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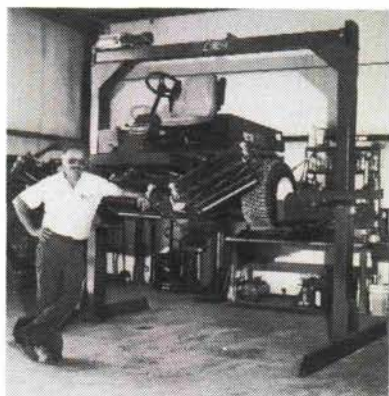
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could be killed, reducing the potential for photosynthesis at this time of year.

There are a number of opinions as to how and when to use late fall nitrogen applications. In part, this occurs because of differences in climactic zones and variations from one season to the next. Perhaps the more important reason for variation in late fall fertilization is the objective for this practice.

In my opinion, the most important objective of late fall nitrogen fertilization is to **supply nitrogen to the turf after growth has ceased but when photosynthesis can still occur.** This will *normally* take place anywhere from the last week of October in northern Michigan to the second week of November in southern Michigan near the lakes. It will vary with the particular year by a week or more. Some additional short growth spurts may require mowing after that time, but regular mowing is no longer necessary. At this time, the root system is still active, since the soil is warmer than the air. Nitrate nitrogen can still be taken up and utilized by the plant. The fall of 1995 proved an exception with the early cold weather and loss of the typical weather during which carbohydrates could accumulate. This contributed to the poor start for turf in 1996.

If proper nitrogen fertilization has been practiced during the fall period (September), the turf should still be green and physiologically active in the late fall. This permits the plant to continue photosynthesis whenever modest temperatures and some sunlight conditions occur. Carbohydrates manufactured during this time are not "burned off" with growth and clippings but are stored. This

builds up the plant for next year and permits root growth initiation in the spring, even before top growth begins.

If N is applied during late fall, this reduces the need for N in early spring. Nitrogen applied in early spring enhances top growth and mowing requirements at a time of year when growth is likely to be very rapid anyway.

***Carbohydrates lost
with the clippings
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It makes sense to keep
those carbohydrates
in the plant as
long as possible.***

Carbohydrates lost with the clippings in the spring are obviously no longer available to the plant. It makes sense to keep those carbohydrates in the plant as long as possible. With the hot weather of summer, there is a natural reduction in carbohydrates. Keeping the carbohydrate level in the plant high enhances stress tolerance and keeps some reserves in the plant for recovery of turf density, if needed.

Nitrogen Carrier

The choice of carrier is very important with late fall nitrogen fertilization. To accomplish the objective of getting a significant portion of the applied nitrogen into the plant right after application necessitates that the major portion of the nitrogen be from fast-acting, soluble sources. Some

of the nitrogen can be slow release, as much as 25% or so. This slow-release carrier will provide a small amount of N next spring, but will not result in any major response or flush of growth. Any of the slow-release carriers should be acceptable for this portion of the fertilizer.

If straight slow-release N sources are applied during this late fall period, there is not enough N available to the plant to provide the response desired of enhancement of photosynthesis and carbohydrate storage. This was very apparent in fairway studies we conducted on golf courses in Michigan several years ago. Some golf course superintendents like to use Milorganite right after Thanksgiving and have been pleased with the responses observed the next spring. This approach has been used with success for years but does not accomplish the objective of carbohydrate storage during the late fall.

Rate of N Application

Rate of application of nitrogen to use in the late fall will again vary with turf conditions and philosophy of the turf manager. For greens, 1/2 lb. N per 1000 sq. ft. may be sufficient. If tees are still thin from traffic, especially on par 3 tees, 3/4 to 1 lb. may be needed. Fairways could receive 1/2 to 3/4 lb. Lawns and general grounds can receive 3/4 to 1 lb. N. Some agronomists may encourage even higher rates as a general practice, but the increased potential for leaching of nitrates would suggest caution against using such higher rates of N. An exception might be football and soccer fields which have been thinned by fall play and need the extra boost from N. Rates as high as 1.5 lbs. N/1000 sq. ft. may be needed.

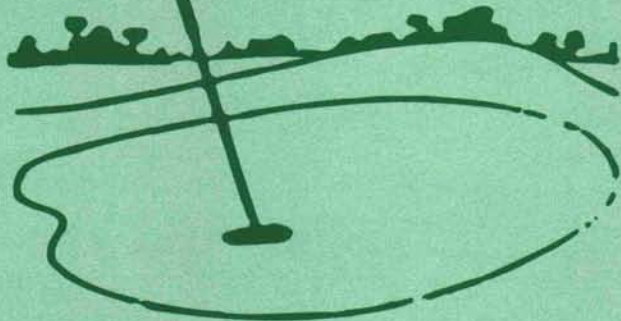
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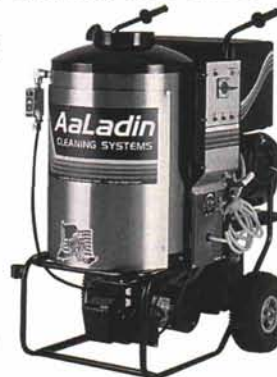
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The View From M.S.U.

(continued from page 22)

If late fall N has been applied, the need for early spring N will be reduced. Many turf managers do not fertilize again until just before Memorial Day since the residual effect from fall and late fall applications have provided good color and density without the spring growth flush caused by early spring applications.

Late Fall N for All Turfs?

Some turfs may perform better without the late fall nitrogen. If the turf site is normally very wet in the early spring, which restricts mowing until significant drying occurs, late fall N should probably not be applied as there will be some early spring growth enhancement compared to turfs receiving no late fall N. This should be evaluated on a site-by-site basis.

Late fall nitrogen applications can result in increased snow mold disease. If turfs are hard hit by snow mold nearly every year and no snow mold preventative program is fol-

The snow mold damage may be more superficial with the late fall nitrogen and/or the recovery is quicker.

lowed, it may be best to avoid late fall nitrogen. However, based on plot research done by Dr. Joe Vargas and on observations in the field, it is clear that

while in most years the late fall nitrogen may increase the amount of snow mold, there is a much quicker recovery from any injury caused. The snow mold damage may be more superficial with the late fall nitrogen and/or the recovery is quicker. Either way, the next spring the turf returns to a better quality condition sooner when late fall nitrogen has been applied.

Other Pros and Cons of Late Fall N

Potential problems with late fall nitrogen fertilization include the potential for leaching of applied nitrogen, late fall growth which would require more mowing, potential for more snow mold and other winter injury, increase in thatch and more growth in the spring. The potential for most of these concerns is considered small in light of the positive results.

(continued on page 34)



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1997 John Deere Team Championship Results

Holly Gilmour
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On August 4, 1997, the management teams of 55 area golf courses met at LaGrange C.C., LaGrange, Illinois, for the 11th Annual John Deere Team Championship. Two-time John Deere Team Champion Bob Kronn, superintendent of the LaGrange C.C., provided the field with a challenging course.

The four-person team for the local tournament included the golf course superintendent, the club professional, the club manager, and the club president. The winning team earned the privilege to compete in the national John Deere Team Championship.

1st	Orchard Valley G.C.	Jim McNair
2nd	Nordic Hills G.C.	Vince Dodge
3rd	Aurora C.C.	John Gurke
4th	Indian Hill Club	Dave Schlagetter
5th	Indian Lakes Resort	Gene Thompson
6th	Bull Valley G.C.	Ken Goodman
7th	Shoreacres	Tim Davis
8th	Midland C.C.	John Wagner
9th	Bryn Mawr C.C.	Brian Bossert
10th	Kishwaukee C.C.	Phil Zeinert

This year, Jim McNair and his team from Orchard Valley G.C., with a winning score of 52, will compete with 40 other winners from across the U.S. and Canada. This year's national John Deere Team Championship will be hosted by the Wild Wing Plantation in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, November 6-9.

Thanks to all who participated in the 11th Annual John Deere Team Championship. We hope you enjoyed the day. ■

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If you are stopped, turn off your truck, and place your keys on the dash so the officer will not worry that you will try to escape. Be pleasant and professional. Avoid being argumentative.

Do whatever the officer asks and do not reach under your seat or in the sleeper for your wallet. Doing so may make the officer suspicious.

Never admit guilt. You always have the right to remain silent, but during a traffic stop, the officer does not have to

Once the officer begins writing the ticket, he must complete it. Nothing you say can change that, so keep quiet.

advise you of this right. In states with a signature line on the ticket admitting guilt, do not sign if you intend to dispute the ticket.

Once you are sure the officer is going to write a ticket, ask to have it tried in the county seat. For cases tried outside the county seat, points are multiplied by 50%. This can save points on your MVR and fines.

Once the officer begins writing the ticket, he must complete it. Nothing you say can change that, so keep quiet.

As soon as the officer leaves, make notes about what happened. Record the make and model number of the radar or laser unit, where you are parked, road, weather and lighting conditions and mile marker number. Review the ticket for errors. Check for an incorrect date or time, license number or plate number and make sure the offi-

(continued on page 34)

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DATES TO REMEMBER

October 6 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Eagle Brook C.C.

November 4-6 — Penn State Golf Turf Conference, State College, PA. For information, call 814-863-1017.

November 12 — Midwest Clinic and Annual Meeting at Medinah C.C.

November 15 — Midwest Dinner Dance at Aurora C.C.

January 8-9 — GCSAA Seminar "Golf Greens, History, Theory, Construction and Maintenance" at Oak Brook, IL.

January 19-22 — Michigan Turfgrass Conference, Lansing, MI.

January 20-22 — Midwest Turf Expo at Indiana Convention Center, Indianapolis, IN.

Kurt Galisdorfer at Exmoor C.C. has a position available immediately for a 2nd assistant/technician. If interested, please call 847-433-1177.

Applications are now being accepted for Penn State's Two-Year Golf Course Turfgrass Management Program for the class beginning in September 1998. There is an application fee of \$35, and the deadline is December 31, 1997. Call 814-863-0129 for more information.

Two of our members had articles in the August 1997 issue of *Golf Course Management*. Tony Rzdazki, Bristlecone Pines, wrote, "Why Not Adopt?" an article on the adoption of a local school working with the Audubon International's program for schools. Dan Dinelli's, North Shore C.C., article entitled, "Don't Treat Pests: Avoid 'em," concerned the IPM approach to pest management. Both were excellent articles. Well done guys. Incidentally, Tony was given the Editor's Award a few years back for his many articles in this publication, and Dan won the Ray Gerber Editorial Award last year. Both are in contention for the Ray Gerber Award this year.

Kerry Blatteau, Oak Brook Hills Golf Club, and his dog Jenna got lots of publicity by appearing on the Channel 2, 5 p.m. newscast, Tuesday, August 5. Kerry and Jenna showed how the border collie works to control geese on the course. Great PR Kerry.

The bus trip to the University of Illinois Field Day on August 20 was a success. There were about 22 on the bus (room for more in 1998), with about 16 getting on at Woodfield Mall and the rest getting on at Mattson. The U of I group had an excellent program again this year, and the weather was great. Thanks to Arthur Clesen, Inc. for supplying the snacks and drinks on the bus.

Assistant is needed at Biltmore C.C. Call Brian Thomson at 847-381-1963.

Congratulations to Lori and Bob Lively on the July 12 birth of twin girls, Katie and Sarah. Their family of five includes son Bobby who is 2. Everyone is doing fine—except for the lack of sleep for the parents.

Park Ridge C.C. will be installing a new Toro OSMAC with double-row and perimeter watering around the greens. This will be one of the newest and up-to-date systems in the area once completed. Plus Mike Gruening will be building a new 12th green with Bill Boyd of Timberline doing the work.

Tim Davis and his crew at Shore Acres have been building a gabion rock wall along a drainage swale this past summer. When finished, they will have built over 960 feet of walls at a cost of about \$20 per foot. The facing wall is lined with granite boulders, and the interior basket is filled with 3" to 4" of limestone rocks. It is very attractive.

Wedding bells have struck and will strike for two of our bachelor superintendents. Brian Bossert, Bryn Mawr C.C., and Pam Brackenbury were married in Palos Park on September 26, 1997. Mike Bavier, Inverness G.C., and Mary Florek will be wed on October 17, 1997. Congratulations to these fine couples, and may they enjoy health and happiness in their lives together.

Greg Coyne at Kankakee C.C. and Jack McCormick of Calumet C.C. are doing major bunker renovations at their courses, each one doing over 50 bunkers. That will keep the sand trucks rolling.

(continued on page 32)