

Take another look at the most complete selection of **Jacobsen *World Class* Greens Mowing Equipment**

Greens King V diesel

19.9hp Kubota engine, comfortable, tight wheel base, light balanced design 11 or 7 bld *Flash-Attach* reels, 2 or 3 wheel drive. A versatile machine!



Greens King 522

4 hp Honda engine, loop handle, improved drive train, integral OPC



Greens King V gas

same as above, with a quiet 18 hp Vanguard gasoline engine

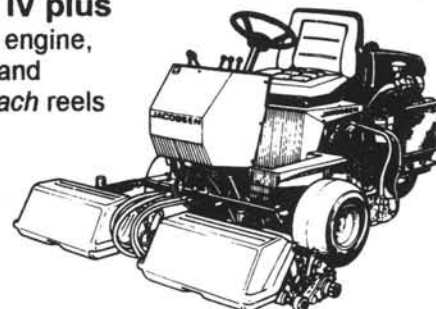
Greens King 522T

same as above with a "T" handle for superior balance and maneuverability



Greens King IV plus

18 hp Vanguard engine, power steering, and 11 bld *Flash-Attach* reels

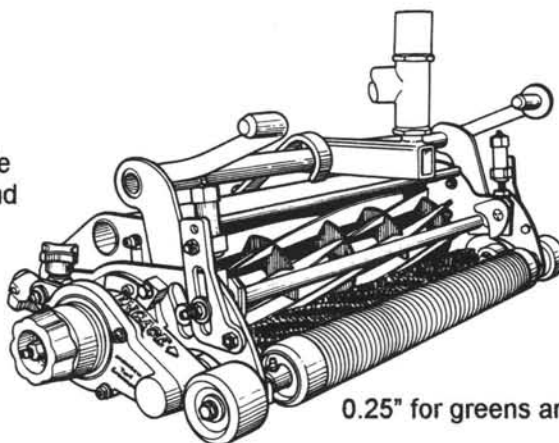


Greens King 518

for authentic recreation of the surface that the course architect envisioned

Greens King 526

H.D. 7 bld reels provide superior cut for tees and approaches



Greens King IV

proven performer, 16 hp Vanguard, back lapping, 11 bld reels and a new price

Turf Groomer® Greens Conditioner

0.25" for greens and 0.50" for bent grass tees and fairways

THE PROFESSIONAL'S CHOICE ON TURF

**JACOBSEN
TEXTRON**

Jacobsen Division of Textron Inc.

and



**illinois lawn
equipment inc.**

800-942-8610

120 Years of Combined Experience!



1999 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

Robert Maibusch (Cheryl)

Hinsdale G.C.

Home: 630-789-1651, Office: 630-986-1323

VICE PRESIDENT

Donald Ferreri (Geri)

Seven Bridges G.C.

Home: 630-357-7964, Office: 630-852-1746

SECRETARY / TREASURER

Brian Bossert (Pam)

Bryn Mawr C.C.

Home: 847-492-1138, Office: 847-677-4112

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

George Minnis

MAGCS P.O. Box 760

Batavia, IL 60510

Office: 630-406-5356, Fax: 630-406-5456

BOARD

Dan Anderson (Catherine)

Fox Valley G.C.

Home: 630-406-0756, Office: 630-879-3332

Fred Behnke (Nancy)

Mount Prospect G.C.

Home: 773-774-1486, Office: 847-632-9331

Kevin DeRoo (Cheryl)

Bartlett Hills G.C.

Home: 847-697-0595, Office: 630-483-4991

Jim McNair

Orchard Valley G.C.

Home: 630-892-8389, Office: 630-907-8998

Luke Strojny (Debbie)

Poplar Creek G.C.

Home: 630-830-7370, Office: 847-310-3618

Greg Thalmann (Trudi)

Fox Run Golf Links

Home: 847-394-5410, Office: 847-228-3541

PRESIDENT EMERITUS

Kevin Czerkies (Peggy)

Sportsman's C.C.

Home: 847-949-7074, Office: 847-291-2352

PHOTOGRAPHY

Raymond Schmitz

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, sixth page, quarter page, third page, half page and full page.

This publication is not copyrighted. We would like to share our articles with any who would like to use them, but please give the author and *On Course* credit.

FEATURES

FRONT COVER

The cover painting is the third oil painting Peter Leuzinger has done for us. This month it is the Prairie 7th green at the Ivanhoe Club. The original painting was auctioned off at a club fund-raising event.

2 ON COURSE WITH THE PRESIDENT

Bob Maibusch

4 DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Joel Purpur

6 FEATURE ARTICLE: Dealing With a New Invader: Gray Leaf Spot

Paul Vermeulen

10 ASK THE "EXPERT": Superintendent and Assistant Relationships

Michael Mumper

14 Mid-West Greenkeepers' Association

A.L. Brandon

18 Vegetative Features of 5 Native Prairie Species

Compiled by Tom Voigt

20 How Good is a Manufacturer's Warranty?

Jim Halloran

22 MAGCS College Tournament

Brian Bossert

24 Green Committee, Chicago District Golf Association

Guy M. Peters

26 THE BULL SHEET

Fred Opperman

24 On Course 1998 Index of Articles

The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents (MAGCS), founded December 24, 1926, is a professional organization 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 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.



*Bob Maibusch, CGCS, MG
Hinsdale G.C.*

Thank you all for allowing me the honor of serving as your association president for the next year. It is humbling to look at the list of past presidents who have distinguished themselves as industry leaders both locally and nationally.

I hope that in the next year, I can reinforce your decision to allow me to serve. I am sure that there will be instances when I will upset individuals, and that, unfortunately, goes with the territory. Be assured, however, that although we may disagree, I do respect every member's right to an opinion on the direction of our association. Also, please remember that a simple written note is much more likely to receive an appropriate response than a hasty comment in passing at a meeting. Being on the Board of Directors for a number of years has taught me that our membership is not afraid to offer an opinion. Although I value every opinion, my memory may betray me at times. A written request or suggestion will receive the appropriate attention

that a forgotten or misinterpreted comment may lack.

While I generally concur with the old saying "If it isn't broke, don't fix it," regarding the association, I do think that there are changes that this association can make to enhance member services and the profession in general. We will continue to work with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America to promote the profession, but more importantly, this association must remain proactive in promoting the accomplishments of our members and trumpeting the ways that they enhance the value of the facilities that they manage.

Many of our members who are recognized as success stories got there through a combination of tenacity, indomitable spirit, and not compromising their individualism or principles in making difficult decisions. When an entire association is comprised of individuals of this caliber, it sometimes appears difficult to find common ground. However, it has always been my experience that people in our profession will compromise to make things work. This has been true in our daily work and in the management of your association.

I am assured by the talented officers and directors that I am privileged to serve with that this spirit of cooperation and compromise will continue to prevail. The entire membership is lucky to have these people working on their behalf. The same can be said for all of the committee members, and I would encourage any member who wishes to get involved to contact a committee chairman and offer his assistance, especially those of you with strong opinions.

As we enter the holiday season, please allow yourselves an opportunity to enjoy more time with friends and families. They are the ones who constantly compromise to accommodate our hectic schedules, and they deserve our undivided attention at this special time of the year. My best wishes go out to all of you.

*Bob Maibusch, CGCS, MG
President, MAGCS*

The One and Only.

HERITAGE® An Ounce of Prevention...

HERITAGE is a highly flexible fungicide that exhibits both preventative and curative activity against most turfgrass diseases, plus the following advantages:

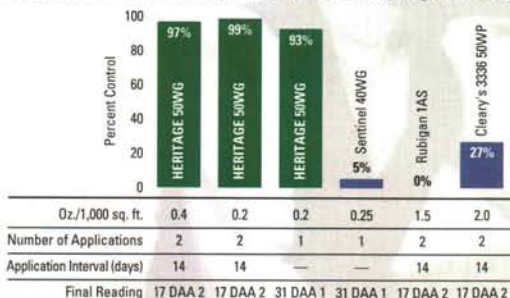
- Improves turf quality
- Controls brown patch, Pythium, take-all patch, summer patch, anthracnose and snow mold
- Reduced risk to environmental resources
- Low risk toxicological profile
- Low rates, extended spray intervals
- Novel mode of action



Once you learn about the powerful, preventative protection and its fit with your best management practices, you'll agree that it's time to change the course of your turfgrass disease management program, with HERITAGE.

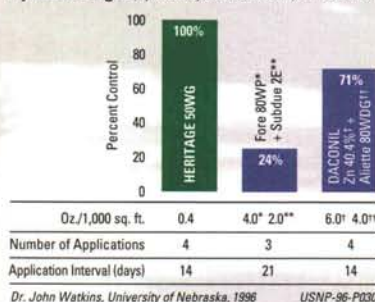
For more information, contact your authorized Zeneca Distributor, or call Zeneca Professional Products Toll Free at 1-888-617-7690. www.zenecaprofprod.com

Anthracnose¹ (*Colletotrichum graminicola*) on 80% Annual Bluegrass, 20% Perennial Ryegrass

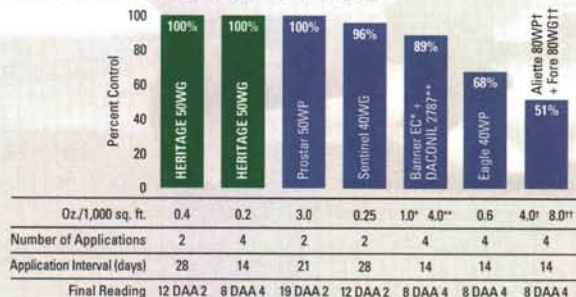


Dr. Don Scott, Purdue University, 1995 US 67-95-P354
¹ Also isolated from plots: 2 species *Rhizoctonia*; 3 species *Pythium*; and several species *Curvularia*.

Pythium Blight (*Pythium aphanidermatum*) on Perennial Ryegrass

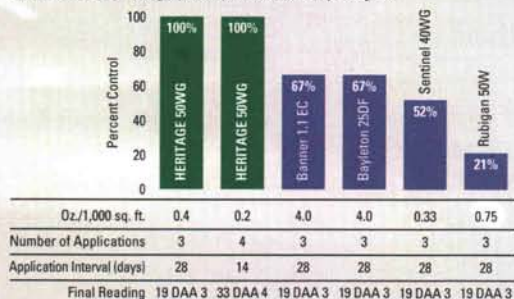


Brown Patch (*Rhizoctonia solani*) on Colonial Bentgrass



Dr. Pat Sanders, Penn State University, 1994 US 66-94-P356

Summer Patch (*Magnaporthe poae*) on Kentucky Bluegrass



Dr. Bruce Clarke, Cooke College, Rutgers University, 1994 US 66-94-P362

ZENECA Professional Products

Always read and follow label directions carefully. HERITAGE® and DAGONIL® are registered trademarks of a Zeneca Group Company. Alliette® is a trademark of Rhône-Poulenc Ag Company. Banner®, Sentinel® and Subdue® are trademarks of Novartis Corporation. Bayleton® is a trademark of Bayer Corporation. Cleary's® is a trademark of W.A. Cleary Chemical Company. Eagle® and Fore® are trademarks of Rohm and Haas Company. Prostar® is a trademark of AgrEvo. Rubigan® is a trademark of Dow AgroSciences. ©1998. Zeneca Inc. Zeneca Professional Products is a business of Zeneca Inc.

Heritage
FUNGICIDE

CHANGING THE COURSE
OF DISEASE CONTROL

Joel Purpur, CGCS
River Forest C.C.

It's been several years since I have been "out to pasture" from the board of the Midwest, but I guess I'm still an easy target because, well, why else would I be writing a **Director's** Column? I guess it is because I still enjoy volunteering my time and staying involved with our great superintendents' association.

As the 1998 chairman of the Past Presidents' Council, it was an honor for me to organize a gathering of the past presidents of the MAGCS and take part in a meeting for the purpose of critiquing Midwest operations. Even though the meeting took place in mid-March, a busy time for superintendents, there were 10 past presidents of the MAGCS in attendance. Much of the evolution of the association was represented by the past presidents in attendance.

It is our objective as a committee to provide suggestions and guidance for the present Board of Directors. It has never been the intent of the Past Presidents' Council to tell the board what to do. In the past, the Board of Directors has shown respect for the opinions from the PPC, which gives the committee a sense of worth. Also in recent years, the tone of the committee has been very upbeat with many more positives than negatives in viewing the way our growing association has been managed. We must continue to realize that change is inevitable, and we must change with the times.

As members of the Midwest, it is easy to complain when details get fowled up or we don't get what we want. Mishaps and oversights are common in any large organization. Not to say that mismanagement or neglect are acceptable, but we must also keep in mind that almost all of

the planning and implementation for our organization is done by volunteers. We really do get a lot for our money. Try going to any golf course without telling them you are in the business. Play golf with a cart, have a couple of meals, buy some type of golf merchandise and see what you end up spending for the day. Our meetings really are a great value.

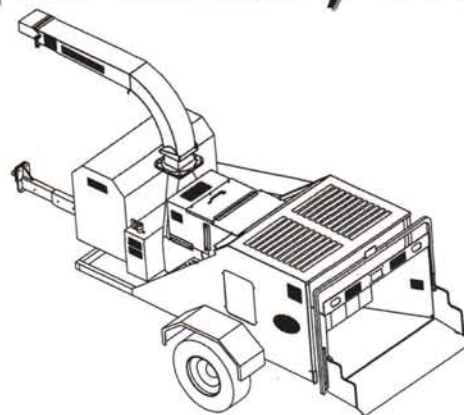
We should continue to take the elections seriously. The individuals desiring to help run our organization on their own time take on a great responsibility. If we as members care so much about our association, why are there only small numbers who attend our annual meeting to cast votes for the directors whom the future of our association will depend on?

The Past Presidents' Council realizes that the operations get more complicated and involved every year. We are encouraged in the direction that the association is heading. With devoted individuals helping directors at the committee levels, much has been accomplished and the horizons hold great promise. Give something back to the association by volunteering to help on at least a committee level. Working together, we can keep the Midwest a first class and well run organization which sets the standard for our industry. 

AERIAL EQUIPMENT, INC.

PROUDLY SELLS & SERVICES


Woodsman



CALL FOR A FREE DEMONSTRATION

Service • Parts • Sales • Rentals
Midwest Headquarters for equipment & supplies
for the Arborist & Landscape Industry

THE INDUSTRY'S BEST KEPT SECRET!

Aerial Equipment Service Dept. Hours

Mon. - Fri. 6:00 am - 12:00 midnight

Saturday 6:00 am - 12:00 noon

2381 S. Foster, Wheeling, IL 60090 (847) 398-0620



AERATORS INC.

Simply The Best Fountain Aerator For Your Golf Course.

Improve Water Quality And Add Beauty To Your Lakes And Ponds



Fanfare



Weeping Willow



Old Faithful



Water Lily



Circulator

Aqua-Lator® Fountain Aerator From Aerators Inc.

- **Tough stainless steel construction** - the most rugged and durable Fountain Aerator. Other fountain aerators are made with plastics and mild steel or limited stainless steel.
- **Maintenance free pump motor** - unlike other fountain aerators which have oil cooled pump motors that require frequent expensive field service.
- **A variety of spray patterns and horsepower.** Lights optional.
- **Made by Aerators Inc.,** with over three decades of experience in aeration products.

J.W. Turf, Inc.

14N937 U.S. Hwy. 20
Hampshire, IL 60140
Phone: 847-683-4653
Fax: 847-683-3978

Aqua-Lator Fountain Aerator . . . Simply the Best

Aqua-Lator® is a registered trademark of Aerators, Inc. © Copyright 1997

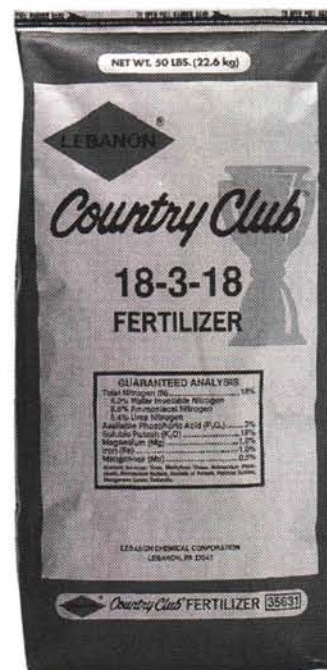
Now. Or Never.

Start using Country Club homogeneous fertilizers, or give up the fight against uneven feeding. Each homogeneous granule contains the nitrogen, phosphorous, potash, and secondary and trace elements that turf requires. The efficient mix of water-soluble and insoluble nitrogen produces steady green-up while providing extended feeding. Call your local Lebanon distributor or 1-800-233-0628 for more information.

BOJO Turf Supply
(800) 732-9401

Turf Products, Ltd.
(630) 668-5537

Country Club®



Dealing With a New Invader: Gray Leaf Spot

*Paul Vermeulen, Director
Mid-Continent Region,
USGA Green Section*

In late August, most superintendents in central and northern Illinois are starting to look forward to a relaxing fall season. By then, the heat of summer has usually passed and cooler nighttime temperatures tend to revive the weary cool-season turfgrasses. Too bad 1998 was not a normal year.

(continued on page 8)



When gray leaf spot is suspected, it is important to take immediate action. To illustrate, this area was covered by a healthy crop of seedling perennial ryegrass just 72 hours before this photo was taken.

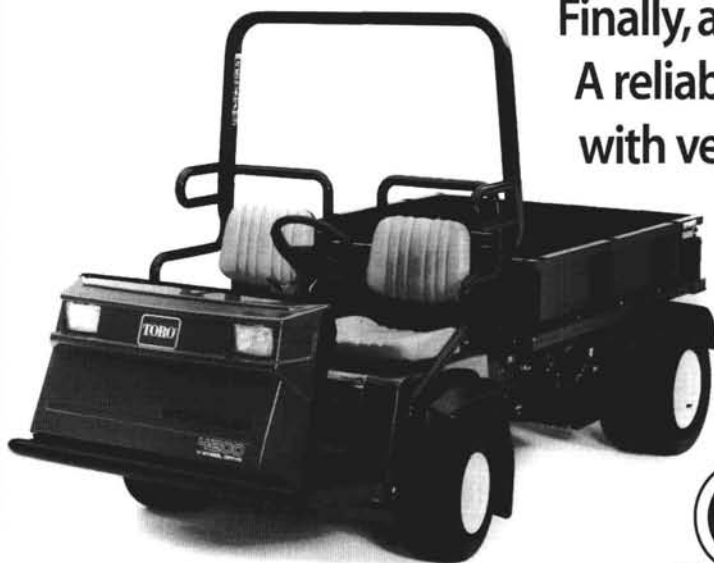
As evident by the foreground, the only way to protect stands of perennial ryegrass from gray leaf spot is to treat them with fungicides.

The reddish-brown lesions of gray leaf spot can be seen on mature plants with the naked eye. Nonetheless, it is always best to have a turfgrass pathologist confirm the diagnosis.



TORO®

Workman™ 3000 Series



Finally, a work vehicle choice.
A reliable 4 wheel work vehicle
with versatile capacity and three
wheel maneuverability.

630-773-5555
FAX 630-773-4273

Chicago
Turf & Irrigation Inc.

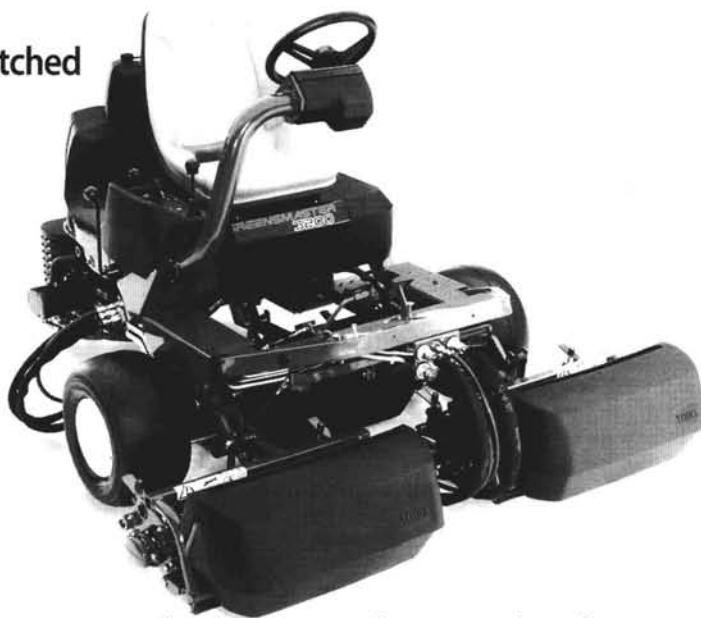
1170 W. Ardmore • Itasca, Illinois 60143

TORO®

Greensmaster® 3200

- All new cutting system for unmatched ground contour following and quality of cut.
- Quietest combustion engine in the industry.
- Simplistic design for servicing.

630-773-5555
FAX 630-773-4273



Chicago
Turf & Irrigation Inc.

1170 W. Ardmore • Itasca, Illinois 60143

During late August and September, one course after another rolled over and died as if they had been sprayed with Roundup® from a demented crop duster who was taking his lifelong frustrations on the links out on innocent superintendents. The cause of the problems experienced by most courses was not related to vandalism, as the true culprit was gray leaf spot (*Pyricularia grisea*). The fungal pathogen is extremely virulent on perennial ryegrass and is responsible for devastating losses on tees, fairways and rough.

Prior to 1998, gray leaf spot outbreaks were mainly concentrated in the Mid-Atlantic region with only a few isolated cases documented in central Illinois. As of this August, it had taken up residence all across Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska and should be considered a serious threat to all courses growing perennial ryegrass.

Because of the disease's rare occurrence during the 1990s, it has received relatively little attention from the scientific community. As a consequence, there are more questions than there are definitive answers. For example, will nitrogen applications during the fall make the situation in 1999 better or worse? Will raising the mowing height help the turf ward off infection? How much money should be earmarked in next year's fungicide budget for gray leaf spot control? Excellent questions, but there do not seem to be any concrete answers.

In tough situations such as this, it is often best to start with what is known rather than focus on what is left to speculation. For those turf professionals that may not have seen gray leaf spot as of yet, its visual symptoms begin as reddish-brown spots appearing on the leaf blades. From shoulder

level, the early stages of gray leaf spot look like faint reddish-brown patches approximately eight to twenty-four inches in diameter. As the disease quickly progresses, large areas of infected turf appear to be wilting. But unlike normal afternoon wilting, the turf does not respond to irrigation. In many cases, the symptoms of gray leaf spot can be easily confused with brown patch or Pythium.

*Prior to 1998,
gray leaf spot
outbreaks were mainly
concentrated in the
Mid-Atlantic region
with only a few
isolated cases documented
in central Illinois.
As of this August, it had
taken up residence all
across Illinois, Iowa,
Kansas, Missouri and
Nebraska and should
be considered a serious
threat to all courses grow-
ing perennial ryegrass.*

On seedling perennial ryegrass, the symptoms are less obvious in the early stages of disease development, the reason being that the leaf blades are very slender, and the lesions cannot be easily seen with a naked eye. A distinct twisting of the leaf tip is probably the easiest way to identify seedlings infected with gray leaf spot. This twisting causes individual plants to look like small fishhooks. Suffice to say, the later stages of gray leaf spot on seedling perennial ryegrass are identified

by complete crop failure. Knowing when to scout for gray leaf spot is a clouded issue because of the lack of scientific data. Specifically, no one seems to know the exact pattern of weather conditions that causes the disease symptoms to develop. In Indiana, the disease has been identified in mid-June. However, based on conversations with USGA agronomists and turf pathologist east of Illinois, the timing of most sightings is mid-August through early September. The end of gray leaf spot season is also fuzzy. While most summertime diseases become dormant with the first signs of fall, gray leaf spot activity has been reported as late as early November in Pennsylvania.

The best course of action if gray leaf spot is suspected is to immediately send a turf sample to Drs. Randy Kane or Hank Wilkinson to confirm the diagnosis. **Immediately** is the operative word as seedling stands of perennial ryegrass have been completely lost in a time span of 72 hours.

Controlling gray leaf spot with fungicide applications is a mix of good news and bad. The good news is that the fungus can be effectively controlled with several fungicides on both preventive and curative treatment schedules. The bad news is that either course of action can be very expensive.

Based on my personal travels, it appears that the most potent preventive treatment is multiple applications of Heritage at the rates recommended by the manufacturer. Courses that were fortunate enough to have applied Heritage for the control of brown patch and Pythium during mid-July and August have seen little or no gray leaf spot in treated areas through the end of the season. On a curative basis, Daconil tank-mixed with Banner has been

(continued on page 22)

We are growing...



...growing in sales

...growing in
personalized
service to you

...growing in
product selection:

Agrevo • Bayer • W.A. Cleary's

Dow • FMC • Green-Releaf®

Monsanto • Novartis • PBI Gordon

Rhone-Poulenc • Rohm & Haas

Roots • Tee-2-Green • Zeneca

*Nationwide products
for the green industry*

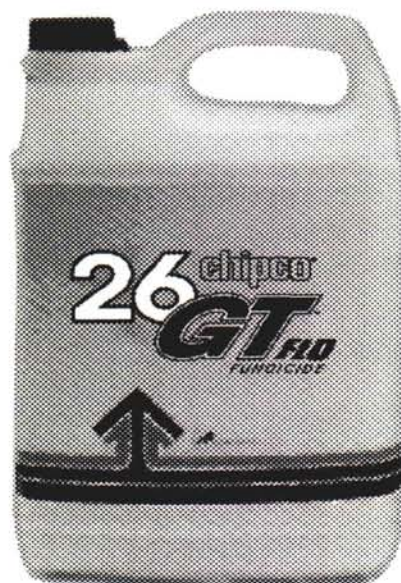
It's in stock, and
we're ready to ship!
Call now to order:
800-411-5115
or call your sales
representative



United
Horticultural Supply™

Working to Enhance Our World

PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR DOLLAR SPOT IS WITH CHIPCO® 26GT™



RHONE-POULENC AG COMPANY

P.O. Box 12014, 2 TW. Alexander Drive
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
1-800-334-9745

Superintendent and Assistant Relationships

Michael Mumper
Raviloe C.C.

When asked by our distinguished committee chairman Kevin DeRoo to write an article for "Ask the Expert," the first thought that came to my mind was that of one of my favorite characters from a 1960's sitcom. "I know nothing, nothing." Like Sergeant Schultz, I know nothing. I kept asking myself, "What am I going to write about?" Then the thought crossed my mind: While I'm at the Midwest meetings every month, I have entrusted my assistant to take charge of the course.

I have developed a great deal of confidence in my assistant's ability to handle situations as I would. How did I get to this point of trust and confidence? I thought I would ask some of our brethren how they handle their assistants and what do they expect from them. After all, we probably spend more time with our assistants than we do with our wives.

The criteria I used was to ask each superintendent what it was they were looking for in hiring an assistant, what is their relationship with their assistant, and how long did they expect an assistant to stay with them.

Rick Bowden at Bob O' Link knows how important it is for the superintendent and the assistant to be on the same page. Rick was a longtime assistant to Bruce Williams and knows firsthand that sometimes the assistant must make decisions in the absence of the superintendent, and the decision must be made in the fashion of the

superintendent. Rick believes that the assistant should not be thrown into a situation that he cannot handle. "Give him small responsibilities so that he gains confidence in himself and the crew gains confidence in him."

As superintendent, Rick tries to teach his assistants there are certain ways that he would want things to be done and that in his absence

*The criteria I used
was to ask each
superintendent what
it was they were
looking for in
hiring an assistant,
what is their relationship
with their assistant,
and how long did they
expect an assistant to
stay with them.*

the assistant would make the same decisions that he would. Rick also expects his assistants to offer other alternatives and ideas. "I like to hear their thoughts and ideas, but I still want things to be done my way, and I will explain my reasoning with them. So far there have not been any problems."

Although Rick does spend some time with his assistants away from the work environment, he would prefer to keep it professional. "I spend most of my time during the season with these guys,

so I like to spend my time away from work with my family. Therefore, except for a few dinners and golf, there is little socializing away from the workplace." Rick does not have a problem with an assistant staying on and becoming a senior assistant. "It's all up to the individual. For awhile, I thought I was going to be one, but fortunately, things worked out for me. A senior assistant can bring a wealth of knowledge and continuity to an operation and create a comfort level."

John Gurke at Aurora Country Club wants an assistant that has experience and has worked at several different courses. "I prefer that the assistant be eager to learn and have a professional appearance. He must be able to interface with the membership in a professional manner." Gurke also adds, "The assistant and the superintendent should have a symbiotic relationship. The areas that I am not as knowledgeable in should be areas of strength for him."

John does not have a problem with a relationship that transcends beyond the workplace. "I believe it helps the overall operation that my assistant shares a similar interest away from the work environment. It gives us time to socialize and work more productively when we are at the course."

Gurke thinks that is important for both the assistant and himself if the assistant only stays on for three to four years. "I think the situation could become stagnant, and it is good to have some fresh ideas and perspectives in our operation. It is also better for the assistant, because

(continued on page 12)