



The Bull Sheet

Official Bulletin

Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents



TONY MEYER
Superintendent

JULY MEETING

WOODRIDGE COUNTRY CLUB

TUESDAY, JULY 7, 1964

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM:

PANEL ON IRRIGATION

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

TED WOHRLE, Editor,
8700 So. Western Avenue
Chicago 20, Illinois

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The President's Message

The Illusive Achievement —

Pleasing everyone is such a rare and illusive achievement for an individual or company that the impossibility of succeeding is almost a foregone conclusion. Although the odds are tremendous, if success is to be achieved in this delicate field of human relations, chances are it will come from the efforts expended in trying. In a broad sense, the challenge of attempting such a feat is the motivating force behind individuals and companies whose aim is directed toward going farther than average in the exploration of the theory that IT CAN BE DONE.

What are the rewards? Why is this pleasing so important? When an individual or a company set about to favorably impress as many of their fellowmen or customers as possible, an atmosphere of pleasanry is created that is conducive to bringing out the best that is in us. The resultant good feeling or good will is vital to the individual or collective success, an aesthetic value as important as tangible goods or a sizable increase on the pay check. Sincerity in attitude in our efforts to please others is an important virtue. Anything short of this has a hollow ring and is usually detectable.

Success in pleasing others certainly cannot be measured solely on the basis of monetary returns, as commonly thought of in dealing with the disposal of commodity goods. There are many thousands of business men whose varied talents and efforts are spent through the service organizations in bringing comfort and pleasure to those less fortunate. Surely such service to please one's fellowmen has its own rewards

Golf has a certain unique place in the field of outdoor recreation. It provides the opportunity for man to enjoy the closeness of Nature and to rejuvenate his physical well being while stimulating his alertness to greater accomplishments that may lie ahead. Like any other group in our society, the membership of a golfing club is made up of all kinds of people—some considerate while others quite inconsiderate. We who are professionals at raising grass for his golfing

pleasures must certainly be aware that it isn't always possible to come up with a particular set of playing conditions which will meet the specific ideas of each and every member. Try as we may to please, sometimes it becomes necessary for the superintendent to consider the requirements of the grass first and the wishes of the players secondly. When the line becomes rather tight and we cannot please with deeds then the next best thing is an attempt to please with facts in making our explanations. When tact and diplomacy are practiced we have the satisfaction of knowing that the last avenue of attempting to please others has been used. The final evaluation of our efforts must be left for others to judge. Sometimes we know only that we have tried to achieve the illusive—the pleasing of everyone.

—Warren Bidwell

To the June Graduate

My son stands at what the poets call
The threshold of his life—
So young, so soon to have to choose
His work, his home, his wife.
Ah, could I but communicate
What life's taught me, and how,
(I'll bet he'd be lots worse confused
Than what he is right now.)

—Herbert Farfel.

JUNE MEETING

A good time was had by all —

Tuesday June 9th found the sun out and the temperature in the upper 80's. The winds were from the west at 20 mph. The skies looked like rain but it never came.

Around 11:00 A.M. several Superintendents of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents began arriving at the beautiful Lake Shore Country Club for their monthly meeting and golf outing. Host Superintendent Adolph Bertucci welcomed the guests and directed them to the delicious buffet luncheon that was waiting for them in the locker grille. As the afternoon progressed a total of 80 superintendents arrived to play Adolph's well groomed course. Another 65 guests and Superintendents came to have dinner and attend the Business meeting and educational program scheduled for the evening. This was the largest turnout since our fall tournament at Tam O'Shanter several years ago.

The guest speaker for the evening was Dr. Mike Britton of the University of Illinois Plant Pathology Department. Mike has been doing some outstanding work in turf diseases and much of the work has helped us in many ways. Dr. Britton introduced another turf man from the University, in the person of Mike Healy. We will be hearing a great deal of Mike Healy in the future.

One of the more important points that Dr. Britton stressed was the matter of old tried and true fungi-

cide programs. If you have a program that has proved to be satisfactory for you under your conditions do not be in a hurry to change. Tests that have been run, generally have agreed with other stations throughout the Nation. Some of the new products that bear looking into are Dyrene, Maneb, Zineb and Dithane M45.

We could be a little more economical in our fairway spraying programs by spraying when all indications are present or are predicted for an attack of disease. We must answer one simple question when we decide to spray: Just which grass are we attempting to protect? Are we trying to protect our **Poa** or our **Bent**?

Gift-Rapped

People too wrapped up in themselves seldom make a pretty package.

Memory Lane

Remember when a juvenile delinquent was the boy who played his saxophone too loud?

GOLF WINNERS

Ken Lapp, Chairman of the Golf Committee, announced that 80 golfers had participated in the events of the day. There was a special Seniors tournament for the members over 50 years of age. The winner was Emil Mashie who received a trophy to add to his large collection which he has been winning through the past 35 years. Other winners in the Seniors tournament were Emil Cassier, Joe Canale, Benny Kronn, Charlie Rack, Stan Arendt and Art Benson, Sr.

Low Net for the day went to Harold Michels with an 80.

Winners of the Blind Bogey were Dick Richardson, Bill Saielli, Pete Voykin, Ron Rossett, Art Benson, Jr. and Vern Rascher. Other winners were Ed Wollenberg, Bob Williams, Adolph Bertucci, Ted Woehrl, Doug Jabaay, Ed Muzic, Harry Nielsen, Charlie Schultz and Roger Brown.

JULY MEETING

The July Meeting of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents will be held on Tuesday, July 7, 1964, at the Woodridge Country Club. Our Hosts will be owner Ted Hammerschmidt and Superintendent Tony Meyer. Tony is on the Board of Directors of the Midwest.

Golf, Dinner and an Educational Program will be the order of the day. The Educational Program will consist of a panel on irrigation. If you have any questions that you would like answered please make a list of them and bring them along.

COMING EVENTS

August 3, 1964 — Olympia Fields — Question Box

September 14 — North Hills, Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin, Charlie Shiley, Host Superintendent

September 21 — Superintendent-Managers Meeting — Place to be announced

WHAT CAUSES THE DEW TO FALL

(Reprinted from Scott's "Lawn Care")

Have you ever wondered why there is dew some nights and not others, why nights but not days, why on some parts of the lawn but never on others, or what dew is? Poets have called dew "Nature's Water Jewels." The meteorologists say: "The air got too cold to hold all the moisture—the excess fell to the earth."

Three requisites are essential for dew to form: Moist air; a cold surface; and a clear sky. If clouds gather, dew ceases to fall. If tree foliage overhangs the lawn, effect is like a cloud and dew does not collect. But when the day has been bright and sunny and the night turns real cool, conditions are right for a copious fall of dew.

Next morning you will discover that the very smallest grass blade has not been neglected. It will be dew-laden and an object of beauty.

Frequently a leaf will have a single large dewdrop, clear as a diamond, deposited at the very tip of the blade. Sometimes two or even three large drops will be held suspended, while upon the extreme sharp edge of one or both sides of the blade there will be a collection of small, bead-like drops in orderly, precise fashion.

When the large dewdrop perched upon the tip of the grass blade starts to fall, it descends rather slowly at first, following the extreme edge of the blade as it slides down and joins up with the other dewdrops it encounters strung along the edge of the leaf. Eventually the combined drop becomes heavy and falls to the soil. Dew can provide a valuable addition of moisture for your lawn.

Fishing Weekend

I know just what the gang will say:
"Boy, were they biting yesterday!"

—Stephen Schlitzer.

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Annual Fall Dinner Dance

The Chairman of the Entertainment Committee, Walter Fuchs, called yesterday and informed us that the Annual Fall Dinner Dance will be held at the Riverside Country Club on Saturday night, October 10, 1964. Bernard Kazich will be our Host. Bernard is also the Co-Chairman of the Entertainment Committee. Further details will be covered in coming issues of the Bull Sheet.

Tell your wife now so she can begin planning her schedule for this event. Now that the Association is holding only one Dinner Dance per year there should be few excuses for not attending. Plan on being there.

ILLINOIS FIELD DAY

President of the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation, Ted Woehrle, informs us that the Annual Fall Field Day will be held at the University of Illinois Campus on September 21, 1964. For anyone that hasn't attended one of these Field Days it would be worth your while to come down and see one. There are many projects in research going on. Help support this program.

What is a Competitor?

A COMPETITOR is a person who spends his days, and often his night, dreaming up ways to give your customers better service. When he finds out how, it will be your turn to find still better ways to keep your customer happy.

A COMPETITOR sometimes does more for you than a friend. A friend is too polite to point out your weaknesses, but a competitor will take the trouble to advertise them.

A COMPETITOR is never too far away to affect jobs of your employees. If the quality of your work decreases, or the alertness of your service, he will prosper and everyone will feel the effect.

A COMPETITOR'S ability should never be underestimated. The business graveyard is full of companies who figured the competition was stupid, short-sighted, or just plain lazy.

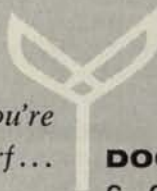
A COMPETITOR helps make life worth living. He keeps you alert and in peak condition. Without his rivalry you would find the race less interesting and the victory less satisfying.

A COMPETITOR is hard to live with, but harder to live without. Competition brings progress by encouraging the development of better products at better prices. It makes the customer the boss of the economy.

—from the Norton Spirit

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OPEN HOUSE AT CUSHMAN MOTORS

Chicagoland Cushman Sales, Inc. held an open house for all the Superintendents in the Chicago area on June 8th and 9th, to show their latest in golf course equipment **made** by the Cushman. After cocktails and a delicious buffet the Superintendents looked over the equipment with great interest. Some of the equipment included: a Sprayer for hand spraying and for boom work, a Fertilizer Spreader and many other pieces of power equipment operated with the power take off.

The scooter is only 8½ feet long and 55 inches wide and comes equipped with wide turf tires. It is powered with an 18-horsepower engine for heavy-duty operation and is capable of carrying a 1,000-pound payload up steep inclines. As standard equipment the Turf-Truckster has a rear mounted pick-up box that is 46 inches long 34-7/8 inches wide by 14 inches deep. This can be used for transporting lawn mowers, hauling sprinklers and for general maintenance work such as hauling trash, carrying tools, spare parts and fertilizer. A hinged tail gate permits easy access.

Available optional equipment is what makes the Turf-Truckster truly unique.

When the Turf-Truckster is equipped with the optional boom sprayer it can be driven on the finest turf without damage while spraying a 16-foot wide swath. The boom is installed or removed in minutes with simple hand tools.

The engine operates the sprayer through the power take-off providing up to 300 pounds pressure. The basic unit includes a 103 gallon tank, skids, pump and all necessary hose and a handgun.

Many Superintendents are using the optional fertilizer spreader which is also powered by the power take-off. This piece of equipment is capable of doing large areas of turf as well as greens and tees.

Smoke Scream

Smoking makes some women's voices harsh. If you don't believe it, just try flicking your ashes on the living room rug.

—Quote.

TOPDRESSING — A MAINTENANCE MUST

by Dr. Eliot C. Roberts
Turfgrass Specialist, Iowa State University

Why Topdress?

Turfgrass managers who feel that topdressing is beneficial may cite numerous reasons for improved turfgrass responses. Research has indicated that superior turfgrass quality, resulting from the use of proper topdressing techniques may be readily explained on the basis of improved soil-plant relationships.

First — The addition of small amounts of soil or soil mixture to low spots or depressions in the turf helps to level off the surface grade and improve surface drainage. Since frequently more rain or irrigation water will be applied to the soil than can be immediately taken in some must run off the surface under the influence of gravity. A turf area may be constructed with the proper grade to allow optimum runoff but through the years develop humps and hollows that interfere with this water movement. A careful inspection of the turf each spring and fall indicate where changes in surface grade have taken place. Applications of small amounts of top-dressing worked into these areas will keep the turf true and in the case of greens, provide improved putting quality. Spring topdressings should not be made before the natural heaving of the soil from frost action has settled or been rolled to a natural grade.

It is important that these low spots be upgraded before turfgrasses are injured in these areas. Weak or even dead turf may result from the presence of excess water or ice standing in hollows that will not drain. Wet wilt, scald and winter injury are commonly the formation of depressions in the turf which favor observed in these locations. It is far easier to prevent these injuries than it is to revive the turf once it has been injured.

Second, a light topdressing of uniform thickness over putting green turf improves the surface by firming up the sod for speedier and truer putting. This is accomplished as the topdressing filters down through the thatch or above ground vegetative cover and provides increased support for the grass plants. A good topdressing will be well inoculated with microorganisms which help to decompose thatch. It will also

be rich in plant food and of a favorable acidity for the decomposition of thatch. It will be of good soil structure and favorable soil texture for providing thatch which are essential for its breakdown. An optimum soil and water-air relationship within the turf which has a "topdressing controlled" thatch will be a healthier better quality turf. It is recognized that besides proper topdressing procedures, vertical mowing and thinning of the turf plus aerification and recommended watering, liming and fertilization practices are important in controlling thatch. These latter practices are often less effective where greens are not topdressed regularly as part of the thatch control program.

Third, a new or thin turf should be topdressed regularly to cover the exposed stolons. These will root at the nodes if they are lightly covered with a good topdressing material. The more plants encouraged to root in a given area the denser the resulting turf and the quicker the spots will fill in and new greens will become established. Topdressing at frequent intervals (at times as often as every 7 to 10 days) is essential in the healing of injured turf areas and in the developing of new greens from stolons.

Fourth — Topdressing following heavy aeration of the soil is the only means short of complete reconstruction of changing the soil texture. It is a slow process, but by aerifying many times in different directions so that the turf and soil is riddled with holes to a 3 to 4 inch depth it is possible to fill these holes with a soil which will provide improved growth conditions. In this case the objective of the topdressing is not to cover the surface of the area as much as it is to fill the holes. One such treatment may show little effect; only by repeated treatments over a period of years can a significant change in soil texture take place. Where soils are heavy and compact easily, channels of lighter sandier soil aid in increasing water penetration and in stimulating the vigor of the turf.

Exercise Caution in Topdressing

Topdressing is not a simple practice which should be done with little planning or forethought. The benefits gained from proper topdressing procedures may be easily nullified by harmful effects of improper topdressing practices.

First — The amount of material to be applied at any one time should be exceedingly small so that it may be worked completely into the turf without covering or smothering the grass. The denser the turf or the thicker the thatch the more difficult it is to accomplish this and the more important it is to make small applications. On the average 1/3 of a cubic yard per 1000 square feet may be considered a standard rate of application.

Second — The topdressing mixture should not contain too much organic matter. Since one of the beneficial functions of topdressing is in aiding the decomposition of thatch, it follows that the addition of more organic matter to this thatch is not likely to be very effective. It takes microorganisms plus available nitrogen to decompose organic matter; there is little value in formulating topdressing with more organic matter than is necessary to give the material good structure and a healthy microbiological population. Peat Moss and other types of organic materials which are difficult to decompose are not best suited for use in topdressing. Residues from compost piles are usually more effective sources of organic matter for topdressing mixtures.

The addition of more organic matter to the top

soil of a putting green so that it will have a better cushion and provide a softer slower putting surface. This is one of the reasons sometimes cited for topdressing. It is true that the amount of organic matter at the soil surface and the density of the turf are responsible for the desirable degree of resiliency of the turf. This quality comes naturally with the development of vigorous grass plants with extensive root systems and with the growth of stolons. If it is assumed that an acre of putting green turf (43,560 sq. ft.) weighs 1,000,000 pounds when calculated on the basis of a 3 1/2 inch (root zone) depth then in order to increase the percentage of organic matter in the soil by 1% it would be necessary to add about 230 pounds of organic matter per 1000 sq. feet. It is obvious that this is a lot of organic material. It also emphasizes the importance of the 6-8% natural organic matter present in much of the good rich black topsoil available throughout the area. In view of these facts it is questionable whether supplementary organic matter need be added to a good grade topsoil.

Where organic matter has been used in topdressing at rates of application that have been greater than the speed of decomposition it is possible to accumulate layers of organic matter at the soil surface. As long as this is on the soil surface its greatest detriment to the turf is in soaking up water and plant food so that penetration into the soil is reduced. A wet surface is also conducive to fungus activity and increased disease incidence. If the topdressing practice is changed suddenly to omit the organic matter so that

(Continued on last page)

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TO OFFER SHORT COURSE IN TURF MANAGEMENT

A six weeks winter short course in turf management and general grounds maintenance will be offered for the first time this winter on the Urbana campus of the University of Illinois. This program will be offered in conjunction with the regular Agricultural Winter Short Course. Classes will begin on February 1 and end on March 12 with certificates being awarded to those who satisfactorily finish the course of study.

Courses offered for the short course include turf-grass management, landscaping recreation areas, arboriculture, surveying and drainage, gas engines and tractors, farm welding, agricultural arithmetic, and soil management. From these, a person may choose three or more courses. Tentative plans are to offer an advanced course which would allow for a person to enroll for a second year and take additional course work after satisfactorily completing the first year.

Estimated cost for the six weeks program is from \$215 to \$270. This includes tuition fees, books and supplies as well as housing and meals. Housing and meals will be available in University Residence Halls.

Further information concerning the Winter Short Course can be had by writing to the Short Course Supervisor, 104 Mumford Hall, College of Agriculture, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois.

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9:30 A.M.

Crop Science Field Laboratory
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Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan

Park in the area east of the barns. Please register at the desk and pick up the field day report. Seventeen stops are planned with each 15 minutes in duration.

1. Effect of pre-emergence herbicides on desirable turfgrass species.
2. Sampling and testing soils.
3. Identification and control of bluegrass and red fescue diseases.
4. Ryegrass and tall fescue evaluations: Blending of bluegrasses.
5. Grasses for tees; mower investigations.
6. Vegetative grass identification.
7. Putting green mixture studies.
8. Bentgrass varieties and strain evaluations.
9. Management factors in thatch formation of Merion Kentucky bluegrass.
10. Fertilization of turfgrasses.
11. Breeding and selection of improved red fescues, ryegrasses and tall fescues.
12. Bluegrass and red fescue variety evaluations.
13. Turfgrass mixtures; control of weedy perennial grasses.
14. Winterkill of turfgrasses.

15. Nitrogen carriers.
16. Management factors in a quality putting surface.
17. Shade ecology studies.

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BULL SHEET ANNIVERSARY

With this issue we are starting our 18th year. The Bull Sheet has come a long way since 1947 when the idea of printing our own news bulletin was first conceived. Such names as Norm Johnson (the first editor, Don Strand, Bob Williams, Al Johnson, Bill Stupple (the editor when the slick paper was first used) and Bert Rost have to be congratulated for their fine efforts through most of the 17 years of publication.

The Bull Sheet began its career as a mimeographed paper with great bits of information when many of the new products were being manufactured immediately after World War II. An information bulletin was very beneficial to all the Superintendents. A craving for new ideas and information from the various Universities was being answered in the printing of The Bull Sheet.

As time went on the printing was paid for by selling advertising space in the paper. It began to grow in size and importance. Some of our oldest Advertisers are Geo. A. Davis Company, Roseman, Smith Equipment, Milorganite, Paul E. Burdette and Millburn Peat Moss. These people have helped to keep our publication what it is today. Many thanks to them for their support.

Today we find the Bull Sheet ranging in size from six to ten pages with many pictures and ads. The circulation has climbed from a little over 350 ten years ago to over 525 today. The expense of printing the sheet is well over \$2,500.00 per year. We still find ways of showing a little profit each year however.

Throughout the entire country The Bull Sheet is recognized as the leader in chapter chatter and information. The job of editing and publishing could become much easier, however, if the membership would send along any information that would be beneficial to our cause; the advancement of the art and science of golf course management, and the collection and dissemination among golf course Superintendents, the knowledge of the problems of course management with a view to more efficient and economical maintenance of golf courses, and to promote the welfare of our association.



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(Continued from page 8)

a layer of undecomposed material is buried beneath a soil-sand topdressing mixture, this will basically interfere with the penetration of moisture into the soil. Water will simply not move easily from the small pore spaces of a soil into the large pore spaces of a dry organic layer. Topdressing mixtures should not be changed suddenly from year to year but gradually in accordance with soil conditions and the response of the turf. Where an organic layer is present at the soil surface or just beneath it the use of non-ionic wetting agents have been observed to improve moisture penetration.

Third — The topdressing should contain enough sand to provide a material with a compaction resistance texture and with good structural properties. The importance of these physical characteristics of the material are shown in a good topdressing mixing well among the shoots and stolons that make up the turf. The material should not pack solid within the turf but should present a loosely bound soil structure within the turf which will encourage proper soil-air-moisture relationships for improved root development and thatch decomposition. Excessive sand makes the topdressing too loose and light. Too little sand will make it cake and present conditions favorable for compaction. Where a very sandy topdressing has been used it is undesirable to change quickly to one with very little sand. Where a layer of soil is deposited above a layer of sand, water will fail to move from the soil to the sand except under extremely saturated conditions. The same principle is involved as with the organic matter layer. Water moves with difficulty from the small pore spaces of soil into large pore spaces of sand. Roots also respond in this way and may at times be restricted to a very shallow soil layer above a zone where sand has accumulated and migrated from previous sandy topdressings.

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