PREVENT

SUMMER PROBLEMS CAUSED BY WATER REPELLENCY!

UNTREATED

Summer stress conditions can prompt a rapid reduction in turf quality in tees, greens and fairways. By mid-summer, effects of extensive wilt, Localized Dry Spot (LDS) and turf decline are evident on this untreated tee (ladies tee box). Soil cores from symptomatic areas (inset) were powder dry, even after irrigation.





TREATED

Monthly applications of Primer 6O4 (started in late spring) on the men's tee box (of the same hole), showed superior turf quality. Even under conditions of severe summer stress, no afternoon wilt or LDS was observed. Soil cores from treated tee (inset) were uniformly moist, indicating improved penetration, infiltration and distribution of applied water (rainfall or irrigation).



NO WATERING IN REQUIRED • WILL NOT BURN



Director's Column (continued from page 10)

superintendents who have dipped into the biological trends speak at the annual meeting.

Move the speaker up in front of golf.

Rest assured, we will try that this year. Please show up early and support the effort when we do.

More education. Never be complacent with education. More events like Medinah during off-season.

The March meeting has been expanded to at least two hours of education in the past few years. The Spanish class has now been offered three times in the past year. Despite small numbers, there was a CPR training class offered twice in the past couple of years.

No education at the summer meetings.

At this point, we really don't feel this is an option. With no formal education, many members can not justify the expense to their club.

In closing, the Education Committee is listening to the membership and improving when possible. However, I would encourage you to be realistic with what you expect. Certainly, someone who has been in the business several years is not going to pick up 20 new ideas in an hour of education. I've never attended a GCSAA seminar and walked out with 8 hours of fresh information. I was told it's the "little things" that can separate your course from one down the street. Sometimes, one or two new ideas that can be shaped into your operation make a whole day of education worth the effort. It all starts with showing up and participating. So please, when the education that you have asked for is provided, do your part by making yourself available.

Recovering from "The Summer of '95" (continued from page 22)

can we preach: SPEED KILLS! If golfers learned anything from last season, it's that necessary adjustments made to our maintenance program may affect play and, more importantly, keep the grass growing.

Communication and education are probably the most useful tools in a superintendent's arsenal. At Hinsdale G.C., Bob Maibush used every opportunity to inform his members of the brutal effect of the summer heat not only at his club but throughout the region. Along with Dr. Randy Kane of the CDGA, Bob put out several press releases describing the weather's effect on our courses.

Dan Dinelli at North Shore C.C. turned last year's struggles positive. The wet spring demonstrated a need for drainage improvements, and the summer heat brought forth the need for precise irrigation and sound agronomics. Jacobson Golf Design was retained to formulate a 5-year plan designed, as Dan puts it, "to focus on the infrastructure. . . . This plan has very little to do with design of the layout as it deals with drainage, irrigation, green construction, and the use of newer bents." Dan normally takes a proactive approach in most of his management practices as witnessed in his extensive computerized weather tracking, micro-organism research, and a 10,000+ sq. ft. bentgrass evaluation nursery.

The membership at Chicago G.C. wants a dry, firm playing surface—and they got it in 1995. Superintendent Bill Whitley didn't put much water on the fairways and even less on the greens (in his estimation, 60 percent less). While there were localized dry spots on the greens, Bill assured the membership that although it didn't look as lush, it

putted fine. The die-hard traditionalist membership resisted overseeding the fairways until Bill was able to devise a seed mix that was more drought tolerant than creeping bentgrass so that they can continue to enjoy a dry, firm surface. The custom mix of colonial bent, chewings, and hard fescue will also require less plant protectants and fertilizers.

If the golfing world wasn't already aware, last season illustrated that the most important person at their golf course is the superintendent. Our programs have the most influence on the club's bottom line. Those courses that suffered damage last season also reported revenue losses. The food may have been tasty or the swimming pool refreshing, but if the course isn't "up to par," golfers simply won't show up.

The challenge is there for us to show the golfing community that we can rebound. Those courses suffering the most damage have already worked feverishly last fall to restore playing conditions. Golf course superintendents have a history of attacking problems head on. So, go ahead, golfers, have a good memory, because with Mother Nature willing, we are up for the challenge!





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1995 Honeylocust Pest Complex (continued from page 14)

have disappeared. There is only one generation each year. Honeylocust will continue to put on new foliage throughout the season as long as conditions are favorable for growth. By the middle or end of July, most trees have recovered and look fairly normal.

Management of this insect complex is straight forward. Both insects have been around for a long time. Damage has been of little concern except in localized situations. Why the population exploded last year is unclear but probably relates back to ideal weather conditions during mating, egg laying, overwintering, and developmental periods.

The best strategy is to monitor honeylocust trees during and following bud break. Pay special attention to trees that were heavily infested last spring. Look for the rapidly moving nymphs of both insects. Leafhopper nymphs will have a triangular, humpbacked shape, whereas the plant bugs will be flat and oval. Nymphs of both species are light green and very small.

If nymphs are abundant, the trees can be treated with any labeled insecticide. Soaps and oils would work against the youngest nymphs but would likely need to be repeated.

If there are only a few nymphs present, consider not treating or delaying treatment applications for a few days. Honeylocusts are tough plants and can recover rather easily from this type of injury. Trees that look like they will surely die in the spring usually releaf and look little worse for the wear after a few weeks. Consider mulching, light fertilization and good water management as an alternative to spraying.



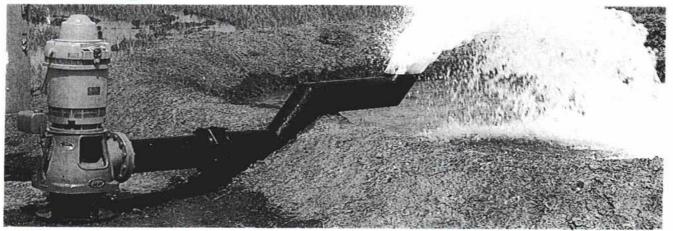
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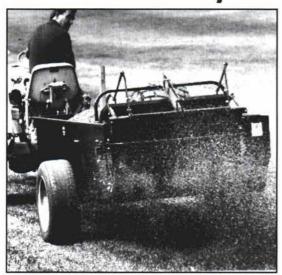
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