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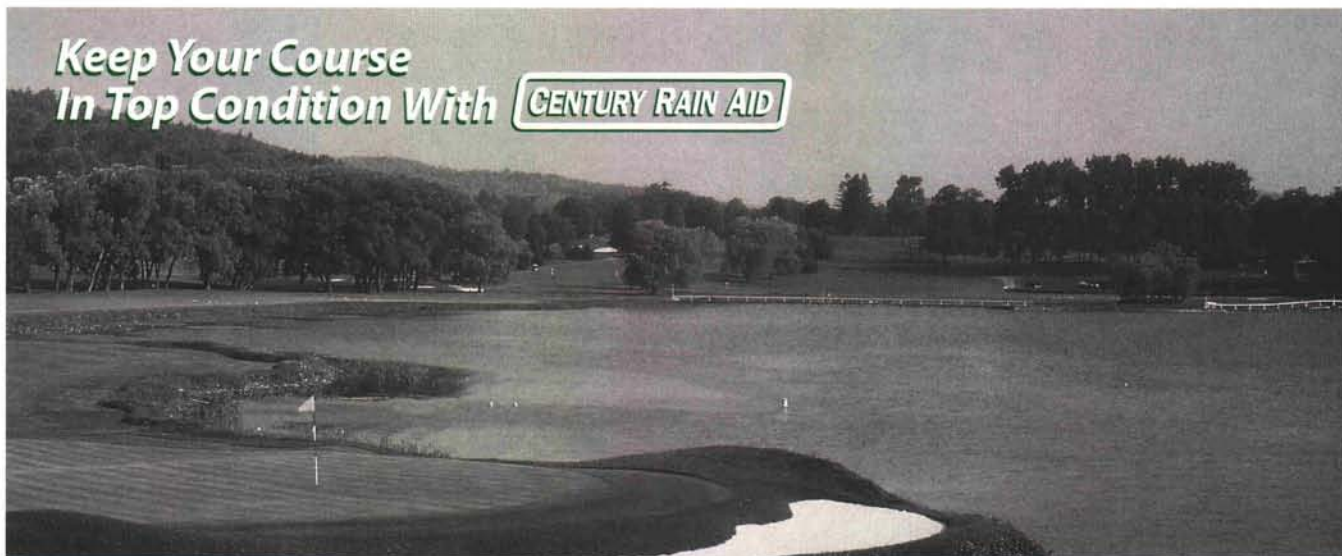
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after three or four years, he has learned everything he can from me."


Dave Blomquist takes an all together different approach when hiring an assistant. He subjects each candidate to a rigorous 14 questions-and-answers session. For example, Blomquist asks how many hours does the candidate expect to work in a given week. This is usually the make-or-break question for the candidate. If you are wondering what the correct answer is, I have taken a vow of secrecy; and if I told you, I would have to kill you.

Dave believes the superintendent/assistant relationship should be professional. "I try not to put myself in situations where I will compromise our professional relationship. That is not to say that we cannot be out in social situations. I think that is beneficial to our relationship." Blomquist further states,

*In conclusion, having
an assistant that we can
work with and learn
from is invaluable.
Sometimes our jobs can
be very stressful, and
it is comforting to know
that we have someone
else who shares the same
pride and dedication in
persevering the highest
quality of maintenance
in our golf courses.*

"I would not put either of us in a situation that could cause a lapse in judgment."

Dave wants his assistant to be on a fast track to a superintendent's position. "The ideal assistant comes to me with experience and knowledge. Hopefully, I can help them fine-tune their skills." Blomquist has already helped matriculate two of our Midwest members to the level of superintendents: Vince Dodge at Nordic Hills and Tim Anderson at Prestwick.

In conclusion, having an assistant that we can work with and learn from is invaluable. Sometimes our jobs can be very stressful, and it is comforting to know that we have someone else who shares the same pride and dedication in persevering the highest quality of maintenance in our golf courses. 

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Mid-West Greenkeepers' Association

Editor's Note: This is the second in a series of articles we will run that appeared in early editions of The Bulletin of the United States Golf Association Green Section. This month's article appeared in Vol. 11, No. 2, February 1931. This is one of the earliest records that I have seen of our association. The "purpose of the association" was no doubt the original and it has been changed to what we now have today in our bylaws. Bob Williams can recall attending this meeting with his father when he was ten years old.

A.L. Brandon

Our association developed out of a mass meeting of greenkeepers held in the Great Northern Hotel, Chicago, November 29, 1926, after golf courses in Illinois, Wisconsin, and Indiana had been circularized. It was incorporated under the laws of Illinois, December 24, 1926. We have now 70 active members, who are located in a centralized area within a radius of 150 miles from Chicago. Any greenkeeper or assistant greenkeeper who has had 3 years of experience in actual greenkeeping and those holding the combined position of greenkeeper and professional are eligible for active membership in the association; any person directly or indirectly interested in the development of golf courses is eligible for associate membership. The annual dues are \$5, in addition to which there is a \$5 initiation fee. As stated in the corporate records of the organization the objects for which it was formed were:

"To associate and unite those persons engaged in the construction, reconstruction, development,

improvement, and maintenance of golf courses and their attributes, particularly known and designated as greenkeepers.

"To promote, in any manner, the lawful and legitimate interests of its members; to assist in the development and advancement of the science of greenkeeping for the purpose of improving, standardizing, and developing methods of efficient and economic maintenance of golf courses.

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out of a mass meeting
of greenkeepers held
in the Great Northern
Hotel, Chicago, November
29, 1926, after golf
courses in Illinois,
Wisconsin, and Indiana
had been circularized.
It was incorporated
under the laws of Illinois,
December 24, 1926.*

"To collect, promulgate, and disseminate practical and scientific knowledge of problems and methods of greenkeeping of every kind and nature; to facilitate and promote the interchange of ideas among the members; and to edit, publish, distribute, and circulate magazines, periodicals, bulletins, and journals of all kinds pertaining to the activities and objects of the association."

Meetings are held monthly. Winter meetings are held indoors at the Great Northern Hotel and are educational in character, the round table discussions proving extremely valuable. It is the attempt of the association to present an authority at each meeting to address the membership. Summer meetings have been held at various clubs throughout our membership district since the existence of the organization. Members have visited a large representative number of clubs. Green committee members are cordially welcome to our meetings but we find it hard to gain a representative attendance.

The annual meeting of the association is held in Chicago, January 5. Additional meetings during 1930 were held as follows:

January 29.

At this meeting arrangements were made for the participation of the association in the convention of the National Association of Greenkeepers of America at Louisville, Ky.

February 26.

The meeting was addressed by C. M. Harrison, of the United States Golf Association Green Section.

April 9.

The meeting was addressed by O.J. Noer, soil expert.

April 28.

First outdoor meeting; Medinah Country Club, Medinah, Ill.

May 26.

Chain O' Lakes Country Club, Antioch, Ill.

(continued on page 16)



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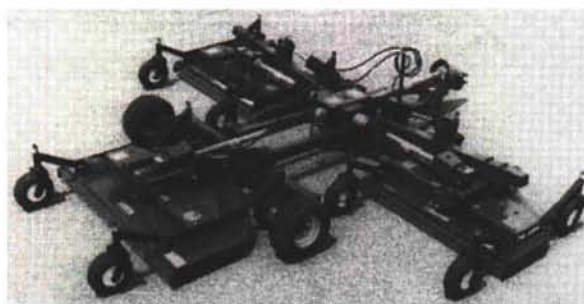
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Mid-West Greenkeepers' . . .

(continued from page 14)

June 30.

Harlem Hills Country club,
Rockford, Ill.

July 8.

Meeting held in conjunction with
the meeting of the United States
Golf Association Green Section,
on the A.D. Lasker estate,
Everett, Ill.

July 28.

Skokie Country Club, Glencoe, Ill.

August 25.

Shoreacres Golf Club, Lake Bluff,
Ill.

September 8.

Annual Mid-West tournament at
Medinah Country Club.

September 29.

Chicago Golf Club, Wheaton, Ill.

The officers of the association for 1930


were as follows:

President, M. L. Bezek,
Beverly Country Club;
first vice-president,
Pete Stewart, Lake Shore
Country Club;
second vice-president,
John MacGregor, Chicago
Golf Club; treasurer,
Fred Kruger, Olympia
Fields Country Club;
secretary, A. L. Brandon,
St. Charles Country Club,
St. Charles, Ill.

December 5.

Indoor meeting, addresses by
A.S. Dahl, of the United States
Golf Association Green Section.

The officers of the associa-
tion for 1930 were as follows:
President, M. L. Bezek, Beverly
Country Club; first vice-president,
Pete Stewart, Lake Shore Country
Club; second vice-president, John
MacGregor, Chicago Golf Club;
treasurer, Fred Kruger, Olympia
Fields Country Club; secretary, A.
L. Brandon, St. Charles Country
Club, St. Charles, Ill.

The officers for 1931 are:
President, M. L. Bezek, Beverly
Country Club; first vice-president,
Alfred Buller, Chikaming Country
Club; second vice-president, R. N.
Johnson, Medinah Country Club;
treasurer, Fred Kruger, Olympia
Fields Country Club; secretary, A.
L. Brandon, St. Charles Country
Club, St. Charles, Ill. 



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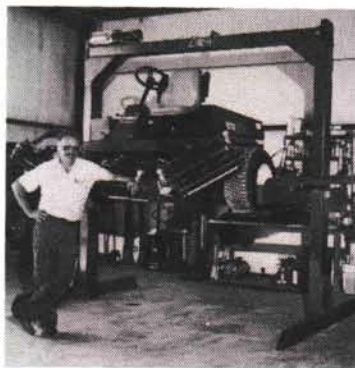
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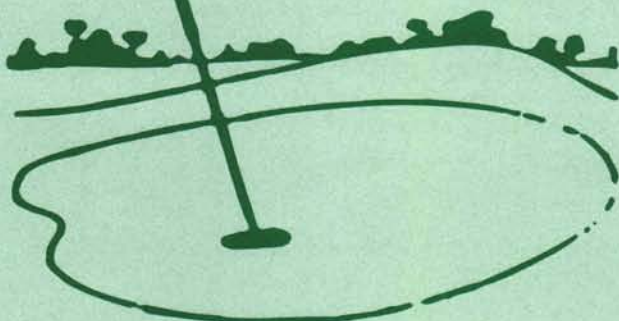
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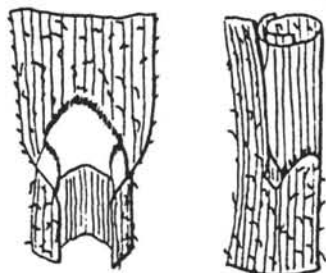
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Vegetative Features of 5 Native Prairie Species

Compiled by Tom Voigt
University of Illinois

Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*)



Growth Habit: tall (can reach more than 8'), upright, warm season perennial with short, thick scaly rhizomes

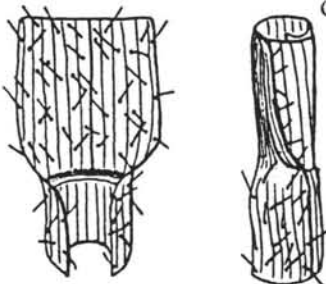
Blade: to 1/2" wide, up to 20" long, flat or V-shaped constricted at base, long pointed tip, extending partway down the sheath, slightly rough or smooth above, smooth below, with silky hairs at base, light green and often redtinged, especially near the tip; veins distinct, midvein prominent; margins rough; rolled at emergence

Sheath: compressed, split, usually purplish at base and below ground, softly hairy or sometimes smooth; veins distinct, margins thin

Ligule: to 1/8" long, membranous, obtuse, margin looks hairy or torn

Collar: medium broad, often indistinct, light or yellowish green, sometimes divided by midvein, hairy on margins

Side Oats Grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*)



Growth Habit: short (usually less than 3"), upright, warm season perennial, with short, scaly rhizomes; leaves mostly from base

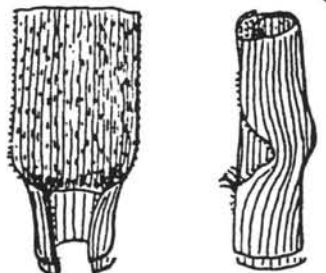
Blade: to 1/4" wide, up to 12" long, flat or rolled, acuminate, rough above, smooth below, with few long hairs scattered on both surfaces; veins distinct; margins rough to hairy

Sheath: round, split, usually pubescent, often purplish at the base; veins prominent; margins translucent

Ligule: to 1/25" long, membranous appearing hairy at margin

Collar: medium broad, yellowish green or brown, continuous, with few hairs

Blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*)



Growth Habit: short 9up to 30"), dense, tufted, warm season perennial with fibrous roots; occasionally with very short scaly rhizomes, leaves mostly basal

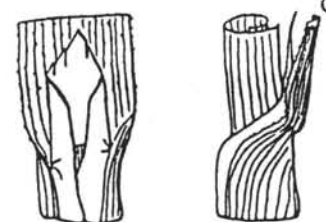
Blade: flat or loosely rolled (up to 10" long, 1/5" wide), tapering, hairy to rough above, smooth to slightly rough below, sometimes sparingly hairy on both surfaces

Sheath: round, smooth to hairy, long hairs at collar

Ligule: membrane with hairy margin (up to 1/50" long)

Collar: continuous, medium-broad, distinctly yellowish-green, with long hairs on inside of margins

Bluejoint (*Calamagrostis canadensis*)



Growth Habit: tall (to 5'), erect, tufted, cool season perennial with rhizomes

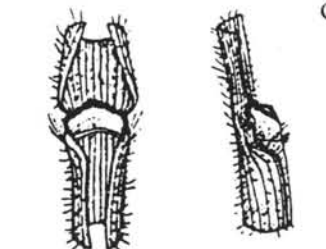
Blade: to 1/2" wide, to 18" long, flat, lax, medium green, long, pointed tip; ridged and rough above, midrib prominent, smooth or slightly rough below; margins rough

Sheath: round, split with rough margins, distinctly veined, smooth, yellowish at the base

Ligule: to 1/5" long, membranous, truncate, often irregular or split

Collar: indistinct, continuous or divided, glabrous, yellowish green, often oblique

Junegrass (*Koeleria cristata*)



Growth Habit: low (to 2.5'), erect, tufted, cool season perennial, with fibrous roots; usually short lived

Blade: to 1/6" wide, to 6" long, tapering to an obtuse tip, flat to rolled, bluish green, stiff, ridged and rough above, keeled and usually smooth underneath; margins rough scabrous

Sheath: round, split, rough and often hairy, distinctly veined, pale green; margins rough

Ligule: to 1/25" long, membranous, truncate to obtuse, often split, usually hairy

Collar: medium broad, continuous or divided, yellowish green, smooth or hairy on margins



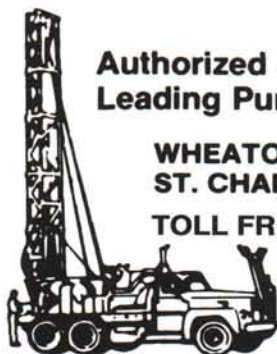
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Jim Halloran
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We write this article to all members of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents to clarify and correct the perceived problem we have had regarding leaking PVC plastic pipe coupling joints on golf course irrigation installations.

We have been installing golf course irrigation systems for over twenty years and have built a strong reputation as a quality local contractor. Besides installation of new systems, we have remodeled many systems as well as performed heavy-duty repair work for most golf courses on

the north side of the Chicago area.

Four years ago, we became aware of the fact that two of the courses we had recently completed were experiencing leaking pipe coupling joints after a year or so in service.

While we searched for the answer to this problem, we blamed our installers. These were the same people that had installed many systems previously without any leaking problems. We did not associate the problem with the pipe manufacturer we were using at this time. The pipe in question was as specified, and the manufacturer was on the consultant's approved list.

We finished Bonnie Dundee Golf Course in June of 1995 and immediately started to have leaking joints. This was the first time that we connected the leaking problem with the product and not the installers.

In September of 1995, we replaced all of the fairway two-inch piping which cost us \$55,000 out-of-pocket. We appealed to the pipe manufacturer to help us in this project. They refused to accept the fact they were producing a faulty product that did not meet the ASTM standards for PVC.

Since 1995, we have installed other golf course systems using

(continued on page 24)

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