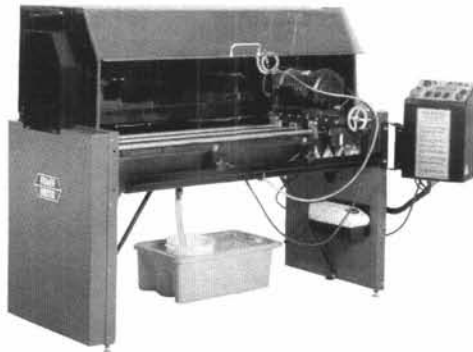




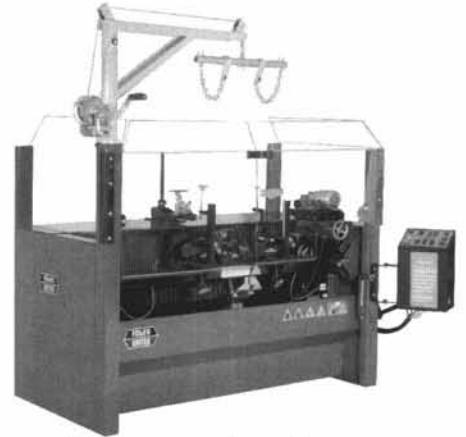
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FRONT COVER

Premier tournaments have graced Chicagoland, and eight MAGCS members actively employed as superintendents have played host. Pictured here (L to R): Ed Fischer, Old Elm Club; Gregg Rosenthal, Kemper Lakes G.C.; Mike Sauls, Butler National G.C.; Dan Quast, Medinah C.C.; Ken Lapp, Cog Hill C.C.; Dave Ward, Olympia Fields C.C. Not pictured: Oscar Miles, The Merit Club; Roger Stewart, TPC@Jasna Polana. (Photo by Bill Ficht)

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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.



The Art of Appreciation

It has truly been an honor and a pleasure serving as your president this past year. Although my life has been extremely busy, I greatly enjoyed the challenge and look forward to providing further contributions to this wonderful Association and its members.

In deciding on a topic for my last message, I did some soul-searching and I realized what makes me tick. It has a lot to do with doing a good job. But it has everything to do with being appreciated for doing a good job.

I was going to use this parting message to inform you all about the Professional Development Initiative (PDI) and other GCSAA news . . . items that were discussed at the delegates meeting I attended in September. Then I reconsidered. Yes, I could take this moment to share the business of the national association, but Steve Mona probably will discuss all of this at the Midwest Turf Clinic. My article would have been a puff piece, and quite frankly I was not motivated to write it. This brought forward the topic of this, my final message as president.

MOTIVATION. What motivates me? What motivates you? I had never really thought about what makes me tick. I make a very comfortable living, and I certainly value the opportunity with which I have been blessed. But if my motivation was all about money, I could survive doing any one of a lot of different careers. Is the key that superintendents have an easy existence? On the contrary, we have no rest for the taking. In fact, we have responsibilities we don't even know we have. A portion of my motivation does come from sheer challenge, whether on the golf course working or playing, or performing family obligations like coaching youth sports. A great individual reward derives from succeeding at goals you personally set.

I had a conversation with Mr. Bob Williams last month, on the occasion of his 86th birthday. Bob is as interested in our profession today as he was when he was a young up-and-coming superintendent. I

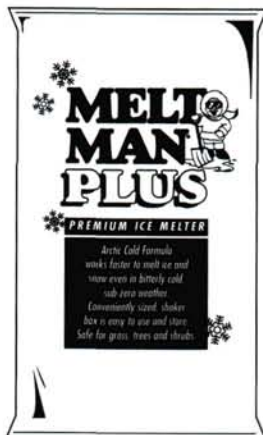
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A Reminder to Our Past Presidents . . . and the Membership at Large

Okay, what's the deal? One of three things happened last spring with the MAGCS past presidents. Either:

The PPC strives to discuss all aspects of MAGCS operations while attempting to look into the future to project the growth and changes with our profession and Association. Both have progressed a long way over the last 10 years, and our Association continues to develop to meet the changing needs of the profession.

- (1) The Association is perfect;
- (2) The meeting timetable for the PPC (Past Presidents Council) conflicted with 95% of the past presidents' plans; or
- (3) The majority of the MAGCS past presidents don't care much any more about the Association they once presided over because there were only four in attendance for the PPC annual meeting.

Thanks to Al Fierst, Mike Bavier and Carl Hopphan, I did not have to host this meeting for just myself. We are all busy people, and although numerous folks have contributed in the past, far too many past presidents have not attended this once-a-year meeting in the years that I have been involved with the Council. At least R.S.V.P., if nothing else. Enough griping—you get the point.

We did, however, have a good meeting last spring on that nice, cool, relaxing, no-stress-on-your-golf-course type-day last June. The PPC strives to discuss all aspects of MAGCS operations while attempting to look into the future to project the growth and changes with our profession and Association. Both have progressed a long way over the last 10 years, and our Association continues to develop to meet the changing needs of the profession.

To advance individually and collectively, though, your input is vital. Too often, members have good ideas that never surface. If you have an idea but choose not to discuss it with a Board member for fear of being asked to actually help implement the idea, give your suggestion to the Past Presidents Council. We would be happy to pass this new idea along, and as past presidents, we don't have to worry about the Board wanting us to help. We have done enough damage in our careers already! Seriously, we are lucky to have so many energetic professionals in our Association willing to work for everyone's benefit. Give them the fuel to build the fire and before long, we will be roasting our marshmallows.





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ZPP-TRF-020

Gray Leaf Spot: What Do We Really Know?

Where Will It Go Next?

In 1991, gray leaf spot on perennial ryegrass was first reported in Pennsylvania. By 1998, it had spread from Vermont and the Carolinas to Kansas and Iowa. The disease reduced stands of perennial ryegrass on golf courses and athletic fields. This was of concern to turf managers because of the extensive damage that can occur within 48 to 72 hours. In 1999, we had a reprieve from the disease because of drier conditions in regions where we usually see it. The few cases that were reported occurred in areas north of where we had previously seen the disease. In Illinois, we saw the disease near Rockford and the Quad Cities where cooler, moist conditions prevailed. Even in inoculated field trials, researchers had trouble creating infection. In the year 2000, disease incidence has been isolated, but sometimes severe. While limited disease has occurred in central Illinois and Pennsylvania, spread of infection has likely been controlled by fungicide application.

Current research and observations have revealed the behavior of this fungus to be quite different from what we previously thought.

It's Not What We Thought

Current research and observations have revealed the behavior of this fungus to be quite different from what we previously thought. In the past, our research showed hot weather associated with continuous leaf wetness and warm nights were required for infection. Now, it appears that hot days with warm evenings may NOT be necessary for infection, and areas with good air circulation may be more susceptible than expected. **Warm, wet** conditions commonly associated with low-pressure systems allow vegetative fungal growth. Then, a high-pressure system brings **dry** air with north winds, inciting production and dispersal of spores. Spore production can be associated with either cool or warm temperatures. **Dew** formation allows spore germination creating extensive **infection**. Fungi thriving on the dew can subsequently be **spread** to other plants by mowing and other traffic. Because of the drying step in the process, open areas with good air circulation may be more susceptible to disease than we used to think. Observations from golf courses indicate further spread by aeration and overseeding is possible. Previous research shows seedlings to be much more susceptible to disease than mature stands.

(continued on page 8)

Table 1.
**Top 10 List for
 Gray Leaf Spot Control**

10. Use a disease forecasting model to time fungicide applications (this may be available in the next year or two).
9. Catch clippings and deposit away from areas where damage commonly occurs.
8. Seed roughs with Kentucky bluegrass, especially the north side of fairways.
7. If possible, treat immediate roughs with fungicides.
6. More water is better in this case. Use the highest labeled recommendation of water when applying fungicides.
5. Don't over-apply nitrogen.
4. Avoid excessive watering when temperatures are warm; this favors fungal growth.
3. Use a rotation schedule for fungicide applications (do not use the same active ingredient back-to-back).
2. Again, ROTATE FUNGICIDES: we have to make them last.
1. Use resistant varieties (they are not available, yet; we're working on it).

Current Ideas For Control

Control of gray leaf spot continues to be difficult. Preventative means opposed to curative means is still the best way to avoid devastation to a stand of grass. Cultural practices in combination with fungicide applications can decrease the risk of gray leaf spot infection. Currently, fungicides are the most effective means to control this disease. There are several things to consider for ensuring proper application of these products:

- which fungicides to apply;
- when to apply them; and
- how to apply them.

The most effective fungicides should be applied when disease occurrence is most probable. Then, rotate to a product with a different mode of action. This should be followed again by the most effective product in the next rotation. Continue to apply this rotation schedule through aerification and overseeding. Apply these fungicides using the highest labeled recommendation of water to insure complete coverage and penetration into the canopy and plant debris.

Along with fungicides, other measures of control exist that may reduce disease incidence.

Irrigation

Because of the relationship between gray leaf spot and water

availability, strategic timing of irrigation is important. Vegetative growth of the fungus is favored by leaf wetness when temperatures are warm. Early morning watering during cooler temperatures discourages fungal growth and infection. This practice also removes dew, which is a nutritious resource for fungal growth. Syringing should not be excessive to promote fungal growth during the warmest hours of the day.

Roughs

Fungicide-treated fairways may develop disease when untreated roughs produce an overwhelming amount of inoculum. If possible, apply fungicides to immediate roughs seeded with perennial ryegrass. Another option would be to seed roughs with Kentucky bluegrass, especially on the north side of fairways.

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Forecasting

While not currently available, researchers at Pennsylvania State University are working on a forecasting model to predict disease occurrence. Preliminary models have fit well with the timing of gray leaf spot infection. More precise timing of fungicide application will reduce costs by allowing application only when an increased risk of disease is predicted.

Host plant resistance is still the best possible means of control. However, varieties resistant to gray leaf spot are not currently available. Researchers at the University of Illinois and elsewhere are working to find resistance in order to develop new varieties. We have already identified collections that are more resistant and expect to isolate this resistance in the near future.

For more information:

The Chemical Control of Turfgrass Diseases 2000 (by Vincelli & Powell, University of Kentucky), available at <http://www.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/ppa/ppa1/ppa1.htm>.

Uddin, W., Burpee, L. L., Stevenson, K. L. 1999. Influence of temperature, leaf wetness duration, and turfgrass age on development of blast disease (gray leaf spot) of *Festuca arundinacea*. Pages 136-141. Proc. 5th Intl. Conf. Plant Prot. Trop. Symp. Kuala Lumpur.

Randy Kane—Chicago District Golf Association.

Hank Wilkinson, Andy Hamblin, Nicolle Hofmann—University of Illinois.



Table 2.
It is important to know the mode of action when rotating fungicides.

FUNGICIDE	SITES OF ACTION	MODE OF ACTION	RISK OF RESISTANCE
Azoxystrobin	Single	Systemic: disrupts electron transport	Moderately high
Chlorothalonil	Multiple	Contact: inhibits sulfur-containing enzymes	Low
Propiconazole	Single	Systemic: inhibits sterol biosynthesis	High
Thiophanate-methyl	Single	Systemic: inhibits mitosis	High
Trifloxystrobin	Single	Mesostemic: inhibits mitochondrial respiration	Unknown



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MAGCS on Tour

Oscar Miles, Dan Quast, Ken Lapp, Ed Fischer, Dave Ward, Gregg Rosenthal, Mike Sauls and Roger Stewart . . . what do these luminaries of our profession have in common? Major tournaments.

In recent years, many premier golf tournaments have visited or resided at various Chicago-area venues. The Western Open, the PGA Championship and the U.S. Women's Open are but a sampling. Here, a profile of eight MAGCS members still presently employed as superintendents who have played host to these events . . . and earned recognition and respect for our profession.

Chicagoland has been blessed to host a number of premier tournaments over the past few years. All of the above superintendents have set a high standard to bring their golf courses, and our vocation, the utmost recognition and reward. The following is a brief history of our famous "eightsome," as well as some of their insights that perhaps you can use at your own golf course.

Oscar Miles has worked in the Chicago area for about 30 years (except for several years in Indianapolis). He has hosted the Western Open 12 times—twice at Olympia Fields C.C. and 10 times at Butler National G.C. In 1990, Oscar started working at The Merit Club and soon thereafter, began preparing the course to host a major tournament: the 2000 U.S. Women's Open.

Now at Old Elm Club, Ed Fischer was at Butler National during the 1970s. Ed hosted the first Western Open in 1974 on a very young Butler facility and brought the club into the limelight. Ed proceeded to oversee the next six Western Open events.

Mike Sauls joined Butler National G.C. in 1990 and hosted the Western Open that year. Prior to that, he had two years' experience hosting the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am.

Ken Lapp has been at Cog Hill G.C. for 27 years. In 1991, when the Western Open moved from Butler National to Cog Hill, Ken was ready. The Western Open has been at Cog Hill for 10 years and will be there for another 10. Congratulations, Ken!

In 1989, Dan Quast left Milwaukee C.C. to take the reins at Medinah C.C. In 1990, Dan hosted the U.S. Open; in 1999, he hosted the PGA Championship.

Dave Ward has been at Olympia Fields C.C. since 1990. Having successfully hosted the U.S. Senior Open, Dave is now getting his course ready for the U.S. Open in 2003.

Kemper Lakes G.C. has been under Gregg Rosenthal's leadership since 1998. Gregg has hosted the Ameritech Senior Open for

(continued on page 12)