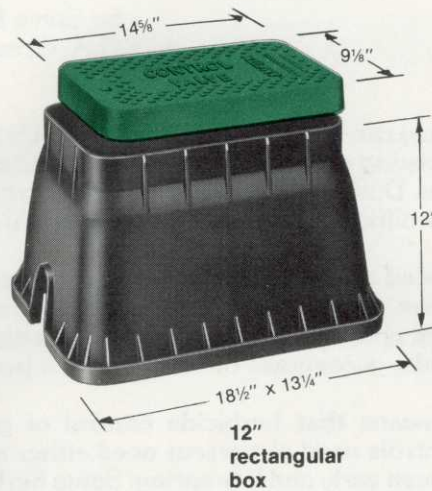
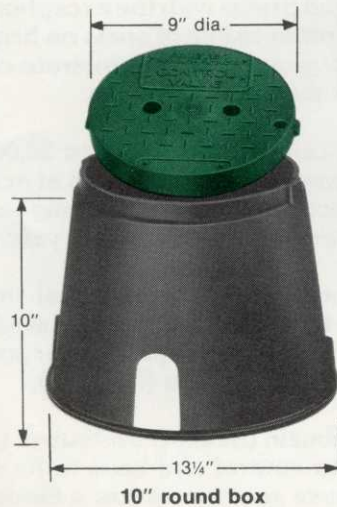


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Goosegrass

by Steve Batten
U.S.G.A. Green Section

Goosegrass (*Elusine indica*) can be found throughout the United States with the exception of the mountainous regions and northern plains. Persisting on compacted soils, it is most often visible of areas on heavy traffic, such as along foot paths, and golf cart trails. Due to its prostrate growth habit, goosegrass will tolerate closely mowed putting green heights, and can be most difficult of control under these low mowing conditions.

An annual grass reproduced by seeds, a single mature plant can product between 20,000 to 50,000 seeds on 3 to 7 fingerlike racemes per spike. Seeds germinate when daily average soil temperatures at or near the surface are 65 to 67 degrees F. This means that goosegrass can germinate throughout the summer growing season, and starts in February in Florida. In South Florida, goosegrass often acts like a perennial, and is present year round.

Long seasonal growth means that herbicide control of goosegrass needs critical timing, for best results. Pre-emergence herbicide controls used at present need either a long residual during a single application, or two safely applied applications between early and late spring. Some herbicides used at present for goosegrass control are benefin (Balan), oxidiazon (Ronstar), or a combination of oxidiazon plus bensulide (Betasan).

Post emergence control of goosegrass with MSMA plus metribuzin (Sencor) or Asulam (Asulox) is usually applied in late spring/early summer. Often mature plants are difficult to control and have to be spot treated by hand with a non-selective herbicide such as glyphosate (Roundup). Because goosegrass has a fibrous root system, one control often used is to cut out the crown of the plant with a sharp tool. New herbicides are being evaluated constantly for safer, more selective control. ■

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The Gator Growls

By DAN L. HALL JR.
Imperial Golf Club



Over the years, much controversy has arisen over this topic and the controversies are varied:

- To topdress or not-
- Mixed to straight materials-
- Purchase or blend in house-
- Light-Medium-Heavy rates-
- Sterilize or not; frequency-
- Add organics or not-
- and on AD INFINITUM!

This one operation is probably the most effective tool, excepting the verticut and greens mower that will give the Superintendent and his members the most desired results for time and expense on the golf course. Golf courses with small budgets can see better results in many instances, from a well-done job of topdressing than from a fertilizer application.

In fact, in the early years, when budgets were low and the soil mixing was done in-house as a part of keeping the crew busy on rainy and/or cold days, topdressing was, on many Southern courses, the only plant food source ever applied on Bermuda.

Animal manures were plentiful and near-by and often had, just for hauling away. Native top-soil just had to be scraped up from the property next door and hauled to the mixing shed. Nearly every club had a lumber yard owner as a member and when plastering was the popular wall finish, you could get his contaminated or discolored white plaster sand, just for cleaning it up and hauling it to the course.

Grass clippings and the fall leaves were mixed with the top-soil and manures, then allowed to compost. The mix was blended with the sands to the desired results of the superintendent. Generally, it was screened through $\frac{1}{2}$ " and again through a $\frac{1}{4}$ " mesh screen after being stored inside and allowed to dry; or at least under cover of either canvas or straw if a building with a roof and at least three sides was not available; as was more likely the case.

This topdressing was then applied, usually every 4 to 6 weeks by hand, for both fertilizing as well as smoothing and leveling the surface. As a youngster, and for many years as a superintendent, this was the only time that our Bermuda greens ever received any type of plant food. We

used a starter fertilizer of say, an 0-12-12 or 0-20-20 prior to sowing rye, a little Nitrate of Soda, Ferrous Sulfate, or Nitrate of Soda Potash dissolved in water to feed the rye early in the A.M. in the spring to burn out the rye. That was it as far as plant food goes, except the monthly topdressings from April through September or October depending on how far South you were.

Golf greens, even thought not planted to the fine hybrid bermudas we have today, at clubs with conscientious superintendents, offered putting surfaces equal to and in many cases, better than those of today as far as lack of grain, quickness, and trueness of roll. This was primarily due to lack of water, little or practically no chemical nitrogen and FREQUENT TOPDRESSING, WELL WORKED into the surface.

One of the most difficult things I had to cope with when I came to Florida, was the membership complaining about topdressing. While in Savannah, the Carolinas, and Atlanta, the golfers really looked forward to topdressing and you just could not DO IT ENOUGH to suit them. The high rollers would load the course for about 2 to 3 weeks right after topping then wane off until the word was out; "the man just topdressed this week," and back they would come. In Jacksonville, it was just the opposite, not only at my club, but at the other clubs except Ponte Vedra; that club had a number of golfers from Alabama, Georgia, and the Carolinas, since there were not any seashore links except for Sea Island and Ponte Vedra. Put out topdressing in Jacksonville, and there would hardly be a golfer out for 2 to 3 weeks until that, "damned dirt would be worked down." To some extent, that feeling still persists today throughout Florida.

Primarily due to the fact that many of us look upon topdressing as a deadly duty and therefore, to cut down on complaints; do it quite INFREQUENTLY and QUITE HEAVILY. The coming of the aerifier and verticut brought the advent of, "there is now no need to topdress," from basically the non-golfing academia. Their stand was, the verticut could control grain and thatch, the aerifier controlled thatch and brought up soil, so therefore, there was little or no need of topdressing, plus the fact that Nitrogen fertilizers were quite plentiful and cheap compared to an in-house mix and storage of topping materials.

(Continued on Page 22)

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Central Florida Crowfoots



By GARY MORGAN
Spruce Creek Golf and Racquet Club

TOPDRESSING

Topdressing is one renovation process that is sometimes overlooked or just plain taken for granted. There are so many different kinds of soil mixtures and other possibilities that you can do, depending on your particular conditions. For example: if you have an organic subsoil you may want to incorporate sand into your soil. If you have sandy greens you may want to keep them as is or add 10%-20% organic to them - maybe in the peat moss form. Whatever you choose depends on your own conditions - your budget and your personal experience.

Topdressing is becoming very involved with the newer technology of today's times. You can find different particle size, variances in sand & organic mixes - (ex. 80% sand - 20% organic), you can have additives such as charcoal and vermiculite added if you desire these in your topsoil mix.

As you can tell by now, the more additions to your topdressing, the higher the cost will be. Another costly item these days is the freight charge. A supplier closer to you, will make all the difference as far as the total charge will be.

Here are some superintendents and what their conditions are and what they use.

I. The Bayhill Lodge & Golf Club Jim Ellison - Superintendent

- A. 1. Age of greens - 20 years - 18th green 4 years old.
2. Age of tees - 20 years.
- B. Conditions of subsoil.
 1. Greens - 90% sand, 10% organic.
 2. Tees - 100% sand.
- C. What topsoil used & why.
 1. Greens - when aerified uses 95% sand and 5% organic mix. Aerifies 2 times per year. Other months topdresses once per month with 100% sand mix. These topdressings are done along with verticle mowing.
 2. Tees - aerified uses 100% sand mix for topdressing. Aerify 2 times/year.

D. Comments:

1. Greens - speed being accomplished range somewhere between 7-8. Very satisfied with results of topdressing. Only change that may be made is to go to a 100% topdressing of sand after aerify instead of 95%-5%.
2. Tee - no change - very satisfied.

II. Mt. Dora Golf Club

T.G. Boyd - Superintendent.

- A. 1. Age of greens: - 9 holes 23 years old.
9 holes 21 years old.
2. Age of tees: - 9 holes 23 years old.
9 holes 21 years old.
- B. Conditions of subsoil.
 1. Greens - from surface to 6" deep there is a layer of 100% organic dirt plus peat. From the 6" deeper is the regular Florida Sand.
Tees - older tees - same subsoil as greens. Newer tees - 80% sand - 20% organic soil.
- C. What topsoil used & why.
 1. Greens - most topsoiling done is along with aerifying. Uses a 60%-40% mix 2 times/year. a 3rd topsoil is applied of 100% coarse trap sand. Where thinning of turf may occur then spot treatments of topdressing are done.
 2. Tees - same program as greens.
- D. Comments:
 1. Greens - since there is such a high amount of organic in the soil, Boyd is trying a new approach to mixing the subsoil - rather than to completely rebuild his greens. He is "Subsoiling" to the 6" depth to mix the Florida Sand with high organic subsoil. He has attached irrigation wire to a sod cutter (specific attachment) and injects the wire into the ground like you would a sod cutter. He then uses the wire underneath the soil as a mixer of soil. After this is done he topdresses with sand. He has done one green and is getting excellent results.
 2. Tees - not a problem.

(Continued on Page 31)

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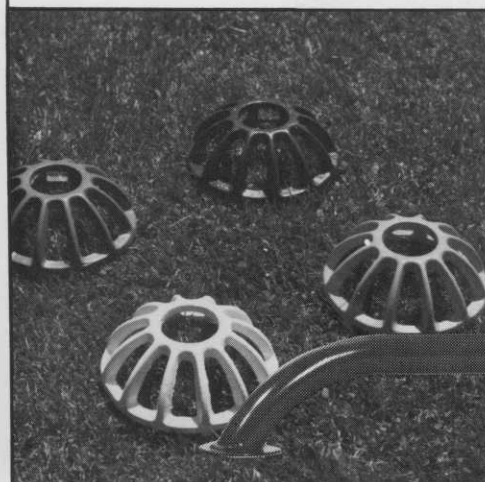
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West Coast Buccaneers



By REED LeFEBVRE
Pines & Palms Management Corp.

When you speak of taking care of greens top dressing rates among the top priorities. But along with everything else, the cost of performing this necessary function has gone way up! Supers who have top dressed with a top-dress mix, on a regular basis, are having a hard time justifying the cost of this material.

Our costs for equipment, labor, and materials have far out-paced our income, consequently we have to find newer and more economical ways of accomplishing the same ends. One way many are now using is the substituting of regular white or trap sand for top-dressing. With its cost at about half of what a mix would run, it seems to be the logical answer. There are those circumstances when you have to use a mix, either for the organics, or to have amendments such as charcoal etc. in an easy to apply form. Conversations I have had with Superintendents who use one or both, found the majority felt very good about the results of straight sand as a top-dressing.

John Luper at Countryside Country Club prefers a mix but uses sand in his top-dressing every three weeks program. He used top-dressing along with light verticuting, and has been on this program for three years.

At Clearwater Country Club, Joe Clay uses an 80/20 mix when he top-dresses lightly each month.

Sugar Mill Woods where Richard Mann is Superintendent, was using builders sand but found it to be a little too fine. Now he is using a 90/10 mix just when aerifying.



Lee Todd at Dunedin Country Club uses a 90/10 mix four times a year. He uses the 90/10 very lightly. Lee likes to use his core processor for top-dressing material when he aerates.

At Plant City Golf and Country Club we have been using trap sand with good results. The only drawback are the occasional pea sized chunks in the sand. We are planning to screen our sand or perhaps look into D.O.T. spec sand which I understand is pretty well screened when you get it. We are now using a vicon spreader to top-dress, and as long as there are small rocks in the mix we have to drag it in to remove them, where we had no chunks, dragging was unnecessary, as about five minutes of irrigation settles the sand right down in. ■

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ON THE NATIONAL SCENE

by: John P. Hayden CGCS
Director, GCSAA



Having just returned from my first board meeting in Lawrence, Kansas, I feel that GCSAA is on the verge of many new and exciting plans and programs for its members.

The staff in Lawrence has been organized in a very professional and productive manner. We, as members, will benefit by the many and varied programs that will be forthcoming from this very competent organization.

Already I think you see the improvement in our International Golf Course Management Magazine. Our Membership Department has set its goals for us to expand from the present 5,000 members to perhaps 10,000 with future goals ranging to possibly 15,000 in the next 10 to 15 years.

The Marketing Department will be shortly offering a number of items with the GCSAA logo so we all can show our pride in being members of the national organization.

The Education Department will be undertaking great strides in the advancement of our profession. One of the most interesting of these will be the telecasting of seminars, via satellite, to different locations in the United States. These seminars can be attended by up to 50 superintendents without the cost of travel, hotel rooms, etc. In

this way the association will offer you greater programs at a lesser cost to the individual. Look for this department to more than offset the cost of membership in GCSAA.

One other department that has been recently added is the Show & Conference Department. With this department the association will be able to provide us the best possible show sites and give us the best possible rooms at a price we can all afford.

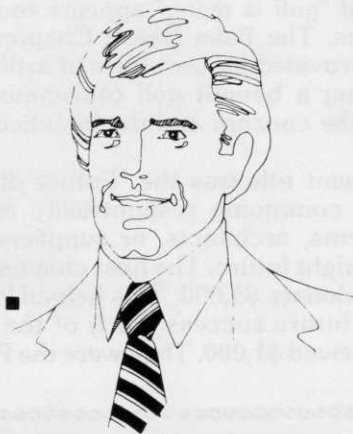
I would be shirking my duty if I also didn't convey to you the possibility of the movement of National Headquarters to some other site. Current locations under consideration are Lawrence, Kansas;—Denver, Colorado;—Connecticut;—Atlanta, Georgia;—Philadelphia, Pennsylvania;—New Jersey and two Florida sites, Ft. Myers and Orlando.

Hopefully GCSAA will have all the information available this fall and will be able to present to the full membership a site that will fill our needs for the next two decades.

If you have any problems or ideas that I could help you with please feel free to give me a call... I am working with you. ■

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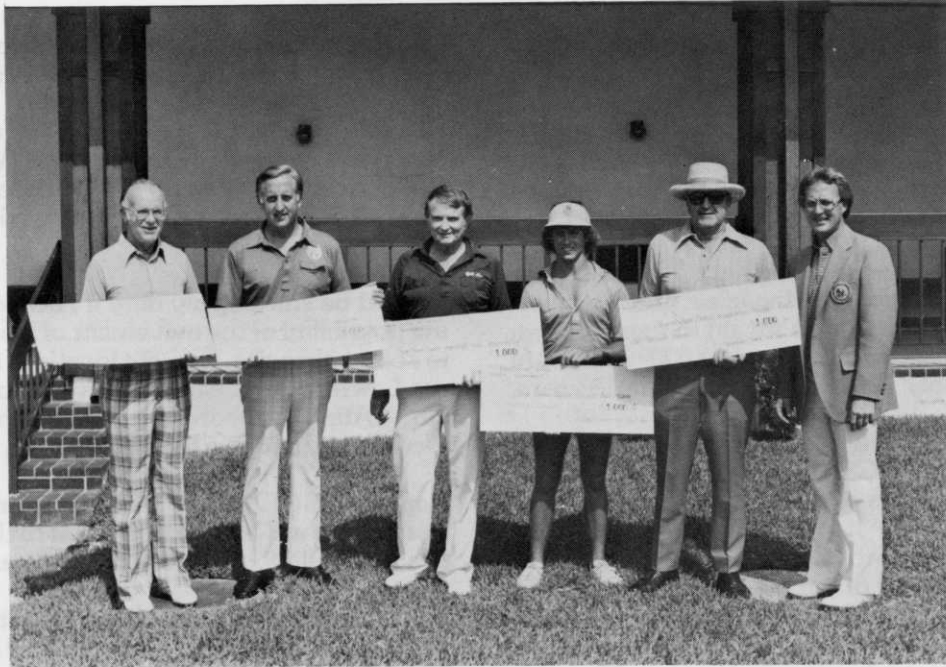
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PALM BEACH CHAPTER Golf Course Superintendents Association



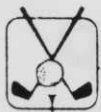
Kevin Downing, far right, awards five \$1,000 checks.

The adage of "golf is dying" appears too many times in golfing circles. The Palm Beach Chapter of the Florida GCSA has provided its own form of artificial respiration by conducting a benefit golf tournament. That is not unique, but the concept and the beneficiaries were.

The tournament title was the "Future of Golf". This relates to the continuing responsibility as golfers, pros, superintendents, architects, or suppliers to ensure the game has a bright future. The host chapter used the event proceeds to donate \$5,000. This helped local golf groups secure their future success. Each of the following organizations received \$1,000. They were the PGA Junior Golf

Program, Palm Beach County Youth Golf Program, Palm Beach Junior College golf team, Palm Beach County Amateur Golf Association, and the Florida Turfgrass Association Research Fund.

Kevin Downing, CGCS, from Atlantis Golf Club, President of the Palm Beach Chapter, stated: "We need to encourage, instruct and provide means for our youth to learn and enjoy golf. The future is also in research which aids us to find new ways and materials to perform our jobs more efficiently. We feel that those organizations will benefit from our tournament, and with their help we can ensure a bright future for golf. ■"



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