



The Bull Sheet

Official Bulletin

Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents



FRANK MUSBACH
Superintendent
Blue Mound Country Club
Our Host

**THE SEPTEMBER MEETING
JOINT MEETING OF THE WISCONSIN—
MIDWEST GOLF COURSE SUPT. ASS'N.**

**BLUE MOUND COUNTRY CLUB
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN**

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1960

GOLF — DINNER

Tuesday, September 27, 1960

O. J. NOER DAY

*Olympia Fields Country Club
Supt. Warren Bidwell, Our Host*

THE BULL SHEET, official publication of THE MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS.

BERT H. ROST, *Editor*,
Midwest Rd. Nr. 31st Street
Hinsdale, Illinois

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our August meeting of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Supt's was held at the Barrington Hills Country Club. I am happy to say that we had the largest attendance so far this season. One hundred and ten attended and 73 played Golf. It was a very nice day for golf and those who played commented on the wonderful lay-out of this course. Much credit must be given to our host Supt. Bill Brady who had things in very nice shape. Many prizes were won by some of our "sharp shooters" and we do have quite a number of them.

Ted Woehrle our program chairman introduced Jim Holmes who is with the U.S.G.A. Mr. Holmes had a very interesting talk and I'm sure it was enjoyed by everyone. Also another special guest was Mr. Henry Martin sports writer for the Chicago Tribune.

I recently received a letter from Dave Mastroleo who as you probably know, is Supt. of a 36 hole course near Culver City, Calif. He says he is enjoying both his job and California very much and made quite a bit of headway with the course and at present has 27 men working for him. He says May was their biggest month — 19,000 golfers on his course. More than \$53,000 greens fees was taken in. They average 12,000 golfers a month, year around. That surely is a lot of traffic for any golf course. Dave says "Hello" to everyone. At this writing, his parents are contemplating visiting him and are leaving by jet plane for a 4 week vacation. Have a good trip Frank and Mrs.

In a letter from Bob Mueller, Supt. of Country Club of Indianapolis, Ind., he says he had read with concern our recent message in the "Bull Sheet" in regards to loss of elm trees in the Chicago area. He was a former Evanston resident but has been Supt. at this Club for 4½ yrs. He says in 2 yrs. time their elm trees will be gone completely. We always welcome letters and suggestions from other area Supts. Bob says — "Let's not get caught with our 'branches down' ". He has started a tree nursery for replacements.

The next meeting will be our joint meeting with the Wisconsin group — date set for September 20. Date will be confirmed later. Place—Blue Mound Country Club near Milwaukee.

Sincerely, Emil Cassier, President

MIDWEST TURF FIELD DAYS

Thursday & Friday, September 15 & 16, 1960
9:30 A.M. Assemble on experimental potting green - South Campus, Purdue (3 blocks west, 1 block south of Union Building); Creeping bentgrass varieties - W. H. Daniel; Nitrogen fertility - 5 year final report

- W. H. Daniel; Micro-climate studies and biochemical plant responses: A summary - James Beard; Prescription rootzone mixture studies - Bob Montgomery.
10:20 A.M. Drive four blocks west and one south; Crabgrass prevention - nine different tests - Robert Seager; Crabgrass killing - three tests - W. H. Daniel.
11:20 A.M. Drive east on State Street into Lafayette to Ninth Street, turn south, go 15 blocks to Lafayette Country Club. Park in lot bumper to bumper.
Poa annua and crabgrass control - bluegrass filled in. Zoysia planting and use in fairways - Earl Dowell.
12:20 P.M. Lunch - any place. Suggestions: Lafayette, Cafeteria - Palms - near 6th & Main; Cafeteria - Jerry's - Market Square; Cafeteria - Union Building - Campus; Van Orman-Fowler - 4th & Ferry.
On By-Pass — The Flame - Union & By-Pass; Howard Johnsons - By-Pass; Sarge Biltz - Hy. 25 & 52, N.W.; Cedar Crest - By-Pass; Morris Bryant - Hy. 52, N.W.
1:45 P.M. Assemble at Agronomy Farm, 7 miles N.W. Highway 52. Please register on arrival - Kaye House. Bluegrass selections - Results of heavy nitrogen use; Zoysia selections - Response of turf to mixed fertilizers; Athletic field mixtures - Selective grass killing in renovation.
3:30 P.M. Close program. Group discussion for those interested.

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Cut these months into thirty or thirty-one equal parts. This batch will keep for just one year. Do not attempt to make up the whole batch at one time (so many people spoil the entire lot in this way), but prepare one day at a time, as follows:

Into each day put twelve parts of faith, eleven parts of patience, ten of courage, nine of work (some people omit this ingredient and so spoil the flavor of the rest), eight parts of hope, seven of fidelity, six of liberality, five of kindness, four of rest, three parts of prayer, two of meditation, and one well-selected resolution.

Then add about a teaspoonful of good spirits, a dash of fun, a pinch of folly, a sprinkling of play, and a cupful of good humor.

Pour into the whole, love unbounded, and mix with vim. Cook thoroughly in a fervent heat; garnish with a few smiles; serve with unselfishness, and cheerfulness and success is a certainty.

(Reprinted through courtesy of "Our Collaborator")


CLIPPINGS —

Charles Shiley, Blue Mound Country Club, Milwaukee, informs us that they received 11¾ inches of rain from July 25th to Aug. 14th, also that he is building a new home which he expects to occupy about Sept. 1st.

Marvin Gruening, Supt. at the Midwest Country Club, is busy building a lake, several greens and tees.

Several Clubs are scheduled to install new or modernize their existing systems this fall or winter. These include Barrington Hills, Hinsdale, Ravisloe, Chicago Golf, and Edgewater Country Clubs.

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There are about 1,000,000 earthquakes a year. *** 29% of the world's surface is land. *** Pres. James Madison weighed 100 lbs.—Pres. Taft 354 lbs. *** Scotland has the lowest murder rate. *** The U.S. Library of Congress is the world's largest—over 33,000,000 items. *** Waves as high as 112 ft. have been recorded. *** Bamboo grows as much as 16 in. a day. *** Orchid seeds average 35,000,000 an ounce. *** Shorthand dates back to 63 B.C. *** Odds against 13 cards of one suit are 15,758,389,000 to one.

"WASTING TIME"

Don't waste time in feeling sorry . . . For the way you fare in life . . . Self-pity is a stepping stone . . . That leads to steeper hills of strife . . . Don't waste time in wishful thinking . . . Wishing is a dreamer's tool . . . Turn your wishing into working . . . and you'll never play the fool . . . Don't waste time hating others . . . Hate is life's most ugly weed . . . Those who hate breed discontentment . . . Causing many hearts to bleed . . . Don't waste time in foolish efforts . . . think before you make a move . . . In this way you'll be a winner . . . When you have a point to prove . . . Life is just a brief adventure . . . Prelude to a life sublime . . . Many are the sins of mankind . . . A great sin is wasting time.

PROBLEMS OF TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT CREATED BY EXCESSIVE RAINFALL

Dr. J. R. Watson, Jr.

The annual distribution of rainfall plays a major role in turfgrass care and management. The ideal situation with regard to annual rainfall would be periodic rains of a gentle soaking nature. Seldom, if ever, does Mother Nature cooperate to this extent. The average rainfall for a given area may remain more or less constant, but the distribution as well as the intensity varies from year to year, and particularly from season to season. It is the seasonal variation in intensity and distribution that creates problems for the Golf Course Superintendent. He must continually adjust his management practices to fit the prevailing weather conditions. The

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techniques employed to counteract the adversities of weather, whether they be drought or excessive rainfall, will to a large extent influence the quality of golf course turfgrass. There will be certain conditions brought on by adverse weather over which the Superintendent will have no control; there will be others which would create special problems, providing adequate materials, equipment and facilities were available. In many instances, however, the Superintendent will be able to counteract the adversities and prevent serious damage to his course. Careful planning and programming based on the facilities available to him, as well as a knowledge of the special features and conditions on the course, will enable the Golf Course Superintendent to produce satisfactory turfgrass in spite of adverse weather conditions.

Excessive rainfall may be classified into two categories: (1) frequent rains, mostly of low to medium intensity; and (2) floods, whether arising from prolonged rainfall or from heavy intense rains of relative short duration. For convenience, the problems associated with these two conditions may be discussed from the standpoint, of the effect they have on (1) Soil; (2) Growth.

Soil. The most obvious condition created by excess rainfall is that associated with drainage—both surface and internal. Surface drainage is the most rapid and effective means of removing excess water. When the soil is saturated from continuous rainfall and the topography is such that water does not move off rapidly, then the excess water will accumulate in the low areas. If the water remains "ponded" for too long a period, turfgrass will be destroyed. The length of time water may remain ponded without killing the grass is a function of the temperature and the species of grass. High temperatures will cause severe damage in a very short period of

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time, whereas if the temperatures are cool the grass will survive for a longer period. *Poa Annua* appears to be quite susceptible to damage from ponded water, while bentgrass is more tolerant.

Surface runoff may cause washouts and severe erosion, especially on newly seeded areas or on steep slopes with thin cover. Floods, particularly along rivers and streams, often leave heavy deposits of silt which may destroy the turf and leave layers that would create future problems. Heavy silt deposits often must be removed in order to restore the flooded area for play.

Heavy slowly permeable soils, when subjected to frequent and prolonged rainfall, become saturated and may remain at or near this level of soil moisture for extended periods. Under such conditions there will be a deficiency of oxygen and a build-up of reduced compounds which are toxic to turfgrass.

Iron chlorosis will be quite prevalent under these conditions. Spraying of iron sulfate or chelated iron compounds during these periods will be most beneficial.

Desiccation—wilt—is more likely to occur when internal drainage is poor and it may become necessary to syringe turf frequently in spite of the fact that the soil may be at or near the saturation point. This is especially true if temperatures or wind movement are high.

One of the more serious and direct effects of excessive rainfall on soil is structural deterioration. This may result from the beating action of the raindrops, or from the traffic—both player and equipment—to which the area is subjected. Permanent rutting and footprinting is likely to occur if the wet soil is subjected to traffic during these periods.

Spike disking of greens during the summer months will do much to offset some of these adverse effects. Spiking is recommended over aeration during the summer because of the reduced growth activity of cool season grasses during the summer.

Growth. The prevailing temperature and the fertility level of the soil also must be considered in a discussion of the effects of excess rainfall on growth activity.

Prolonged rainfall will tend to extend the spring-like growth of turfgrass if the temperatures are moderate. Such conditions result in a soft succulent turfgrass that is easily damaged by traffic (has poor wearability) and which is more susceptible to attacks by disease and insects. These factors weaken the permanent turfgrass and open them up for weed invasion. Sudden "hot spells" during such periods intensify these situations and may prove disastrous.

Courses subjected to heavy play will suffer to a greater extent than those with light traffic. The frequency of fertilizer applications, especially of nitrogen, will have to be increased to offset that utilized for the additional growth, as well as that lost by leaching.

From the standpoint of disease incidence, it is well to remember that the effectiveness of fungicides may be reduced by heavy rainfall. More frequent applications may be necessary and the use of a wetting or "sticking" agent is recommended. Algae and fairy ring activity will be greater. (Fairy rings appear to have been especially noticeable this season. Dr. Rowell of the University of Minnesota has suggested the use of cadmium compounds for this disease. He suggests drenching the active area with a solution four or five times as strong as the normal rate.)

Annual weed growth, especially grasses such as crab, barnyard, pigeon foxtail, etc., as well as clover, chickweed and knotweed will be much greater during wet rainy seasons. Chemical treatment of these weeds with the appropriate herbicide will aid materially in controlling their increase.

For sterilizing areas to be replanted, Methyl bromide and Vapam are suggested.

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