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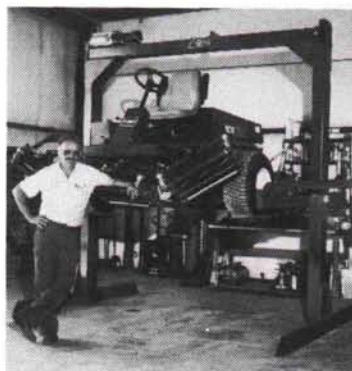
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Cyber Turf

It's the second day of Turfgrass Management 235, and agronomy professor Al Turgeon is checking his class roster. One student has been to class 190 times already. Another, only 9 times, "Well, I guess it's better than this guy," Turgeon says, pointing to a name on the computer. "He hasn't even logged on yet."

"Logging on" is how students attend Turgeon's class. Students log on from Nevada. They log on from Puerto Rico. In fact, they can log on from anywhere in the world.

Turfgrass Management 235 is the first up-and-running, on-line class offered by Penn State's World Campus. Instead of bricks and steel, this "virtual campus" is built with Internet Web pages. Since University President Graham Spanier announced the project in 1996, the campus has been pieced together page by page. On January 19, Penn State's first cyber-semester finally began, with Al Turgeon as Penn State's first cyber-teacher.

According to Turgeon, one advantage of the World Campus is that students control when and where they take class. "You can read lessons on your lunch break, or you can sit home in your pajamas at 11:00 at night." Although Turgeon gives deadlines for homework assignments, students can move through lessons at their own pace.

Turgeon posts the same course materials online that he uses in his conventional classroom classes. Because it takes time and money to put everything on the Internet, however, tuition is higher: \$745 for the World

Campus course compared to \$573 for the University Park classroom version.

Right now, the five-course World Campus turfgrass program doesn't offer a degree, just a certificate. By the end of this year, the World Campus will include other programs such as noise control engineering and business logistics. Gary Miller, '70, '75 MA Lib, '85 Ded Edu, associate vice president for Distance Education and director of the World Campus initiative, expects the campus to offer graduate degrees by the end of 1998. Furthermore, the campus could easily become Penn State's largest campus by reaching more than 40,000 students, says James Ryan, vice president for Outreach and Cooperative Extension.

But Turgeon doesn't foresee online education taking the place of old-fashioned classrooms. "It's not a substitute for a four-year undergraduate degree," he says. "But it's perfect for the person who already has a degree and wants to take up golf course care as a pastime or for someone who isn't ready for college but wants to start somewhere. How people want to use it is up to them."



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the Bull Sheet

DATES TO REMEMBER

July 17-19 — Ameritech Senior Open at Kemper Lakes G.C.

July 20 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Hughes Creek G.C.

July 20-21 — Field's Classic at Merit Club

July 21-25 — U. S. Junior Amateur at Conway Farms G.C.

July 23-25 — Illinois Women's Open at Odyssey Club

July 28 — Midwest Regional Turf Field Day, Purdue University

August 6-8 — Illinois Open at Orchard Valley G.C.

August 10 — John Deere Team Championship at Schaumburg G.C.

August 19 — Turfgrass Field Day at University of Illinois

August 27 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Palatine Hills G.C.

August 30 — MAGCS picnic and Cougar baseball game

September 12-17 — U. S. Senior Amateur at Skokie C.C.

September 14 - MAGCS monthly meeting at Settler's Hill G.C.

October 13 - MAGCS monthly meeting at Seven Bridges G.C.

Remember to make your reservations by August 14 for the bus trip on August 19 to the University of Illinois Field Day. The first pickup point is at the Woodfield Mall shopping center at 6 a.m. in the parking lot between Marshall Field's and the theater. The next pickup point will be at the Holiday Inn in Matteson at 7 a.m. Call Carl Hopphan, 312-201-0101 at the ITF office.

Our speaker for the August 27 educational meeting will be Jim Webb—"The Magic of Sulfur."

Congratulations to Oscar Miles, The Merit Club, on renewal of his certification. Oscar first became certified in 1973. The program started in 1971, and to date over 1,600 superintendents have become certified. Renewal takes place every five years.

The deepest sympathy of the members of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents is extended to the Mike Matchen family on the death of his mother on May 8, 1998.

The August 27 golf game at our meeting will be a two best ball foursome. The scorecards will be dotted. Prizes are for net only; make your own foursome. Use 80% of handicap.

The National Golf Foundation has announced some recent awards, the first being the family of Pete and Alice Dye, who, with sons Perry and P.B., are fashioning one of the great legacies in golf course architecture and have

been named the Golf Family of the Year for 1998. Tom Watson, whose character both on and off the course has made him not only a role model for children and young adults but also one of their great benefactors, has been named to receive the Graffis Award for 1998.

In early June, your Editor and his wife Judy were on vacation to Banff/Lake Louise/Jasper National Parks in Alberta, Canada, plus Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks. While in Bozeman, Montana, we visited with Hank Wilkenson and his wife Tess. Hank has been at Montana State University since the first of the year working on a "Gene Gun." He is trying to insert genes into turfgrass plants that in the future will resist certain diseases, etc. The picture is of Hank in front of the equipment which shoots genes into the plant. Hank has promised an article in the near future on his work.



Hank Wilkenson and his "Gene Gun."

You might think you have problems with geese on your course. How about a herd of elk with two bull elk fighting over their harem on your greens. That is the problem that faces Kevin Pattison at the Banff Springs Golf Club. He is not allowed to harass

(continued on page 38)

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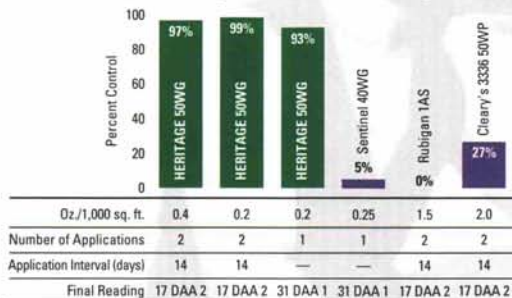
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Anthracnose (*Colletotrichum graminicola*) on 80% Annual Bluegrass, 20% Perennial Ryegrass

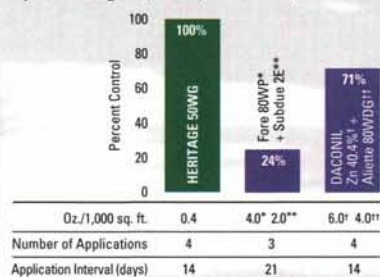


Dr. Don Scott, Purdue University, 1995

US 67-95-P354

¹ Also isolated from plots: 2 species *Rhizoctonia*; 3 species *Pythium*; and several species *Curvularia*.

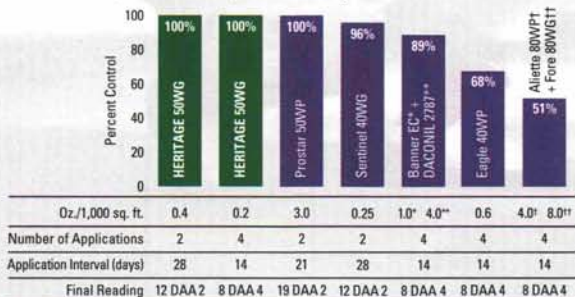
Pythium Blight (*Pythium aphanidermatum*) on Perennial Ryegrass



Dr. John Watkins, University of Nebraska, 1996

USNP-96-P030

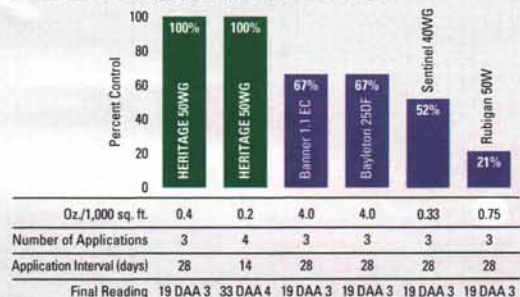
Brown Patch (*Rhizoctonia solani*) on Colonial Bentgrass



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

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On Course July 1998

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"Just barely, he only works 40 hours a week then!"

There is a definite difference between a "regular" golf widow and a superintendent's wife. Golfers don't go back at night just to make sure the course is still there. Our husbands do. When golfers are not on the golf course, they are at work. Even when our husbands are working, they are on the golf course. At least ordinary golf widows can learn how to play, or just drive the cart, and maybe spend some time with the men they married. We can do that too, but I believe it pays more to learn how you can include yourself into his time spent working.

For example, if he has to go back at night, I see what I can do to help. Helping him with routine tasks lets him know that his work is interesting to me, and it can be fun. I'll ask him to demonstrate his irrigation system for me. He seems to be very proud of his water pipes. If we're lucky, we get to see some nonpaying, freeloading, after-hours, walk-on golfer get hit with about 20,000 pounds of water pressure. Life's little rewards are all in his day's work. If you really want him to admit he needs you, get his Border collie to fall in love with you. Man's best friend is she who can handle his dog! You might even get hired.

OK, I was hired. I fell in love with this dog faster than he fell in love with me. The Park District hired me to travel to various parks and chase geese with Mick, the dog. It was either I take the job, or let some stranger work him in the parks, thereby confusing my precious pup even further with three people to have to take orders from. It really has been great though. If you have ever seen these dogs work, it is quite a rush.

When picking up my dog from the golf course to do my park route, I have learned a few things about life in the golf course workplace:


1. Most of the money won on a golf course is not betting on your game. It is betting on whether or not it takes that novice golfer less than 10 shots to make it to the green.
2. You don't have to speak Spanish to communicate with your crew. Slow, broken English with a heavy Ricky Ricardo accent will do nicely.
3. The most vile and contemptuous creatures on earth are those pesky honkers (geese, not golfers). They make a mess every eight minutes, and they know how to play head games with your dog.

Being an "ultimate golf widow" sometimes has advantages. It teaches me to be independent. I also love knowing that my husband's job is to nurture a little piece of the earth. I have learned to appreciate his work through the beauty of the golf course. It is incredible the way the moon can shine through the trees and beam onto the strip of green velvet that is the fairway, and that the gift of a perfect green cannot even be described. All this means that Mother Nature is on her throne, and Kevin is happy. His golf course truly is his Emerald City, and he is the Wizard. The Wizard: you know, the man responsible for all the magic, yet still the man behind the curtain that no one pays any attention to?

When I think of what he goes through during his season, it makes it much easier to let him go on his convention alone. He needs his time to be on his own without having to answer to

anyone but himself. He's earned it! It's funny though, when I go with him, the convention is work, work, work. It's only when I stay home that he seems to have the really big fun. It was easy to be resentful of his trip when I couldn't go with, especially when we had very little ones at home. Again, this is where I had to make my own fun. Now, my kids and I usually head north to ski at convention time. It's much better to trade stories when you get back together than to hear about all the fun you missed.

The game of golf has been very good to us. At 17, I fell in love with that blonde kid on the high school golf team. It was then I knew that I would someday be married to a golf course superintendent. I pray that this career doesn't turn him into an old man before his time. I knew what I was getting myself into when, on our first date, he turned to me and asked "Want to see where I work?" I've always known, and I have no regrets.

He is now the president of this fine organization, and I am very proud of him. I appreciate this opportunity to share with you what being a golf course superintendent's wife means to me. Best of all, now that I have done his homework for him, he owes me big! Hail to the Chief! 

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(continued from page 34)

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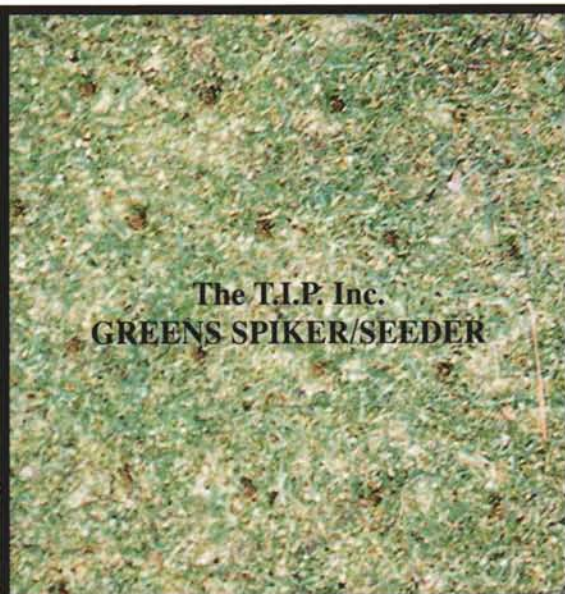
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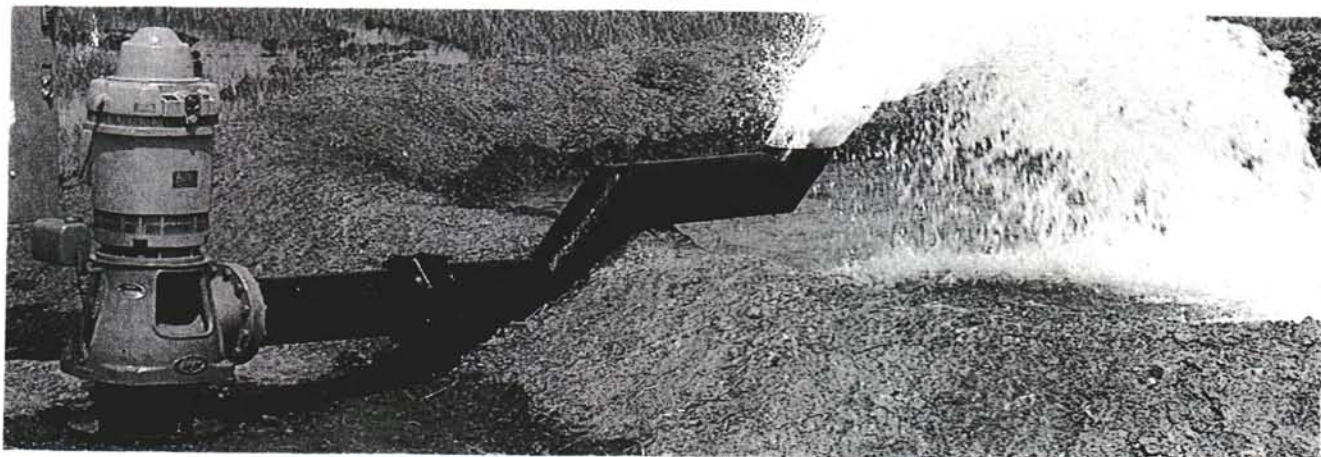
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