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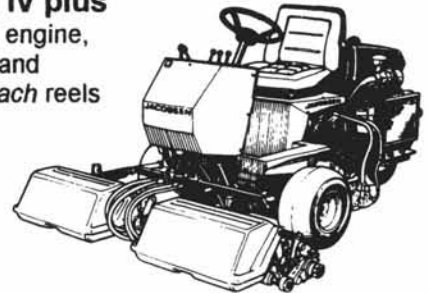
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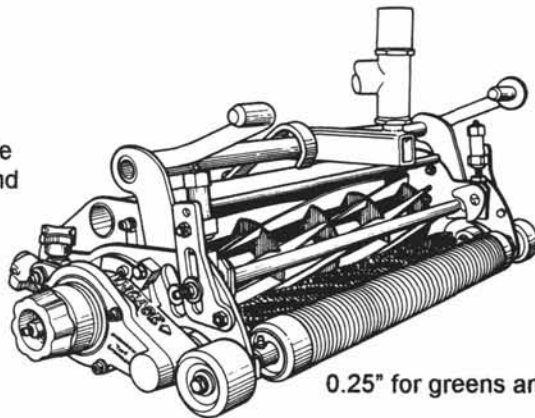


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this year's course for the 81st PGA Championship.



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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.

**B**y the time you read this, you will probably have returned from the GCSAA Conference and Show in Orlando. It is always an inspiring and educational week. It would be wonderful to carry the enthusiasm that we feel during that week with us throughout the entire year.

It's great to hear the accomplishments of our members and the advances in the profession over the last year. Sometimes, however, I feel as though we are preaching to the choir. I see so many golf course superintendents who are excited about the profession and our role in the industry, but within weeks of returning from the conference, they're back in the same mindset of wondering why they don't get the credit which is due them at their facilities. They complain about the club manager or golf professional who receive all of the praise for the condition of the golf course but take none of the blame when things go wrong.

At the risk of offending some of you, I would say that often-times the fault for this rests on your shoulders. If others are receiving credit for your accom-

plishments, they are merely opportunists taking advantage of a situation that you probably haven't worked hard enough to change. Granted, many of us are not comfortable being outgoing or sociable with club members or patrons. I suspect it is one of the reasons that we gravitated to the grounds operations. We can stay involved in the industry but not be front and center with the public. If, however, you desire the same level of status as your golf professional or club manager, you should prepare yourself to be more visible. The old saying, "out of sight, out of mind," is certainly true in this situation.

Being available, at least a portion of each day, in high-visibility areas like the first tee, pro shop, or clubhouse allows people the opportunity to interact with you. It conveys the message that you value their opinion, good or bad, and are interested in hearing what they have to say. It can, at times, be unpleasant. When things are not going well, it can be difficult to stand there and take criticism. However, look at it as a way of turning problems into opportunities. If you can convince one vocal critic of the importance of the job that you do and that you recognize your operation's deficiencies and are working to improve them, you can turn a former critic into one of your staunchest supporters.

If your golf professional or club manager are attending Board of Directors meetings at your club, you should be there as well. I began doing this four years ago; and, although I don't enjoy giving up another evening once a month, it has done wonders for me in demonstrating to them that the Grounds Department is an integral part of the club's overall success.

I often hear people wondering what the MAGCS or GCSAA are going to do to help protect their job security. Organizations like the MAGCS or GCSAA are primarily in place to promote the profession and offer educational opportunities for their members. Job security and compensation are a function of an individual's skills in conveying his worth to his employer. If the individual is not being proactive on his own behalf, then that person is doing a disservice to himself and the profession in general. Associations can enhance individual effort, but they will never replace it.

From time to time, we're all guilty of looking at another superintendent and wondering about how he got so lucky to be in his current position. I'm reminded of a remark by one of our past presidents, Bruce Williams, "The harder I work, the luckier I get." We all need to work a little bit harder at making our own luck.

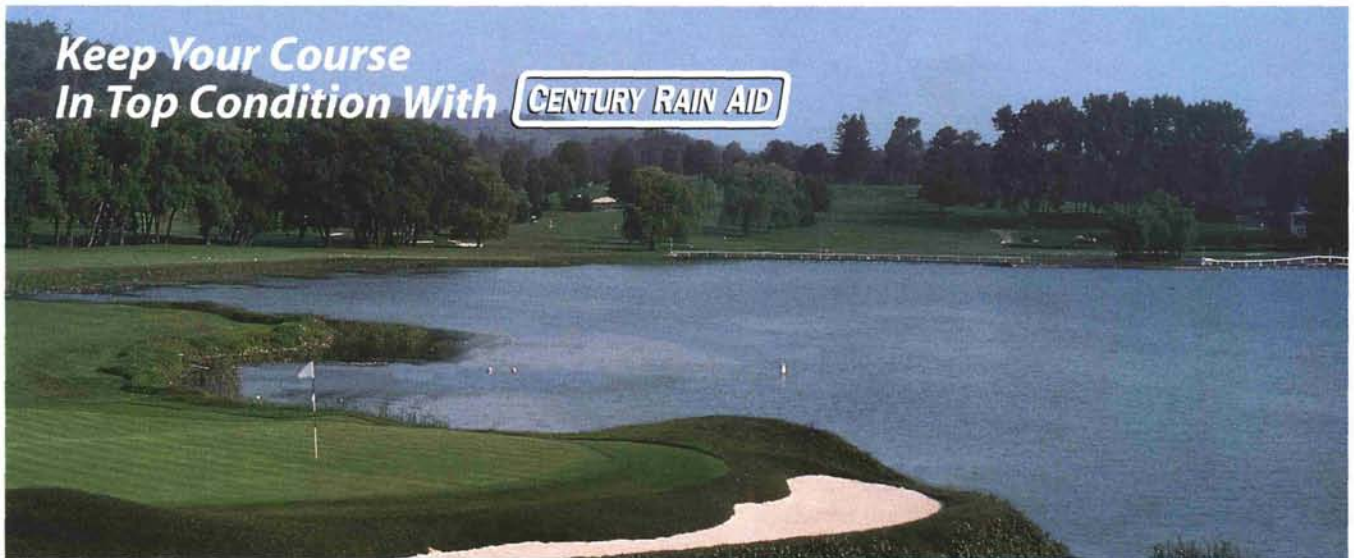
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Maibusch".

Bob Maibusch, CGCS, MG  
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**On Course** February 1999



Don Ferreri  
Seven Bridges G.C.

February again? I thought we just had one. What does February mean to you? To me it means GCSAA National Conference. Another year, another convention, the 70th Conference and Show to be exact.

Everyone has a variety of purposes the conference fulfills for him or her: Listening to a particular speaker or seminars, in general. Researching equipment for a special need or replacement. The camaraderie we share with old friends or meeting new acquaintances in conferences or on the golf course. In my case, those reasons are fine, but following my mentors in the industry to the after-show activities in the various cities has always been a highlight. Who knew I could learn so much!

I bring this up because I have taken the show, conference and golf tournament for granted. It is part of my job and is included in my employee package. I always have appreciated the opportunity to attend the show but never put much thought into how or who assembles such a large production. I am very proud to serve as one of your directors on the MAGCS board and understand all the aspects of our association. However, I never put a

lot of POSITIVE thought into our national association.

Last September, I had the privilege of traveling to the national headquarters in Lawrence, Kansas. I attended the 1998 Chapter Delegates Meeting with Bob Maibusch. It was my first trip to GCSAA headquarters, and I was amazed. Many of you have been there and will know what I am talking about. If you have not been there but receive the opportunity, you owe it to yourself to go. We have a tremendous, professional national association.

A full-time staff leads us along with our elected officials to create a first-class organization. This took time to build, though we have gained great strides. No one in Lawrence is resting on his or her laurels.

If I were to recap the entire delegates meeting, it would take pages. There were two solid days of meetings and conferencing. Representatives attended the meeting from 86 affiliated chapters, along with the entire Board of Directors; Steve Mona, CEO; Joe O'Brien, COO; and Julian Arrendondo, CPA. The assembly of people was very vocal on many topics and concerns. Very intelligent, motivated and innovative leaders are guiding us. I will list a few of the highlights. If you would like a complete report, please contact me, and I will forward you a copy:

1. A lengthy discussion on our current Affiliation Agreement: It was good before, but there is still opportunity for it to benefit local chapters in a variety of ways.
2. A "Meet the candidates" session allowed all the members running for office an opportunity to address questions and

concerns. This occurred twice, once in an open forum. The other session was held in small question-and-answer groups.

3. Discussions on campaigning in a uniform and standard operating procedure were addressed. This topic will go to committee for further review.
4. The First Tee Program was highlighted by slides. The GCSAA was asked to be a partner in the worldwide commitment. Our professional image will be spotlighted in this program as we help the operation become a success. George Bush chairs the program. Other members of the coalition are the PGA, LPGA, USGA and Augusta National. The object is to allow economically disadvantaged youth, ages 18 and younger, with an opportunity to play golf at affordable facilities. The children will learn the rules of golf, how to play, golf course etiquette, agronomy and the positive impact of golf on the environment. There will be more information on the First Tee Program locally in the future.
5. The Environmental Steward Award Program was questioned and redefined for future consideration.
6. Membership standards were discussed and challenged.
7. The need to write letters to Congress was examined. There are many issues to remain focused on. This will allow superintendents to manage their courses with pesticides and fair labor laws in the future.
8. The GCSAA web site was evaluated and recommendations were made.

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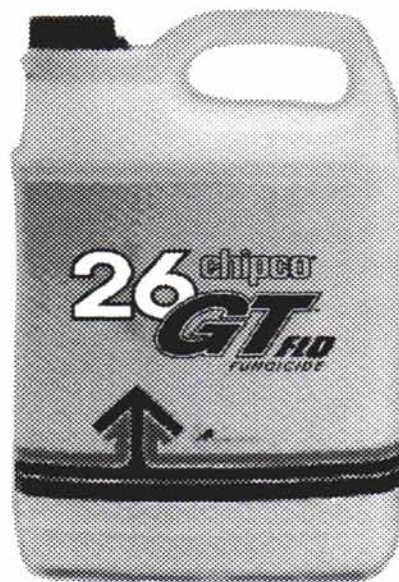
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# IPM — What Does It Mean?

Gregg Rosenthal  
Kemper Lakes G.C.

**I**ntegrated pest management is the selection, integration, and implementation of pest control based on predicted economic, ecological, and sociological consequences. It is not a program that uses strictly biological or organic controls, or is pesticide free, and is not the least or most expensive. I.P.M. is a multi-step approach to controlling soil conditions, pest plants, animals, and pathogens that promote optimal plant health and use effective pest control methods that pose minimal hazards to people and the environment. Inherent to this approach is the understanding that it is neither possible nor practical to eradicate

most pest problems. Thus managed control is the goal, and going one step further, plant man-

the interactions of all the above to maintain healthy turf avoiding pest problems or symptoms.

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---

agement utilizing knowledge of the complete golf course ecosystem, soil, water, light, temperature, fertility, traffic, and

Every golf course and even every golf hole has different factors that influence turf health. Soils, grass types and cultivars within that type, humidity, sunlight, shade, rainfall, temperature, and traffic patterns are all factors that a turf manager cannot always control. Fertility, mowing frequency and height, aerification, topdressing, drainage, and soil amendments are all factors that we can influence. It is the manipulation, observation, and the understanding of the interactions of these factors, as well as the effect of our inputs (agronomic programs superintendents create)

*(continued on page 8)*

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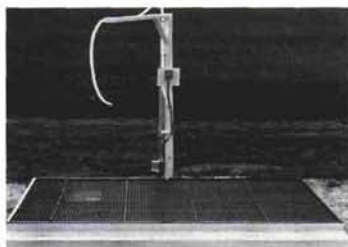
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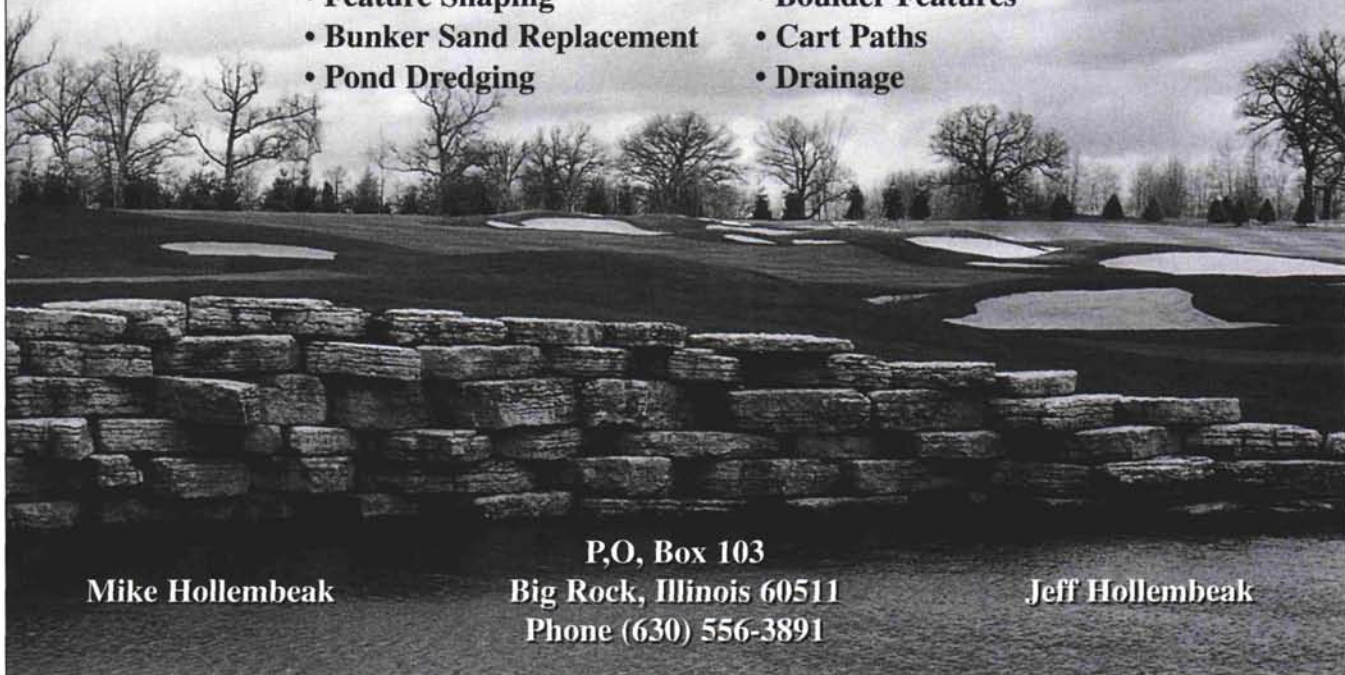
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## **IPM — What Does It Mean?**

*(continued from page 6)*

to maintain healthy turf. Determining methods and materials that have a positive effect on our turf ecosystem is what integrated pest management is all about, or more properly named integrated turf management.

I.P.M. can be equated to the holistic approach to health care; problems are avoided by taking care of the causes of problems, not just treating the symptoms. Effective integrated turf management programs treat the turf in the same manner. Disease, turf loss, and damaging insects are all symptoms of other problems or causes. Just spraying chemicals does not cure a problem; it only treats the symptom. For example, a foliar disease problem is caused by the turf being too wet. The symptom is the disease; the problem is poorly drained turf.

Today more than ever, we (superintendents) are asked to maintain better turf conditions for our customer, with increasing scrutiny of our turf management methods and materials and the cost effectiveness of our programs. The current ideology (or reality) of turf management is to create a “sustainable” resource using one pound less chemical and one pound less fertilizer, meaning more cost effective turf maintenance in both methods and materials. Key to this is the education of the turf manager knowing what is available, options, new methods and materials, and also alternative approaches to problems, thus allowing the superintendent to make the best decision for both the turf and the budget.

In practice, integrated pest management is the decision-making process through which one determines if pest suppression is necessary, what tactic or

combination of tactics are needed, when control should be implemented, or where controls should be targeted.

I.P.M. is a change in the paradigm of traditional old-fashioned fertilizer/chemical turf management to an integrated, multidimensional care for the total ecosystem (not just grass) approach to healthy playable turf.

This leads us into the basic principles of an I.P.M. program. First, one must accept that poten-

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*I.P.M. can be equated to the holistic approach to health care; problems are avoided by taking care of the causes of problems, not just treating the symptoms.*

---

tially harmful pests always exist in the turf environment. Knowing these pests, their lifecycles, and habits allows the turf manager to make control, not eradication, decisions. This is based on the best control that is least harmful to the environment, its cost, effects on nontarget organisms and the fact that low levels of a pest may be good for the natural ecosystem.

Second the ecosystem is a management unit. Fertility, plant type, soils, light, water, tempera-

ture, bacteria, fungi, insects, and cultural practices all make up the very complex ecosystem that we must care for. Knowledge of these factors and their interactions is key to maintaining healthy, playable turf and learning to manipulate these factors to the benefit of the turf and the detriment of plant pests. Along these lines, we seek to maximize the use of natural control agents and beneficial organisms. Superintendents seek to use the least disruptive materials and treat only those areas that require treatment. When using any product for turf care, it is important to keep in mind that any control practice may produce unexpected or undesirable results and that as turf managers, we must stay informed on tactics, problems, options and their consequences. Also, turf management is a unit approach, and there are consequences to any action we take in maintaining the turf.

The final and most important principle of I.P.M. is that turf management is multi-disciplinary. Effective programs utilize all experts available. This includes agronomists, entomologists, plant pathologists, extension agents, sales representatives and fellow superintendents. Its is not always what you know, it's knowing where to get answers to your questions when you need them.

Creating an integrated plant management plan or policy for your turf site, be it a backyard or a golf course, requires the plant manager to have a thorough knowledge of the key plants, key pests, and the key locations in the managed system; also site assessment, what types of grasses (cultivates) are present and their requirements; identifying microclimates (there can be several within a golf course and even within a single hole) and choosing the proper turf type for each par-

*(continued on page 10)*

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## IPM — What Does It Mean?

(continued from page 8)

ticular climate; and understanding these climates and the factors that influence turf quality such as, light (quality and quantity), air movement, soil types, water, humidity, air quality, fertility, cultural practices. Each of these factors can be measured, quantified, and isolated and can affect plant growth and health. Observation of these separate areas and their problems, or lack of, help the turf manager develop a history and allow mapping of problem areas and development of treatment programs for the problem areas. Also, future problems can be prevented or predated by understanding the factors involved and identifying the problems, not just treating the symptoms.

Monitoring, the regular inspection of the turf throughout the site, is key to the success of any good turf program. This includes the entire staff on the golf course, not just the superintendent. We train and educate all of our staff to recognize irregularities in the turf and to alert the management staff for diagnosis and strategies to repair or cure the symptoms that are observed. This approach allows detection of potentially damaging pests, weeds, disease, and adverse environmental conditions before they get out of control and pinpoints problem areas so that timely applications of turf care products can take place. This also allows treatment to occur only in the areas requiring treatment and increases the effectiveness of control materials by being applied when, and as, needed. Also, the effectiveness of a particular treatment can be assessed prior to its use in other areas, allowing comparisons of different control strategies and choosing the best control with the least environmental consequences.

Once a problem has been

detected, the turf manager must go through a decision-making process. Is the problem severe

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enough to cause damage, and is that amount of damage beyond the threshold of our tolerance for damage or customers' expectation

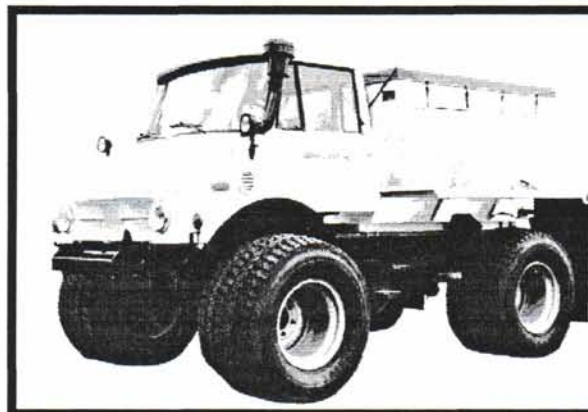
of the turf conditions? If the damage is beyond our tolerance threshold, what is the best control tactic? Is it cultural, chemical, biological, or other? Is this an environmentally sound approach? Are there alternatives that may be less damaging to nontarget organisms, and are they economically sound? Finally, are the problems symptoms of other factors physical, environmental, chemical or other; and what can be done to avoid future problems. Improved drainage, air circulation, sunlight, too much or too little irrigation are all examples of factors that may be manipulated to reduce or eliminate a problem once it has been identified and understood.

The final and most important part of any integrated pest program is the evaluation of your plan, tactics being used, effectiveness of the controls that are being used and the results that have

(continued on page 24)

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