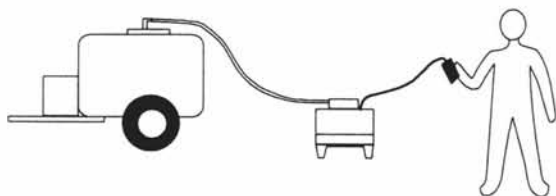
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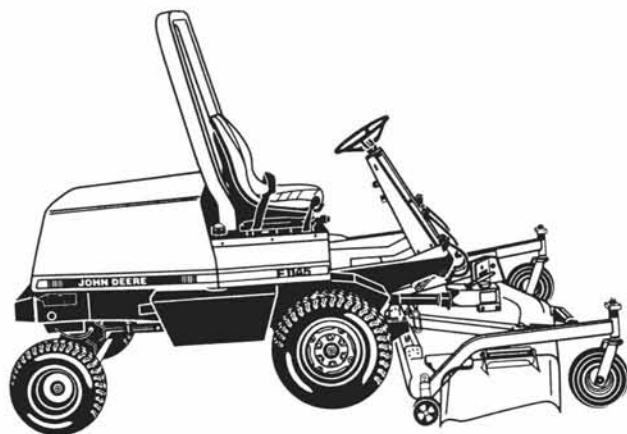
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BLACK LAYER (continued from page 6)

Algae are detrimental because:

(1) They secrete a gooey ooze or slim matrix that effectively seals up sand pores and limits oxygen movement into the rootzone. This also can stop water movement down through the profile much like putting your finger over the top end of a straw will keep liquid from falling out the bottom.

(2) Algae can grow over the surface of leaves and shade out the plant, and lead to further thinning of the canopy. This usually results in an expanding patch of algae. (3) There is some experimental evidence that algae may have some direct toxic effect on turfgrasses. They could therefore be considered as true plant pathogens if this pans out (cool!).

Relief from anaerobic/black layer situations. Since oxygen loss in the rootzone is probably the major problem you want to solve, it seems logical to me that aeration is the best answer to the problem. I recommend quadratine or some other small, closely-spaced core cultivation be done immediately when an anaerobic condition is recognized.

I recommend quadratine or some other small, closely spaced core cultivation be done immediately when an anaerobic condition is recognized.

Spiking can also be beneficial. Also, the aerification needs to be repeated as often as necessary to get plants through a stressful period. Here the small tines are helpful since they don't disrupt play too much. In badly thinned, algae infested areas, I also recommend topdressing and overseeding to shade out the algae and reestablish the turf cover. Also, you must remove the thinning stresses placed on the turf where possible: raise cutting heights, reduce traffic, improve drainage, etc., etc.

Role of irrigation water quality. I know nothing about water/soil chemistry, but it appears that long-term use of irrigation water with high lime, carbonates, sodium, high pH, or sediments may contribute to plugging of fine pores in sandy rootzone mixes. I am interested to see if the pH AIRWAY urea sulfamide treatments can have a significant effect on this problem, also other water treatment techniques that are on the market. I think it is too soon to tell at this point, especially with all the rain we got this year — not much irrigatin' goin' on . . .

I hope to hear some more information about these treatments at meetings this winter. See you there!!!

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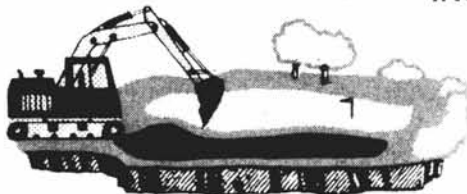
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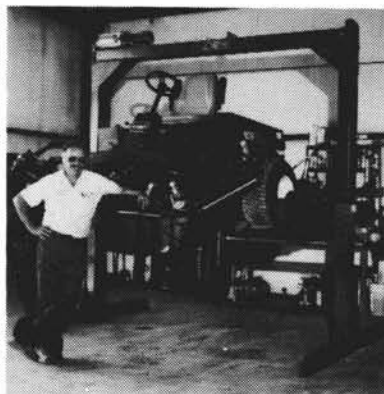
Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents MEMBERSHIP SURVEY 1993

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 A. Superintendent 138
 B. Assistant Superintendent
2. Do you have on your staff any of the following?
 A. An Assistant Superintendent 103
 B. Crew Foreman 69
 C. Irrigation Technician 32
 D. None of the above 19
3. Where is your club located?
 A. North Side 39
 B. South Side 27
 C. Western Suburbs 37
 D. Far West 25
 E. Near City of Chicago 4
4. What type of club do you maintain?
 A. Private/Equity Club 61
 B. Park District/Municipality/Forest Preserve 35
 C. Privately Owned/Public 36
 D. Resort 2
 E. Other 5
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 D. 75,001-90,000 13
 E. 90,001 and above 8
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(continued on page 12)

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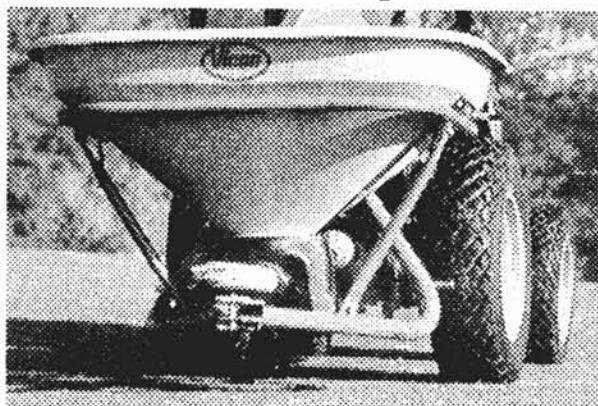
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