

## Pythium and Crabgrass Get in Their Dirty Work

It all happened in the span between July 25 and August 29. Within that stretch, Chicago golfers, a huge majority of them private club members, have found their courses ravaged almost overnight. Pythium and Crabgrass were the chief offenders, concentrating their onslaughts on fairways and roughs. Pythium is a surface fungus growth, colonizing in a cottony mold among the webs of dew. Crabgrass? Just a bad boy liable to run wild in golf grass at any time, but especially in hot, humid weather.

"The heat and humidity set up the whole epidemic," allowed Gerber, now celebrating his 20th year as Glen Oak's course superintendent. "Gordon and Bob and I made a tour of seven north side courses—Glen View, North Shore, Sunset Ridge, Northmoor, Westmoreland, Bob O'Link, and Park Ridge—on Monday, July 25. Everything seemed O.K. that day. Next day, trouble busted out all over the district and kept on going until that big overnight rain we had on Monday, August 29."

## Was It Hot! Temperature in July Averaged Cool 91.5

"Know what the average maximum daily temperature for July was?" interrupted Beverly Country Club's Williams, one of the most astute greens men in the game. "It was 91.5 degrees, and the humidity darn near matched it! Nineteen July days of 90 or more set a weather bureau record for a single month. The 24-hour July average [day-and-night] of 81.3 was another new high for the 84-year bureau's book. Soil temperature at a depth of four inches was 86 degrees during this session!"

"It was a real fight during that spell," said Brinkworth, who is leaving Brookwood after three years to become Olympia Fields' new course superintendent. "All of us on the west side were hurt when Salt Creek dried up. Clubs like Brookwood, Elmhurst, Itasca, Elmhurst and Nordic Hills, Medinah, with its Lake Kadajah, escaped this beating to some extent. Then the pumps broke down at Beverly and Brookwood. I was out with my watering crews as late as 1 a.m. And Ray here even syringed [hand-

watered] his Glen Oak greens in the middle of some of those days to protect them."

## Effects of 1955 Won't Be Erased Until May 30, 1956

"What's the future of these Chicago district courses?" Elmer Dubb, the noted week-end hacker, asked. "Have you guys got the situation in control, after this whipping you've taken?"

"Well, son, we'll tell you—," chorused Gerber, Williams, and Brinkworth.

1. Courses are gradually regaining health, thanks to the recent pleasant weather. You can't beat City Hall nor Mother Nature. Course superintendents must follow, thru mid-September, regular renovating procedures of aeration, seeding, and fertilizing.
2. It is agreed among members of the Midwest G.C.S.A. that the effects of this season's 35-day punishment will not be completely erased until next Memorial Day.
3. New seeding presents biggest problem of all. Seeded bents like Seaside, Astoria, and Colonial are at a premium, having been grabbed up in the recent panic.
4. Around-the-clock vigilance by superintendents must continue to avert another attack of hot weather similar to 1953, when excessive temperatures prevailed almost thru the month of September.
5. The loss in this disastrous July-August spell has not been in dollars and cents, but in the patience of members and course employees. Unthinking members who are too quick to criticize an unavoidable condition like the current one forget the \$100,000 that is spent annually on turf research. Fruits of that painstaking fight against golf grass diseases may not be evident for another 25 years. As a speaker at last winter's national convention of golf course superintendents said:

"Why are golfers down on things they're not up on?"

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during said period.

**DENNIS  
DOLLAR SPOT**,  
can be recognized by  
freckled fairway grasses  
resembling measles spots.

**BIG BROWN PATCH**,  
known for the wide,  
smoky circles he leaves  
after raids.

**ALGERNON ALGAE**,  
does his worst under  
conditions of too much  
moisture, like overwater-  
ing or excessive rains on  
poorly irrigated courses.

**CLARENCE  
CRABGRASS**,  
notorious bully and  
contributor to delinquency  
of all young golf grasses.

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## MIDWEST PERSONALITIES



Name: **Michael Bavier, Jr.**, Deerfield Golf Club  
 Job title: **Superintendent**  
 Date of birth: **March 11, 1970**  
 Place of birth: **Harvey, IL**  
 Current residence: **Buffalo Grove, IL**  
 MAGCS member since: **1995**  
 College/degree: **B.A. in Psychology, B.S. in Criminal Justice from North Carolina Wesleyan College; Associate's degree in Turfgrass Management from North Carolina State**  
 My favorite childhood memory is: **Family vacations to Disney World and playing sports.**  
 My personal hero: **My father—a hard-working individual on and off the golf course. He has helped me through many of life's challenges.**  
 My professional mentors: **Peter Leuzinger, Paul Voykin, Mike Bavier**  
 Favorite actor: **Al Pacino**  
 Favorite musical performer: **Collective Soul**  
 Favorite restaurant: **Wildfire**  
 Favorite "pigout" food: **Babyback ribs**  
 Favorite professional sports team: **Minnesota Vikings and Chicago White Sox**  
 Favorite pro athlete: **Dante Culpepper**  
 Favorite pro golfer: **Phil Mickelson**  
 My handicap index: **12**  
 My favorite place to play golf is: **Tara Country Club in Bradenton, FL**  
 My best/most memorable round ever: **Playing at Kapalua, Hawaii. The scenery was beautiful.**  
 The most interesting/exotic place I've ever traveled: **Quepos, Costa Rica**  
 The book I've been recommending lately: ***Transfer of Power* by Vince Flynn**  
 The last great movie I saw: ***Blackhawk Down***  
 Favorite TV show: ***Seinfeld***  
 Favorite color: **Green and red**  
 In my spare time, I enjoy: **Spending time with my girlfriend, running/working out, playing golf, traveling.**  
 Three words that describe me: **Diligent, amicable, laid back.**  
 What I enjoy most about my job: **Turning an "eyesore" on the course into something beautiful. I also enjoy my relationship with my crew.**  
 What I dislike about my job: **I'm somewhat of a perfectionist, so I have a hard time dealing with golfers who don't respect the golf course, i.e., not fixing divots or ball marks.**  
 I'm a Midwest member because: **The Association exemplifies professionalism, something I strive for on a daily basis.**



Name: **Tony Frandria**, Glen View Club  
 Job title: **Assistant superintendent**  
 Date of birth: **January 25, 1971**  
 Place of birth: **Chicago**  
 Current residence: **Darien, IL**  
 Spouse: **Engaged to be married September 1, 2002**  
 MAGCS member since: **1993**  
 College/degree: **Penn State**  
 My favorite childhood memory is: **When I was 12 years old, I hit a game-winning grand slam to win an all-star baseball game.**  
 My personal hero: **Old Tom Morris.**  
 My professional mentors: **Dave Behrman, Jeff Leuzinger, Jay Druhan**  
 Favorite actor: **Robert DeNiro**  
 Favorite musical performer: **U2**  
 Favorite restaurant: **Bob Chinn's Crabhouse**  
 Favorite "pigout" food: **Lou Malnati's pizza**  
 Favorite professional sports team: **Chicago Cubs**  
 Favorite pro athlete: **Jason Kidd**  
 Favorite pro golfer: **Phil Mickelson**  
 My favorite place to play golf: **Glen View Club**  
 My handicap index: **Way too high!**  
 My best/most memorable round ever: **TPC at Sawgrass because I made a birdie on the no. 17 island green.**  
 The most interesting/exotic place I've ever traveled: **Maui, Hawaii**  
 The book I've been recommending lately: ***Keepers of the Green* by Gordon Witteven**  
 The last great movie I saw: ***Panic Room***  
 Favorite TV show: ***Six Feet Under, The Sopranos***  
 Favorite color: **Blue**  
 In my spare time, I enjoy: **Spending time with my fiancé.**  
 Three words that describe me: **Dedicated, dedicated, dedicated!**  
 What I enjoy most about my job: **The fact that I am learning something new everyday that will allow me to become a quality superintendent.**  
 What I dislike about my job: **Plowing snow!**  
 I'm a Midwest member because: **Being a member allows me to network with my peers.**





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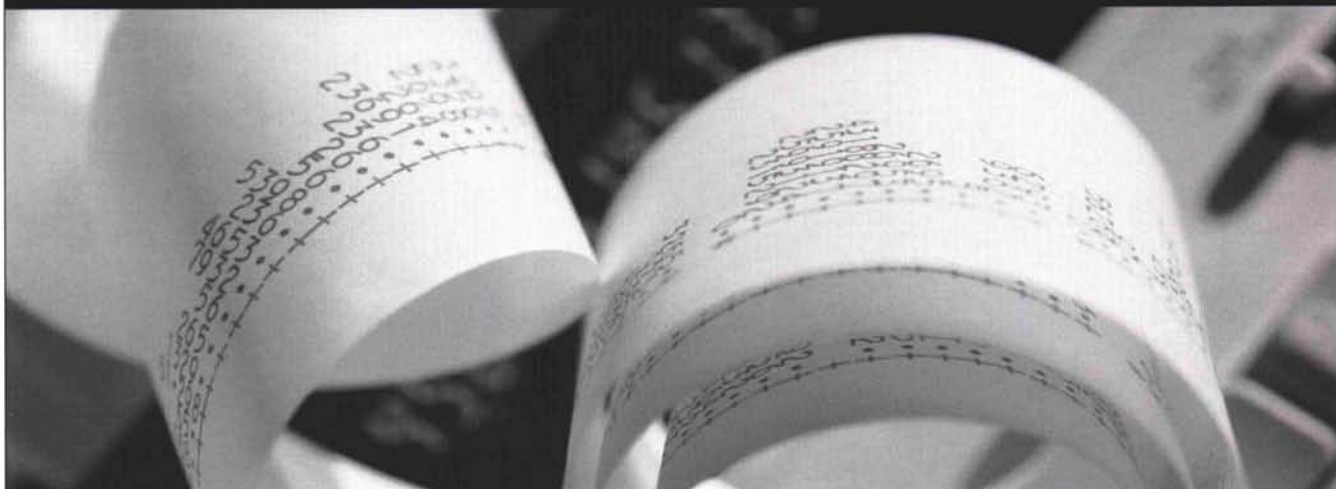
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