

Q: How do you make it snow in Chicagoland?

A: Hold the Illinois Professional Turfgrass Conference.

The Pheasant Run Resort was the place, and December 5th through 7th was the date, and as usual we received our first taste of winter during the proceedings. Word from the trade show floor was very positive, and despite the weather, attendance was up. Kudos to the person or persons who decided to put the lounge area on the show floor—it was a great venue for wheeling and dealing, and you certainly couldn't complain about the price of a beer!



Tim Johnson proves for once and for all that you CAN operate a greens roller with one hand.



Paul Bastron spiffies up the Rabine paving booth with his good looks.

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The education programs were all top-rate as well, offering a WIDE variety of topics and speakers from all walks of Green Industry life. Thursday evening's Hospitality Reception sponsored by **Chicagoland Turf** and **Bayer Environmental Science** was a big hit as well, featuring food, drink, cards,

Bears football (if that is an appropriate name for it), and even an impromptu eating contest involving several of MAGCS' most famous chow hounds. Competitors be advised—Sharon has ordered 15,000 hot dogs and 1,750 crab cakes for the hospitality suite in Orlando, so start preparing now.



*"Nobody ever eat fifty crabcakes."
Chris Plumb and Kevin DeRoo tried to best each other.*



Brian Baker serves up a couple of plates to the contestants.

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Congratulations to **Don Cross, CGCS** (Skokie CC) on winning the raffle conducted by Prime Turf at the IPTC last month. For dropping his card in the bucket, Don walked away with a brand new I-Phone. Luckily Don has all winter to figure out all the stuff he can do with it. **-OC**
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I Like Grass

I really like grass. My wife would say I love grass but I married her instead.

No this isn't a confession to police, it is the truth. I like turfgrass and everything about it. I like the look, the smell, the feel and the science behind grass. If you read this column every month (bless you) you learned a few issues ago that I even know a few things about grass in literature. Though I do not grow grass for a living anymore, I just talk about it a lot and write about it even more. After pondering my life and grass, I realized I wasn't listening to enough music about grass. I decided to go on a quest to fill my MP3 player with as much grass related music as it could handle. You might think this would be easy, but as I quickly found out, I had to come up with my own definition of grass. I surmised that the word "grass" must be a lyric and furthermore, I must be 51 percent certain that the artist and I are thinking about the same type of grass. A problem I quickly found...bluegrass music; well not so much the music, but the inclination of its practitioners to use that word in the song and in the title and the band name. Therefore, I threw out bluegrass music. It made my quest too confusing, and I started having visions of drinking moonshine in woods in overalls in which I never was wearing anything on my feet.

Of course there are favorites such as "Green Grass of Home" first made popular by Porter Wagoner and later recorded by everyone. I chose the throw your panties on the stage rendition by Tom Jones. It has a seventies sound that can not be beat.

There are many country songs that contain "grass". One of my favorites is "Where the Green Grass Grows" by Tim McGraw. It basically tells my life story in a nut shell except my rocking chair points to the northeast and not west as Tim suggests. The tale is about a boy raised in small town who leaves for big city and discovers he would rather be in the small town.

"The Grass is Green" by Nelly Furtado is a modern song that your kids might actually already own. Though, if you are into something with an actual beat try Xtc's "Grass". With the opening line, "Laying on the grass my heart it flares like fire" - you are hooked right from the get go. This one is right at that 51 percent mark. We can all understand what James Taylor is crooning about in "September Grass". After a long summer, haven't we all longed for someone to lie in the grass with?

The tale is about a boy raised in small town who leaves for big city and discovers he would rather be in the small town.

Feel like a good cry? Of course you do. Try Tom Waits' "Green Grass".

All of these have grass in the title. If you think this exhausts the list you are wrong. I won't even get into folk favorites like "The Green Grass Grew All Around", it certainly gives people the wrong idea about the difficulty of tending to turf.

Here are a few more!

- "Whose Gonna Mow Your Grass" (great song for your board) by Buck Owens
- "Whisper Grass" (I'm sure it stimps a 20) by Elbow
- "Buffalo Grass" (he is actually talking about Buchloe dactyloides as a metaphor for love!) by Todd Rundgren
- "Leaves of Grass" by Gordon Lightfoot
- "Night of the Long Grass" (it is no "Wild Thing") by The Troggs
- "The Other Man's Grass is Always Greener" (don't get to paranoid about it) by Petula Clark
- "Rings of Grass" (maybe you should call Dr. Settle about this one) by Dr. Hook & The Medicine Show
- "Grass is Blue" (I've seen it and it isn't pretty but if you put some water on it things will get better) by Dolly Parton
- "Green than the Grass (we laid on)" by David Allan Coe
- "And the Grass Won't Pay No Mind" (isn't that a fact) by Elvis Presley
- "The Grass Keeps Right On Growin'" by Perry Como

These songs so far all have grass in the title. If you dig deeper and look for all the songs that mention grass, as is my quest...well you end up writing an article about it. I found 2353 songs and I will list them all now. Just kidding, but I will share some of the best so you can save time when you want to put them on your own MP3 player. Mind you, all of the songs are grass songs. If I include the word lawn in my quest I end up with another load of songs and another topic for my column.

Lyric most often heard board meetings:

"The grass was yellow that should have been green."

by Stroke 9-"Visualize"

Best explanation why the grass at the end of your cart path always dies:

"Grass doesn't grow on a busy sidewalk."

by Grinspoon-"Violent and Lazy"

Best / worst possible image:

"I like the way the grass feels between my toes running naked through the woods with you babe."

by The Why Store-"When You're High"

Best explanation of what a golf course superintendent can do:

"Navigatin' grass blades completely by feel"

by The Presidents of the United States of America-

"Dune Buggy"

What we hope all white grub producing beetles are not doing:

"Making love in the green grass"

By Van Morrison-Brown Eyed Girl

Did I miss one of your favorites? Is there a great grass song that every MAGCS member should know about? Let us know. Put it on the Forum on the website. Finally I will let you all know my favorite grass song of all time. I've referred to it in a previous column "Grazin' in the Grass" by Friends of Distinction has to be the one that will stick in my head all day. Can you dig it? **-OC**

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