

(Whew! continued)

★ In general, the best control was achieved with mixing two brown patch controlling fungicides together such as a contact with a systemic.

★ And yes, some products were not very effective.

Additional factors that may contribute to a reduction in control include:

★ incomplete fungicide coverage through inadequate gallonage

★ management practices that induced additional stresses to the turfgrass plant.

In the time we have been at Ohio State University, we do not remember a summer where conditions were so conducive for brown patch for so long. Hopefully, next year we will have a more "normal" year.

Credit: "Divots" 9/95

"Ingenious Solutions to Solve Problems"

Excerpts from the "Verdure" 9/95

A problem which we've all encountered when repairing irrigation breaks is how to stop the constant dripping during the gluing process. Sure, we've isolated the leak, and we're using wet-dry cement, but I still feel more secure when I can fix a leak without any water interferring. During their time together at Bartlett Hills, Joel Purpur and

Kevin DeRoo read a blurb about using bread wads to temporarily clog the leaky pipe while cementing. A scientific formula was ... well, ... formulated: 1/2 loaf Rainbo White for 2 1/2" pipe, wadded tight and stuffed into the opening, repair quickly, and your plug leaves the system as very runny dough. Kevin notes that you should always be prepared with a full loaf, along with some peanut butter and jelly, as irrigation repair does give one an appetite.

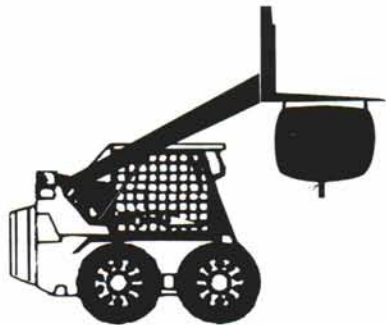
I spoke recently with Ed Fischer at Old Elm Club. His problem was, now that he provides Gatorade on the course in cooler houses, the bees are a menace. Bees also are a problem around tee areas where water coolers and litter baskets are placed. Ed's solution, which was seconded by Dave Schlagetter at Indian Hill Club, was to staple a Bounce fabric softener sheet to the cooler house. For some reason, bees are repelled by this, and success was achieved. I learned another solution, especially if an event calls for kegs of beer or fountain drinks to be set up outside — Fill several cups (clearly marked "Do Not Drink", as most bees can't read) with Coke, topped off with a few ounces of dishwashing detergent, and place them near (20 feet or so) the bar area. Bees attack it, drink it, then end up belly-up in it.

Okay, I can't resist — one final problem: *Poa annua* infestation on golf courses.

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Vondrasek Memorial Scholarship

The John Vondrasek Memorial Scholarship was awarded to four students in the Turfgrass management program at Joliet Junior College. The scholarship is presented annually to Turfgrass Management students who maintained a high grade point average and who have completed their freshman work experience at a golf course and plan to pursue a career in Golf Course Management.

This years recipients include:

Dave Foster who completed his work experience at Sunset Ridge Country Club with Dennis Wilson.

Brian Kimbrough who completed his work experience at Medinah Country Club with Danny Quast.

Steve Darlinger who completed his work experience at Flossmor Country Club with Ray Schmitz.

Brian Stellwagen who completed his work experience at Crystal Tree Golf & Country Club with Thomas Brodeur.

John Vondrasek was a graduate of the Turfgrass management program at JJC, who was tragically killed in a motorcycle accident in 1993. He was assistant superintendent at Seminole Country Club in Florida and had worked for Oscar Miles at Butler National. A scholarship was started in his memory by Florida Golf Course Superintendents, Seminole Country Club members and friends. Anyone interested in contributing to this fund may contact Dr. James Ethridge or Lisa Perkins at 815/729-9020, ext. 2320.



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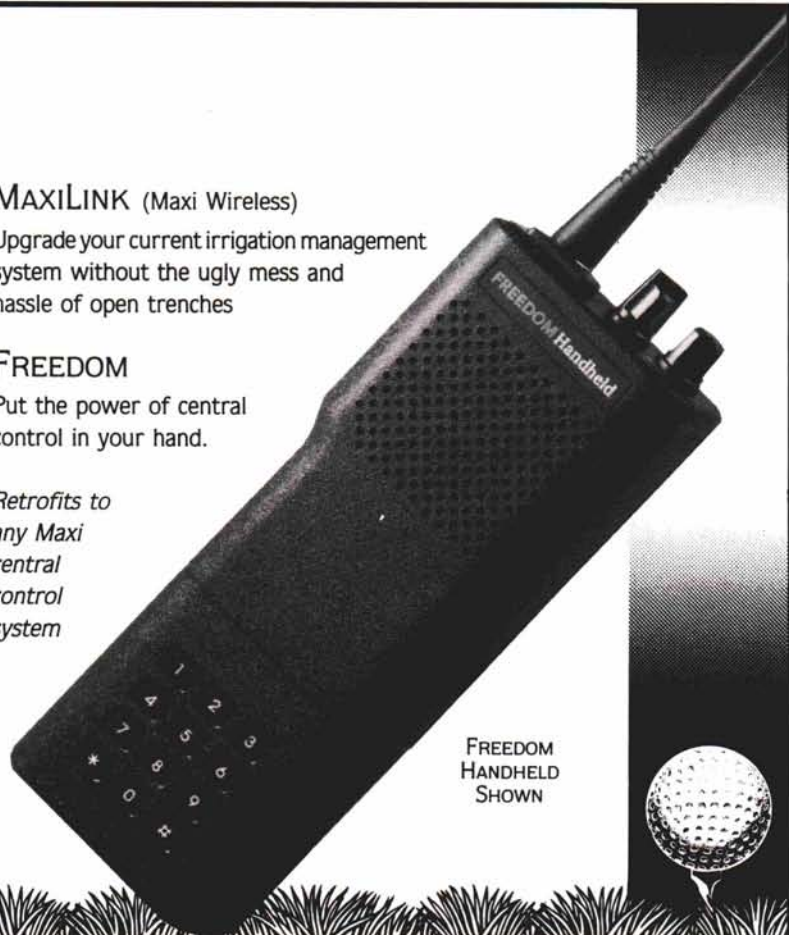
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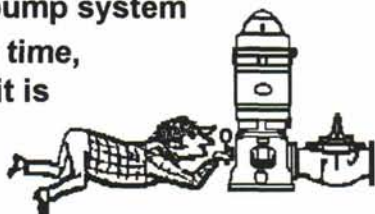


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I Quit Wearing My Boots Today

by Tony Rzadzki

There is something about all of us. There is, whether you choose to believe it or not, a spiritual aura that surrounds each of us. I truly believe this and can honestly state as fact that things have happened to me this year that will justify my statements. And today something that had been reoccurring for the last month happened again! IT RAINED!! I don't want you to get the impression that I am some kind of spiritualist, but an innate feeling toward nature has overcome me this year. I have been humbled once again.

I left Illinois to come to 'God's Country'. I came to build and maintain a top notch golf course in 'Lake Country', a beautiful part of Wisconsin that I and my family truly enjoy. I really looked forward to my new position, and I was anxious to see new land forms unfold. To my dismay, Mother Nature has thwarted my every effort. I think I spent the whole month of May slogging around in mud and drafting ideas for my maintenance facility about a hundred times.

June and July. How can you beat weather like this for growing in a golf course. What a gravy train couple of

To my dismay, Mother Nature has thwarted my every effort.

months for golf course construction. I never saw so much dust in my life. A tank truck loaded with water soaked down the haul roads 12 hours a day. Within minutes of his passing the dust was flying again.

Some time in that two month span our architect, Scott Miller, paid us his bimonthly visit. He usually spends two and a half days, making changes, staking trees, and flagging grass lines for seeding. Scott Miller is from Arizona. But when 106 degree temperature hits and the THI is 120, Mother Nature can bring the heartiest soul to his knees. I was crawling.

I was rolling right along and had four holes seeded and under my care by August 5th. Though I started getting edgy that week and a sneaky suspicion began to grow about me and inside my stomach. I remember talking to a couple of the construction workers about this date eight years ago when I was growing in Cantigny Golf back in Illinois. I should have kept my mouth shut. On August 9th, four and a half inches of rain devastated our golf course. Almost to the date, eight years ago Cantigny was deluged with fourteen inches of rain in one day! Call it a coincidence, call it dejavue. That native spirit was howling around that day, just as she was eight years ago.

One of the owners, the project manager, and I spent the afternoon dodging lightning bolts, flash floods, and assessing the damage as it ran out under our feet. But something else happened that day that has been happening less than weekly ever since. I started to take notice of this and thought that maybe I could try to fight this nemesis on her terms. Hmmmmmm.



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East vs. West In Golf Course Management by Paul Mayes

I have lived in Japan now for over one year. During this time I have found both similarities and differences in the Far East on golf course maintenance compared to the United States.

I am presently consulting for three golf courses owned by the Towa Company. One course is an 18-hole Robert Trent Jones, Jr. design built in 1992. The second course is an older 27-hole layout built by a Japanese designer that opened in 1962. These two golf courses are located in north central Japan about 180 kilometers north of Tokyo. The third golf course is 90 kilometers west of Hiroshima. It is a 36-hole facility designed by Robert Trent Jones, Jr. One 18-hole project was built in 1992, and the other 18-holes in 1993.

I am based at Towa's premier golf course, Nasu Highland Golf Club. I am at Nasu Highland on a daily basis. The second course, Towa Nasu Country Club, I visit two to four times per month. The 36-hole complex near Hiroshima, I visit two to three times a year.

Each course has similar grass types. They all use zoysia for roughs. Two courses have mainly zoysia tees and fairways. Nasu Highland has bluegrass tees and fairways. All these complexes have bentgrass greens. The older course has the traditional "two-green" complex for every hole. One green is bentgrass used during spring, fall and winter. The other green is zoysia used in the summer.

Japan is a mountainous country. It reminds me a lot of Hawaii except Japan doesn't have as moderate temperatures. The north half of Japan has all four seasons because of the elevations. Nasu Highlands' elevation is 620 meters at its lowest point and 800 meters at its highest. The truth of the matter, Japan has six seasons. We all are familiar with spring, summer, fall and winter. There are two more seasons here in Nippon. The rainy season comes in mid-June and will last until late July. During that period the average rainfall is 500mm, or 19 to 20 inches. The sixth season is typhoon season which occurs about mid-September to mid-October. Strong winds and heavy downpours of rain can occur in a very short period of time. Then there are always frequent lightning storms and earthquakes throughout the season to deal with. This makes turfgrass management a challenging experience.

My first impression of golf course management in Japan was as if I stepped back in time to the early 1950s in the United States. Many of the maintenance practices are being completed by manual labor. Also the vast majority of "keepers" and workers only experience is farming. There is no true turfgrass education for the Japanese to attend. All new innovative practices being used here come from western culture. Japan is going through the same growing pain that the United States did 40 years ago in turfgrass management. The advantage they have is the availability of products, education and technology from the western part of the world.

(continued page 27)



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(East vs. West continued)

There is an eagerness to learn more innovative methods of turfgrass management, but many Japanese philosophers hinder their progress. Japanese are very loyal to their people and country, something the United States could learn from. The Japanese do not wish to harm their people's economic situation in order to produce a most cost-effective product. Instead, they want to enhance the usefulness of their people to produce a perfect product. We can do this by perfecting each person's job task so they are able to complete each task in a more efficient matter and cover more area in a certain time frame.

Daily grooming here in Japan is actually a much easier task than in the west. The Japanese plan their day at the golf course to spend as much time at the club as possible. Therefore, play will begin around 8:00 a.m. and continue teeing off until around 12:00 noon. After that time, very few members start play because they would be unable to complete their round. They play their first nine holes in about 2½-3 hours. Then most players will stop for one hour for lunch and complete their 18 holes afterwards. This allows our staff to mow greens, tees, rake bunkers and change cups in the morning. Then in the afternoon we work behind play — mowing fairways, roughs and do project work. This way there is no disruption to the members during play.

Staff size varies from course to course as in the United States. One resource not available in Japan is college and high school students. Japanese students start university studies two weeks after high school graduation. Also summer vacation for students is only six weeks long (from mid-July to the end of August). Therefore, in seasonal play areas, part-time staff personnel are required during growing season. These people usually consist of older women who are not able to operate sophisticated machinery. This makes it necessary to use full-time staff for mechanical operations for morning and afternoon job tasks, leaving manual labor projects to part-time staff.

The Japanese want to maintain similar quality conditions as in the United States. To do so, they try to create the same conditions as in the United States. Japan soils are very heavy clay soils and volcanic rock. This makes it difficult to grow quality turfgrass. To achieve better soil profiles, they remove soil and rock in areas where tees, fairways and greens are to be located. They then replace this area with straight sand and soil amendments. They usually do a very good job with elaborate subsurface drainage. Problems arise when very little or no subsurface drainage is attained on these high sand profiles built on top of heavy clay and rock. This combined with the large amount of rain received each season will challenge even the best American superintendents to produce quality turfgrass. But through persistence and good water management (with a little help from drain tiling), quality turfgrass can successfully be attained.

Fertilizers are another inadequate resource for the Japanese greenskeepers. Most fertilizers produced here are of agriculture grade and ratios (such as 1:1:1). The nitrogen source is of high salt content and potassium is from chloride as mioviated materials. Fortunately, some American products are available at a slightly higher price.

(continued page 28)

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(East vs. West continued)

The problem is convincing the Japanese greenskeepers to stop thinking they are growing agriculture products and start thinking of fertilizing turfgrass. Their experience is very inadequate to produce quality turfgrass health.

Japan, as a country, has available to them some very good pest-control materials. Many chemicals used are the same as in the United States. There is a serious problem in their dilution rates. The Japanese greenskeepers are requested to spray materials at ten times the rate of water applied to the surface of the turfgrass than in the United States. This reduces the effectiveness of the pesticides used in most cases. I am having to retrain their thought process on spray application rates to achieve the best results for the pesticides.

Dealing with suppliers is very interesting in Japan. The traditional method of picking our suppliers is by whom you like to deal with. Most suppliers carry all products necessary for golf course maintenance. The same supplier will carry Toro, Jacobsen, Cushman and other brand equipment. They also may carry various golf course supplies from different companies. The problem with this method is there is no competitive bidding with other suppliers. Also, service needs are not considered as part of a good supplier. I am encouraged to see this way of thinking is changing because of economic restraints. The "money is no object" philosophy is definitely diminished in Japan.

Golf courses in Japan are coming of age. With the increased popularity of American management practices, Japanese courses can move quickly to a higher level of excellence. I hope I can help just a little in the movement in that direction. I look forward to a new year of growth with the Japanese greenskeepers. For now, West is on top. But with Japanese determination, East could soon equal or overcome the West's dominance.

Credit: Hole Notes 7/95

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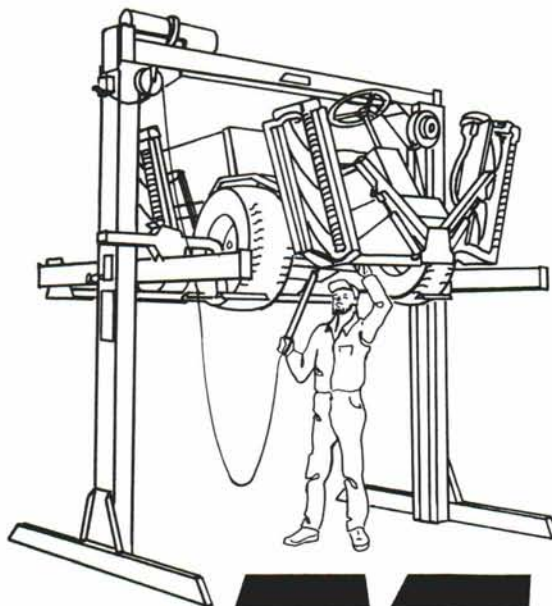
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Pre-tax contributions to your retirement savings plan are not subject to federal income tax or state and local income taxes (except in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and certain municipalities).

Following is a simplified example of the difference between pre-tax and post-tax contributions that assumes a gross annual income of \$30,000, in a 28% tax bracket. First, let's look at the effect of a \$3,000 **post-tax** retirement plan contribution:

Gross income	\$30,000
28% income tax	-8,400
Subtotal	\$21,600
Post-tax contribution	-3,000
Net income	\$18,600

Now look what happens to the same \$3,000 contribution made on a **pre-tax** basis:

Gross income	\$30,000
Pre-tax contribution	-3,000
Subtotal	\$27,000
28% income tax	-7,560
Net income	\$19,440

In the example, there's a difference of \$840, or 5%, in net income, i.e., "take-home pay".

To provide a clearer picture of the distinctions between pre- and post-tax contributions, there are a few other considerations of which you should be aware:

- "Pre-tax" doesn't mean "tax-free". Contributions to your retirement savings plan **are** pre-tax, but they're also **tax-deferred**. This money won't be subject to current taxes, but will be taxed when you withdraw it from your plan.
- Tax laws limit the amount you may contribute to your tax-favored retirement savings plan.

In the example, there's a difference of \$840, or 5% in net income, i.e., "take-home pay".

How much you benefit from these pre-tax contributions depends on your income, tax rate, number of dependents, company benefits and other factors. In addition, other types of pre-tax contributions may be treated differently than pre-tax contributions to your retirement savings plan.

To take full advantage of the power of pre-tax contributions, contact your representative to discuss your retirement goals and objectives and the contributions that most effectively respond to your retirement needs.

Credit: "Access", Spring '95



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