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PHOTOGRAPHY

Raymond Schmitz & John Meyer

TURFGRASS ADVISOR

Dr. Randy T. Kane

University of Illinois & CDGA
630-954-2753

EDITOR: **Fred D. Opperman**

810 Greenwood Avenue
Carpentersville, IL 60110
Phone & Fax 847-428-5009 or email: magcsoc@aol.com

On Course is published monthly. All articles, double-spaced, are required by the first of the month to make the next issue. Advertising is sold by the column inch, quarter page, half page and full page.

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FEATURES

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Oil painting of the 4th green at Geneva Golf Club. The painting was done by Peter Leuzinger, superintendent at Ivanhoe Club, and given to Ed Braunsky, superintendent at Geneva Golf Club. The painting now hangs in the Geneva Golf Club clubhouse.

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The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents is a professional organization founded in 1927 whose goals include preservation and dissemination of scientific and practical knowledge pertaining to golf turf maintenance.

We endeavor to increase efficiency and economic performance while improving and enhancing the individual and collective prestige of the members.

The MAGCS (Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents) member is also an environmental steward. We strive to uphold and enhance our surroundings by promoting flora and fauna in every facet in a manner that is beneficial to the general public now and in the future.



Commitment to excellence has been a popular term used recently in everything from car commercials to mottos for football teams (not “Da Bears” by the way). As the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents prepares for a new year, it looks like this commitment will continue for a long time.

Everyone has heard the old term “I will be proud to be able to serve.” The fact is, I will be proud to be able to serve the MAGCS as president. I am very pleased to be able to work with an excellent group of committed people. One needs to step inside the shoes of a Midwest board member to realize the amount of work that goes into running this association. Several meetings are held throughout the year. Committees have a lot of work to do during the fast-paced months of the year. Many board members take a lot of their time out to organize the golf meetings, arrange the meals and set up numerous educational sessions. Sounds like commitment to excellence to me!

Two other important people who have been very committed to the MAGCS are Fred Opperman and George Minnis.

Fred, our *On Course* editor, has committed himself to present one of the finest chapter magazines in the country. What a pleasure to pick up a copy of *On Course* and show it to a club member or a golf pro. It’s the 90s folks, and the new magazine has become a big hit. One side note: I use *On Course* as a quick directory to put me in touch with the many fine commercial members we have!

George Minnis, our executive secretary, continues to be committed to providing the MAGCS members with all of the help they might need. I have joked in the past that George’s office looks like something out of NASA, but George needs this “command center” to provide a lot of services to the members. He is able to receive faxes, send out requests and organize numerous amounts of important information. You have heard it before; you will hear it again. Fred and George do a tremendous job! Thanks, guys. Another example of commitment to excellence!

The commitment continues throughout the membership of the MAGCS. We are all extremely proud to have a man named Bruce Williams leading the GCSAA as its current president. Thanks for your commitment, Bruce! Also, several other current members have served as president of the GCSAA.

How about the Audubon program. Peter Leuzinger has done a terrific job along with many others in promoting this terrific program. Environmental awards just keep coming to guys like Tim Kelly. In this day and age of everyone trying help to protect Mother Earth, several current superintendents have a good handle on doing what’s right and letting the public know about it.

Certified superintendents seem to be popping up all over within the MAGCS. Our very own Bob Maibusch is also a Master Greenskeeper. Way to go, Bob! These are just a few examples of the committed people within the MAGCS. Stop and think for a minute about all of the other areas that our members excel in. We are truly a committed group. Please continue to strive for the commitment to excellence we all know we possess. The MAGCS is one of the nation’s best!

On a recent vacation to Door County, I was awestruck by not only the beauty of the changing colors but also the show of stars at night. I could not believe the intense glow of the sky. As I looked to the heavens, I forgot all about turf disease, localized dry spot and employee troubles. The holiday season provides us with a chance to reflect on last year. It also should provide us with the chance to spend time with our families. On behalf of the entire MAGCS “family,” have a fantastic holiday season. Peace on Earth and Good Will to All.

Ed Braunsky, CGCS
President, MAGCS

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Kevin Czerkies
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Thanks to the dues increase that was passed at the 1995 Annual Meeting, the MAGCS had another solid year financially. Although the fiscal year will not be over until December 31, it is evident that there will be a surplus once all the bills are paid. Not a large one by any means, \$5,000 or less. These surplus funds will be put into our Money Market Account. The rule of thumb is that an association should have one-half of one year's operating budget in the bank. Combining our Money Market Account with our Certificate of Deposit, we have approximately \$68,500. At this time, we would need \$108,000 to have one-half year's expenditures available.

One thing that the MAGCS Board of Directors did in 1996 to generate additional interest income was to take \$50,000 from the Money Market Account which is drawing 2.44%, and put it into a Certificate of Deposit that is drawing 5.3%. This gave the association an additional \$655 in just eight months.

A large part of the dues increase that was passed last year was to lend support to *On Course*. The board felt that we should not rely on our magazine as a money-maker for the association, rather just break-even. And, quite frankly, in this first year of the new magazine, we didn't exactly know how much revenue would be generated in advertising. As it turned out, *On Course* operated at a minimal \$5,000 shortfall. Ad rates will be increased 15 percent in 1997. This will create enough revenue for *On Course* that the magazine will break-even next year, and another rate increase will not be necessary for quite awhile. Thanks to the efforts of Fred Opperman, Jim McNair and the Editorial Committee, our maga-

zine is one of the best in the country. A HUGE THANKS goes out to all the *On Course* advertisers. Without you, our magazine wouldn't be what it is today.

This year we received \$9,200 in additional dues created by the gold and silver memberships. To date, the MAGCS board has approved a total of \$11,100 in contributions in 1996. Contributions have been given to GCSAA Foundation, Musser International Foundation, CDGA Foundation, Illinois Turfgrass Foundation and Evans Scholar Foundation. Additional contributions will also be made before this year is over.

My term as secretary/treasurer is now over; and as I turn the books over to Bob Maibusch, I know that the MAGCS will remain in strong financial condition and continue to grow under the leadership of Ed Braunsky. Happy Holidays! ■

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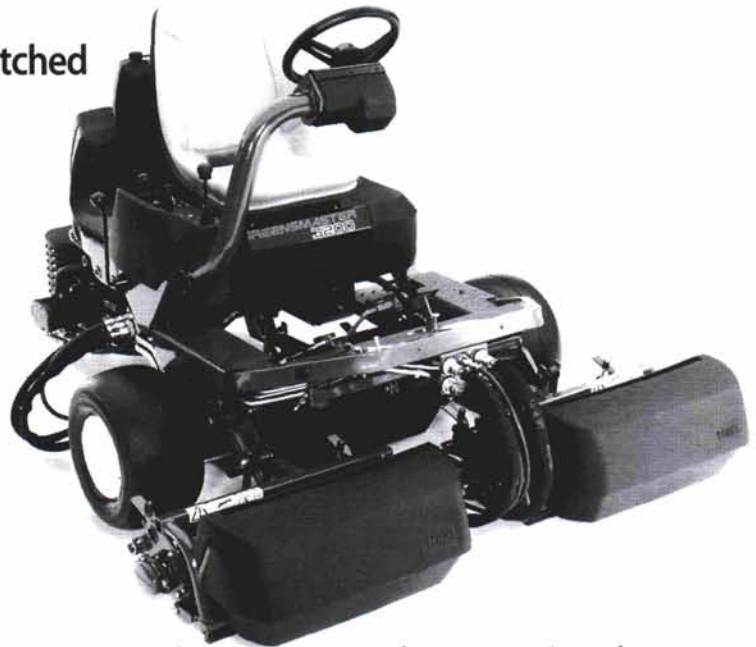
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THE WILKINSON-KANE REPORT: WHAT'S ROTTING GREATER CHICAGO!

*H.T. Wilkinson and R.T. Kane,
Turfgrass Pathologists, University
of Illinois and Chicago District
Golf Association*

November 1, 1996

You will recall that last summer the first "Wilkinson-Kane Report, What's Rotting the Turf?" appeared in the July issue (vol. 50, no. 2) of *On Course*. Since that issue, a survey was distributed to golf course superintendents in the greater Chicago area and members of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents. With the help of Editor Fred Opperman, Randy and I have compiled some useful information on what diseases you deal with and how much money you are spending to control them. This report will describe these data and also project how Randy and I expect to make this information work for you!

HOW MANY OF THE 300 SUPERINTENDENTS WHO RECEIVED THE SURVEY RESPONDED?

Eighty-seven superintendents returned the survey card that was attached to a summer issue of *On Course*. That is roughly 30 percent. I am not sure why this is so low. Superintendents are busy people. The other explanation is that only 30 percent of the superintendents have problems with diseases, while the other 70 percent do not. We do not believe this explanation for a second. We know that every superintendent in Illinois uses fungicides to control turfgrass diseases. We hope that those reading this article will

understand why responding to a survey is important!

ARE ALL SUPERINTENDENTS LIKELY TO DEAL WITH THE MAJOR DISEASES THAT DEVELOP IN ILLINOIS?

The answer is yes! If you look at Figure 1, it indicates that about 75 of the respondents said that they face summer patch, dollar spot, snow mold, brown patch, Pythium blight, leaf blight, and rust. In addition, there were 39 superintendents that said they faced additional diseases as well. These data are important for the following reasons:

1. They tell us that superintendents should be scouting for all of these diseases during a given year.

2. They also support the idea that the climate of Illinois and the many micro-climates found on a single golf course support a wide range of diseases.

3. They indicate that it is important for superintendents to know how to predict, recognize and manage all of these diseases.

WHICH WERE THE MOST IMPORTANT DISEASES, AS RANKED BY THE SUPERINTENDENTS?

Looking at Figure 2, the most serious disease that superintendents face is dollar spot, the second is Pythium blight, and summer patch and brown patch are tied for third. Another interesting point is that no superinten-

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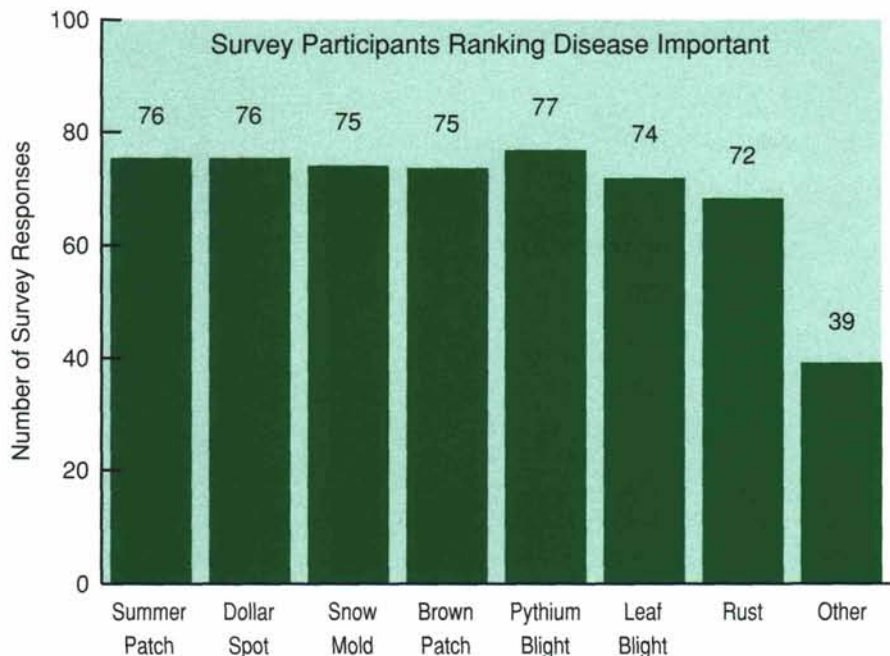


Figure 1

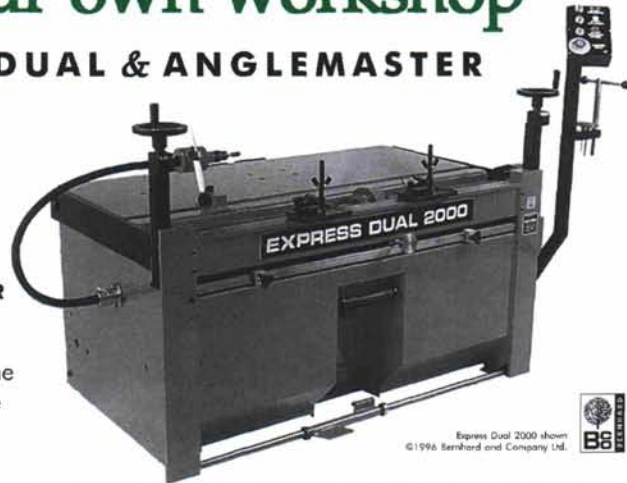
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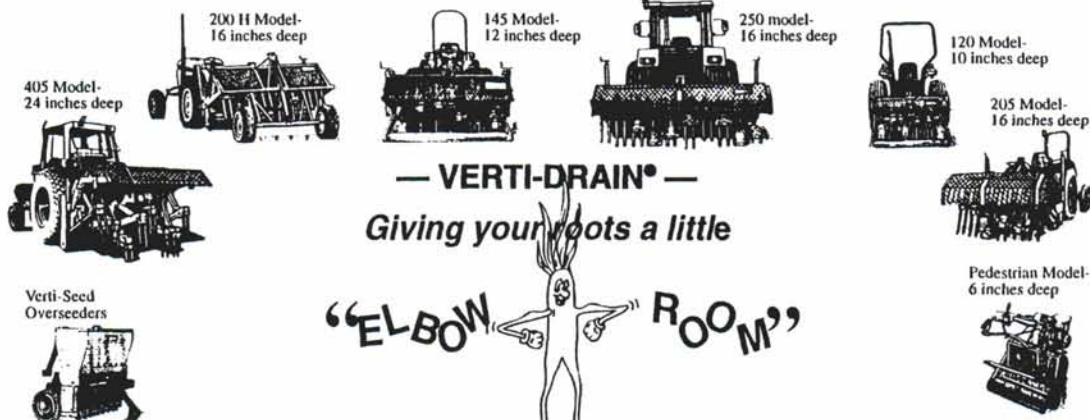
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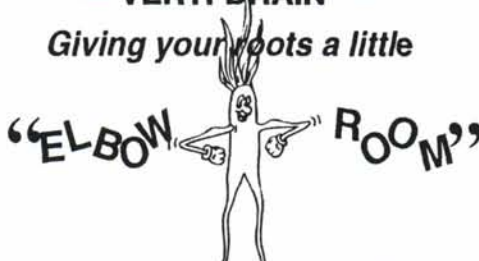


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Wilkinson-Kane Report...

(continued from page 8)

dent ranked rust disease as the most important, and only three ranked snow mold and leaf blight as most important. These rankings do not agree with the severity of the diseases. For example, dollar spot rarely ever kills the turf but instead kills the leaves and makes the turf ugly. While this is important to the game, it is not a serious threat to the turf. Pythium blight (ranked as No. 1 by 23 superintendents) is a killing disease. Summer patch is also a killing disease, but brown patch is generally not. For the superintendent, an important or serious disease is one that develops rapidly, causes the turf to look poor, and is difficult or expensive to control. To us turf pathologists, dollar spot and brown patch are the simplest to control, while summer patch, Pythium blight and snow molds are the most challenging.

WHAT IS THE OVERALL RANKING OF THE DISEASES IN TERMS OF SERIOUSNESS?

In Figure 1, only those diseases ranked as No. 1 or most serious were presented. In Figure 2, a more complicated statistic is presented which gives weighted rankings to the diseases. By doing this, it more completely represents the importance of the diseases to superintendents. In general, the weighted rankings follow the same order as seen in Figure 1, except for brown patch which appears more important in Figure 3. Using this system, the ranking of diseases from most important to the least would follow this order:

1. Dollar spot
2. Pythium blight
3. Brown patch
4. Summer patch
5. Snow mold
6. Leaf blights
7. Others
8. Rust

For the superintendent, an important or serious disease is one that develops rapidly, causes the turf to look poor, and is difficult or expensive to control.

WHAT DO THESE DATA MEAN?

We think these data are useful in directing research and education. For example, more research is done on fungicides to control dollar spot than any other disease, and our survey supports this effort. However, research for biological control, cultural management, and breeding for resis-

tance could be increased. Pythium blight is another example of fungicide research focused on an important disease, but the development of alternative methods of control needs to be increased. Brown patch is receiving more attention in both fungicide and breeding research, and this is justifiable based on our survey. Summer patch is a difficult disease to control, and take-all patch and necrotic ring spot can be added to this list. Research on these similar types of diseases is progressing, and accomplishments are being made. Snow molds are not very important based on this survey, but they remain difficult to control. Those superintendents who have snow mold problems would certainly like to have better control options, but the lack of importance of this disease will not bring much research to Illinois.

The best hope for advances in controlling the minor diseases (snow mold, leaf blights, and rusts) are research from other areas of the country where these diseases are more important.

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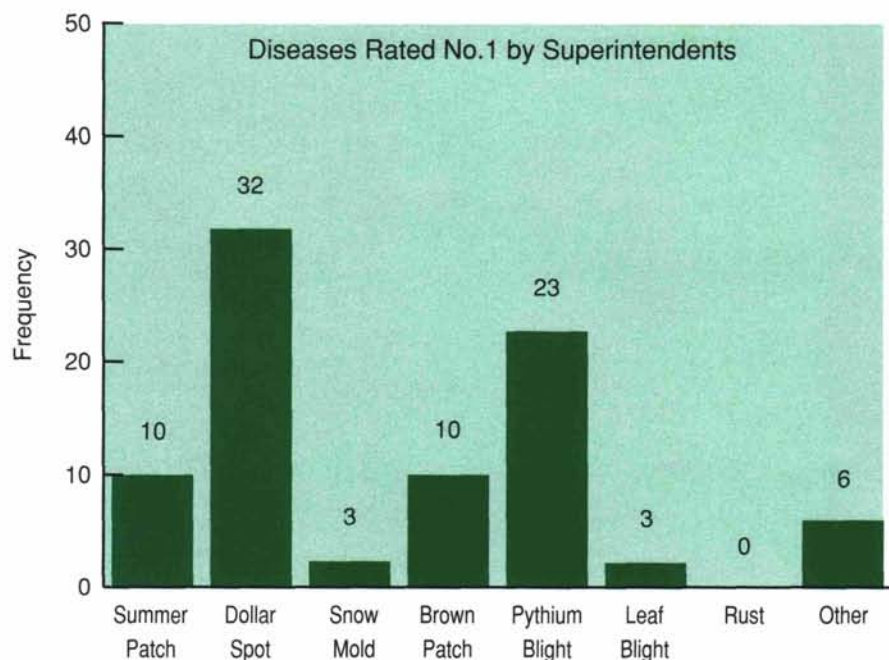


Figure 2