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#### KERRY ANDERSON

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Rhône-Poulenc Ag Company, 2 T.W. Alexander Drive, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709. For further product information, please call 1-800-334-9745. As with any crop protection chemical, always read and follow instructions on the label. CHIPCO is a registered trademark of Rhône-Poulenc. Daconil is a registered trademark of ISK Biosciences Corporation. ©1995 Rhône-Poulenc Ag Company.

### Photos of the University of Illinois Turf Field Day

#### Fred Opperman

eter Leuzinger and Randy Wahler, two alumni from the university, put together a bus trip to the Turf Field Day at the University of Illinois in Urbana on August 21. There were 33 on the bus from all facets of the green industry: superintendents; sales, tree nursery, landscaping people; and others interested in the field day and the university. Next year, I think we may need two buses for everyone seemed to be pleased with the day and certainly liked "leave the driving to others."

The staff at U of I did an outstanding job in presenting their studies and tests. Of course, all of the doctors get the credit, but we all know the grunts (grad and undergrad students) did the real work.



We had to kick Oscar Miles and Peter Leuzinger off the bus due to the "No Smoking" rule.



"The group who decided to take the bus—all 33 of them. Arthur Clesen, Inc. provided the refreshments on the bus.



Dr. Tom Fermanian explaining the difference with pre-emergence herbicide treatments.



Dr. Bruce Branham showing the wear trials of spike vs. spikeless golf shoes.



A student was paid to walk up and down each section for 25 trips with a different style of spike or spikeless shoes every day. The soft spike golf shoe did the least damage. Photo by John Meyer.



Dr. Randy Kane explaining the various bents being tested.



Dr. Tom Voigt discussing trial blocks of Kentucky bluegrass. There are some really good looking ones coming in the future.



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# **Golf Turf Snow Molds**

Dr. Ward C. Stienstra Extension Plant Pathologist University of Minnesota St. Paul, Minnesota

now mold trials over the last twenty-four years in Minnesota have shown several interesting trends. First one cannot predict the level of damage from snow mold in the fall when the application must be made. The damage can occur either in the fall/early winter or more often in the spring period. Sometimes one can determine that about half of the damage was done early in the season and the remaining damage was done as the snow melted at the end of the season. Open, cold, dry falls usually have little early season damage; and in these years,

Fungicide programs of the past with products like mercury, chloroneb and PCNB have given season-long control well into

the spring.

the superintendent may be tempted to reduce the application rate of winter products, expecting less snow mold. A dry, frozen, usually well-hardened turf does not suffer much snow mold damage in the fall, but spring disease can still result in serious turf loss. If the winter delivers less snow and it melts quickly in the spring, one can nearly escape snow mold damage; but no long-term weather predictions have been able to describe this condition in the fall when the decision to treat must be made.

Even in those years when one makes predictions in December knowing what the weather has been like for the

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### **Frost Delays**



#### How can a footprint be a killer? When it's a footprint made on a putting surface that's covered with frost.

It's hard to belive that simply walking across a golf green covered with frost can cause so much damage, but the proof will be there in a few days as the turfgrass dies and leaves a trail of brown footprints. That's why most courses will delay starting times until the frost has melted. And it's also why golfers who appreciate a quality putting surface will be patient during frost delays.

### Why does frost cause problems?

Greens are fragile. The putting surface, or green, is an extremely fragile environment that must be managed carefully and professionally. Remember that every green is a collection of millions of individual grass plants, each of which is a delicate living thing. Obviously, Mother Nature never meant for these plants to be maintained at 3/16 or even 1/8 of an inch for prolonged periods. This "stress" makes greens constantly vulnerable to attacks from insects, disease, heat, drought, cold — and frost.

Frost is essentially frozen dew. It can form when the temperature (or wind chill) is near or below the freezing point. The ice crystals that form on the outside of the plant can also harden or even freeze the cell structure of the plant. When frosted, the normally resilient plant cells become brittle and are easily crushed. When the cell membranes are damaged, the plant loses its ability to function normally. It's not much different than cracking an egg. Once the shell is broken, you can't put it back together.

#### The proof is in the prints

Although you won't see any immediate damage if you walk on frosted turf, the proof will emerge within 48 to 72 hours as the leaves die and turn brown. And, since just one foursome can leave several hundred footprints on each green, the damage can be very extensive.

#### Thanks for understanding

The damage isn't just unsightly—putting quality will also be reduced until repairs are made. Those repairs are expensive and, in some cases, the green may have to be kept out of play for days or weeks until the new turfgrass is established. A short delay while the frost melts can preserve the quality of the greens, prevent needless repairs and may even save you a few strokes the next time you play.

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#### DATES TO REMEMBER

October 1 — ITF Golf Day at Schaumburg G.C. and Poplar Creek G.C.
October 8 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Bryn Mawr C.C.
November 7 — MAGCS Clinic and Annual Meeting at Butterfield C.C.
November 12-14 — Penn State Turf Conference at State College, PA.
November 19-21 — Three- day Turfgrass and Ornamental Seminar at Purdue.
December 3-5 — NCTE at Pheasant Run Resort & Golf.
February 6-12 - GCSAA Conference in Las Vegas, NV.
February 25 - GCSAA Seminar "Prevention Maintenance of Equipment" at Seven Bridges G.C.
April -MAGCS monthly meeting at Mt. Prospect G.C.
June 2 - MAGCS monthly meeting at Rolling Green C.C.
July 7 - MAGCS monthly meeting at Orchard Valley G.C.
September 22 - MAGCS monthly meeting at Ruffled Feathers G.C.

I received a nice note from one of the superintendents' best friends, i.e., Jim Latham. Jim reports all is well in the "Land Along the Brazos." He states they do get rain in the area, and the last time the lightning took out most of their electrical appliances. Of course, they were away from the house for a few days when it happened. Jim mentioned that he was up at MSU for the dedication of the new TGIF facility in the library. TGIF is now on the World Wide Web at http://www.lib.msu.edu/tgif. It has been set up so there is a separation between the heavy science papers and popular articles. Jim changed his address to: P.O. Box 2130, Whitney, TX 76692.

There will not be a "Ray Gerber Editorial Award" for this year since we did not have the required six articles written by a superintendent. Articles written by the Board of Directors or other assigned articles do not qualify. The superintendents qualifying which will be carried over to 1997 are:

- Tony Rzadzki, for October 1995, "I Quit Wearing my Boots Today"
- Raymond Schmitz, for February 1996, "A Summer to Remember"
- Gary Hearn, for March 1996, "Boo! Nite Lite"
- Bruce Williams, for July 1996, "Effective Time Management"

Congratulations to Brad Anderson on becoming certified recently. Brad is at the Midlane C.C.

It is sad to say good-bye to Roger Stewart who is now working at the TPC at Jasna Polana (Polish for Beautiful Meadow), Princeton, New Jersey. This is an 18-hole, Gary Player-designed course that is presently being built on the Johnson (Johnson & Johnson) Estate. This is the first TPC club in the greater New York/Philadelphia area. Roger started September 16, and the family will move in January. Good Luck, Rog.



The Superintendents Golf League presented Roger with a "going-away cake" at their golf outing.

#### NECROLOGY

It is with a deep sense of loss that we announce the death of Nicholas P. Hargarten, the father of Phil Hargarten, who passed away on August 11, 1996.

Chad Martin, a recent graduate from Illinois State University with a BS in Agriculture Business/Horticulture is looking for an assistant's position. Please call 630-858-3164.

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