TWENTY MINUTES IN THE LIFE OF A GREENS CHAIRMAN

By MELVIN WEINSTEIN
Greens Committee Chairman
Banyan Golf Club

(The following is a fictional account and any resemblance to Banyan Golf Club Members is purely coincidental)

As I opened my car door in the parking lot of the club, a car pulled in right beside me. "Hey, Mel," Bill yelled, "I must tell you the greens are much too fast. You'll have to do something." "O.K.," I muttered, still half asleep. Al jumped out of the car. "Mel," he started, "those greens are much too slow, you've got to get them down," "I'll take care of it," I retorted.

By the time I reached the circle, Eddie accosted me. "Mel, those tee placements yesterday were much too easy. What are we playing, an executive course?" "I'll take care of it," I said. Two steps later, Dave came over. "Mel, those tee placements yesterday were too far back, have a little pity on the older members." "Play the golds," I retorted.

As I approached the walkway, Alan came to me. "Mel," he said, "I've got something very important to tell you. The fairways are cut much too low, can't get a three wood underneath the ball." "I'll take care of it." But Herb, right beside him said, "Mel, those fairways are much too high, the ball doesn't roll at all." "Don't worry," I said, "I'll take care of it."

Halfway down to the pro shop, Gerry came up. "Mel, those pin placements were terrible yesterday, I couldn't make a straight putt. Who are those idiots putting in the cups!" "I'll look into it," I said. Harry, right beside him said, "Don't listen, I thought they were too easy, what are we playing, a Pitch and Putt course." I shook my head.

Two steps into the pro shop, George grabbed my arm. "Mel, the trap sand is horrible. It's so soft my club goes right underneath, you better buy better sand." "I'll take care of it, George," I said. As I turned around, Max tapped my shoulder. "Mel, that lousy sand you're using is too hard. I can't blast out of the traps." "I'll take care of it," I said.

I signed for my golf cart and turned around, looking forward to my trip to the locker room. "Mel," a booming voice beckoned, "those fairways are too narrow. Couldn't hit a fairway all day. You'll have to widen them." "Sure," I said. I was almost out of the shop, when Harold said, "Mel, those fairways are too wide, all you have to do is flail away and not worry. I wish you'd bring them in." "Don't worry," I said.

I managed to reach the locker room safely. As I opened my

locker, Lester arrived and spoke, "Mel, I've got to tell you, those greens are much too hard. The ball bounces and I can't hold them." "Need more top dressing," I muttered. As I pulled my shoes out, Nat spoke, "Those greens are too soft, can't get any run, the ball just holds up. Isn't there anything you can do?" "Too much top dressing," I answered.

One shoe was on when Stan came up. "Mel, the flowers are horrible. I like last years better." "I'll change them," was my answer. Twenty seconds later as I put on the other shoe, Tom said, "Mel, I love the new flowers. I'm glad you got rid of that mess we had last year." "I'm thrilled," I said.

As I got up to leave, Art grabbed my arm. "Mel, we're spending too much time cutting grass. You've got to get rid of the grass around the pond edges. Can't find a ball. Don't you know." "I'll start tomorrow," I said. Lee then approached. 'Why are you wasting money around the ponds. A bad shot shouldn't be rewarded, and besides, if you cut it good, I won't be able to find any balls." "You're right," I said.

I looked at the exit door. Maybe I could get to the first tee in a round about way.

As I approached the tee, Steve yelled, "Where have you been! I've got to tell you about the lips on the traps. We must have higher lips. My opponent yesterday putted out three times, closer to the pin. Lips are very important." "Absolutely," I said. As I reached for my driver, Burt came up. "Mel, those lips are too high in the traps, they're totally unfair. Can't get a decent trap shot." "I'll eliminate them tomorrow," I said, as I limped to the tee.

I hit the ball nicely down the fairway. My partner said, "Beautiful swing." My opponent said, "How could you hit the ball with such a lousy swing?"

Oh well, I could hardly wait for lunch, which is traditionally suggestion time.

Editors Note: Mel Weinstein is well grounded in the art of Greenkeeping. He holds the unique position of wearing two hats. Mel is Greens Committee Chairman of Banyan Golf Club in West Palm Beach, FLorida and Spring Valley Country Club in Boston, Massachusetts. Because of his close relationship with golf course superintendents, Mr. Weinstein will be writing more articles for future issues of the Florida Green.



West Coast Buccaneers

By REED LeFEBVRE Pines & Palms Management Corp.



Very little in regard to winter golf course preparation (excluding overseeding) is done here on the west coast of Florida. Dan Morgan, Sun City G.C. stated that other than poa Annua control and traffic control nothing else out of the ordinary is done. Isla Del Sol uses IBUD rather than organic nitrogen sources. The amount of nitrogen per month is also reduced, according to Superintendent Don Delaney. Countryside raises the height of cut somewhat. Superintendent John Luper also uses potash and lots of wetting agent on greens, tees and fairways. He also puts out traffic controls. Lakewoods' Dick Grill does not overseed: he concentrates on poa annua control and also raises his height of cut to 1/4". He increases the fertilization by about 1/3 and mows greens every other day. Lake Region works on just getting good healthy turf. Rick Wise, superintendent there lets his roughs get up a little which allows something to mow off when we get our freeze. He also puts out traffic controls. Bud Quandt, Pasadena G.C. puts out heavy amounts of fertilization in the fall and prays.

It looks like traffic controls along with an increase in fertilization is the general practice along our coast. Talking with the various supers I found very little disease problems, especially like those which the East and Southern coasts of Florida have been experiencing. Almost everybody who

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does overseed expects to have his seed in the ground by the first of December. Some of us who don't want to experience the germination problems of last winter already have our seed in and germinating. My feeling is that as long as I have plenty of water to cool it down on hot days, and can get fungicides to control and keep out fungus, I'm ahead of the game as far as last year was concerned.

New Officers for The Florida West Coast Superintendents Association are:

John Luper CGCS President Don Delaney, CGCS Sec. Treas. Reed LeFebvre, External Vice President

Board of Directors:

Marshall Edgrem, Rick Wise, Joe Reilly, Jack Harrell Fr., Lee Todd

Schedule of meetings for the West Coast are as follows:

November Pasadena **December Timber Oaks** January Beacon Woods February Seminole Lakes July March Imperial Lakes

Valle Oaks April May Sun City June

Sugar Mill Woods Countryside

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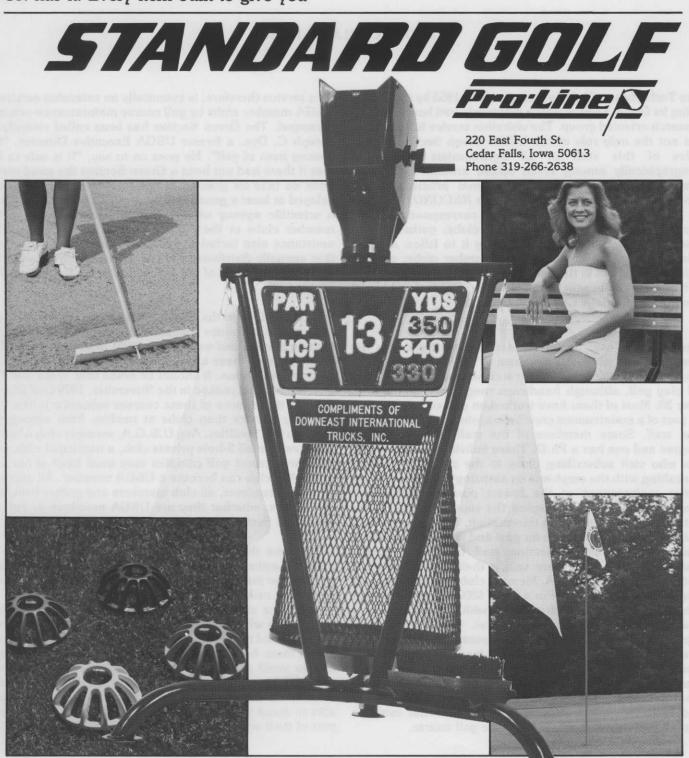
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THE USGA SECTION —

AS I SEE IT

By Dr. DOUGLAS T. HAWES

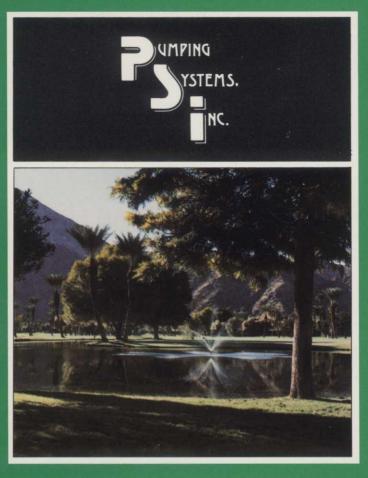
The Turf Advisory Service was started in 1953 by the USGA using its Green Section which previously had been mostly a research oriented group. The visitation service is the major, but not the only role of the USGA Green Section. Other roles of this staff of 13 agronomists distributed geographically among seven offices around the United States include: producing professional articles for the USGA Green Section's magazine, the RECORD; speaking at turf conferences; answering correspondence on agronomic problems from member clubs; gathering turf research information and distributing it to fellow agronomists and making it available to member clubs; encouraging researchers in the field to do more turf research that golf courses can benefit by; and insuring Championship turf conditions at USGA Championship sites.

The staff has over 50 total years of experience with the Green Section itself. All members of the staff have a B.S. Degree, usually in agronomy or a closely related field. They all play golf, although handicaps range from under 10 to over 20. Most of them have worked on golf course grounds as part of a maintenance crew before joining the Green Section staff. Some members of the staff have a Masters Degree and one has a Ph.D. These individuals are specialists who visit subscribing clubs to the specialized job of consulting with the emphasis on assisting the clubs to have better maintenance at the lowest possible cost. Their function is to assist in keeping the superintendent up-todate on the latest research information, to act as a neutral unbiased source or opinion for past and future maintenance practices. The Green Section staff has no particular product to sell - they are selling their service which is underwritten by the USGA. Member clubs are the only ones that receive this service. For a fee of \$200, the club receives a half-day visit and a written report with recommendations geared for their particular golf course. The Green Section agronomist's visit is a time to ask questions. We feel that you will benefit most by having at least one annual visit from our agronomist. It is the author's intent to visit clubs that he is servicing at different times of the year so as to see what turf conditions are like at that club in Spring, Summer and Fall. This information enables me to better evaluate overall maintenance practices at the golf course.

This service therefore, is essentially an extension service to USGA member clubs by golf course maintainance-oriented personnel. The Green Section has been called recently by Joseph C. Dye, a former USGA Executive Director, "the unsung hero of golf". He goes on to say, "It is safe to say that if there had not been a Green Section the good conditions we take for granted at our courses would have been delayed at least a generation or two." The Green Section is a scientific agency whose mission it is to assist USGA member clubs in the upkeep of their golf courses. This assistance also includes a Research and Education Fund that annually distributes \$50,000 to researchers around the country. The motto of the Green Section is Better Turf For Better Golf.

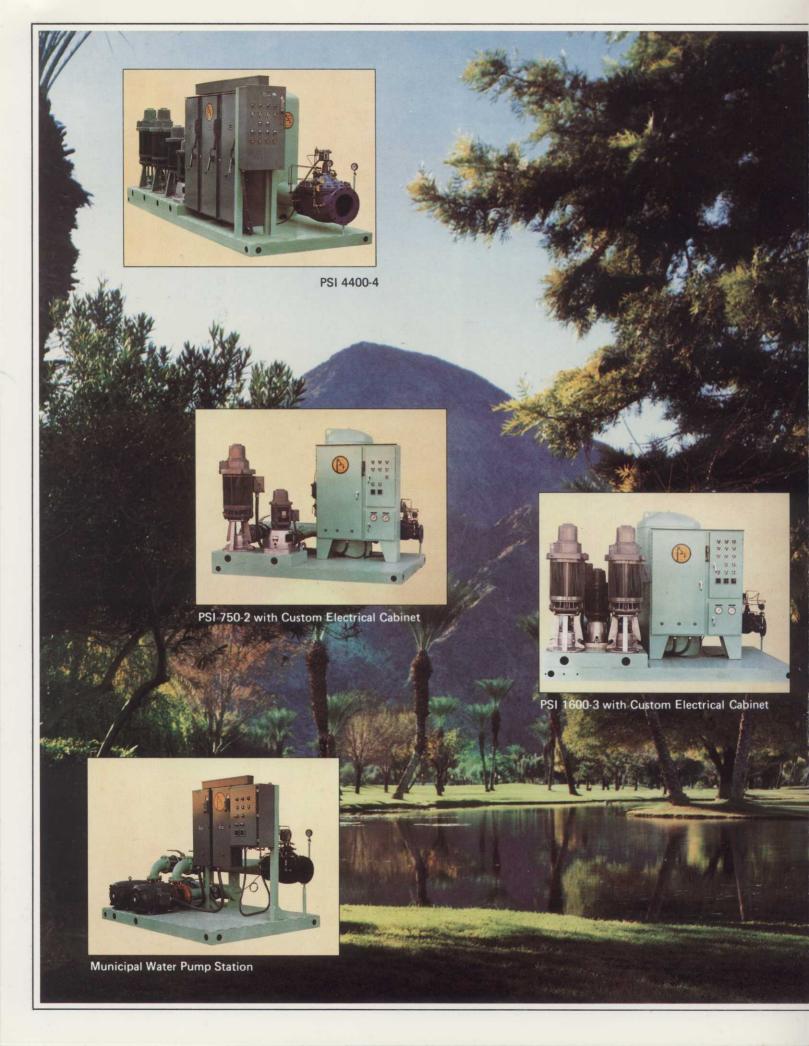
Who subscribes to the Green Section Visiting Service? We have over 1,000 clubs that subscribe to the Green Section Visiting Service and we expect in 1981 to go over 1,300. The center core of these clubs consists of the leading country clubs in the Nation. It should be noted that of the 100 Top Golf Courses, as ranked in the November, 1979 Golf Digest, over six times more of these courses subscribe to the Turf Advisory Service than clubs at random from among the Nation's golf facilities. Any U.S.G.A. member club whether it is a very small 9-hole private club, a municipal club, or a very large resort golf complex may avail itself of our services. Any club can become a USGA member. All courses, all superintendents, all club members and golfers benefit in some ways, whether they are USGA members or not, by the Green Section Turf Advisory Service.

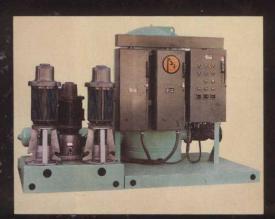
We assume that any club receiving our service wants an unbiased estimate of their existing and potential problems. We assume they want to know what corrective actions may be taken rather than to remain blissfully ignorant of troublesome situations that may be developing. We have many clubs which never give us a call until the conditions have reached the crisis point. Although we can be of help in telling them how best to recover from their problems and how to avoid problems in the future, it seems to us that a mere \$200 a year every year pays for itself — like regular visits to the dentist. In many cases clubs would have been able to avoid their present crisis if annual visits had been part of their overall maintenance budget.



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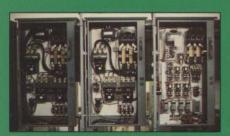
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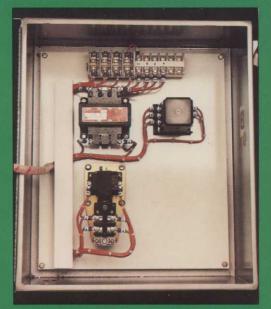


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FINE TUNING YOUR FERTILIZER PROGRAM

By KEVIN DOWNING Atlantis Golf Club

Healthy turf makes your job easier. When maintaining turfgrass that possesses good color and density you fight off an endless list of problems. Unfortunately a good healthy turf can only be achieved by a fertilizer program that is planned and implemented with great care. When formulating a fertilizer program you must first evaluate your own particular needs. After this important step is completed, you must analyse all the fertilizer sources plus decide on a method to apply the material accurately.

Fertilizer requirements will depend a great deal on the variety of the turfgrass, the soil and the timing of special events. Each turfgrass variety has its nutritional needs in respect to the amounts of different elements needed to maintain optimum growth and visual qualities. Research your turfgrass needs thoroughly so that you have a complete understanding of the amounts and types of elements to apply. Your sources of information should combine the knowledge of extension data, personal knowledge, research from turf textbooks, plus the invaluable information from experienced superintendents. After the turfgrass element needs have been established we need to determine how to fulfill these requirements. Common sense tells you that the soil contains some of these needed elements, but how much is there and its availability can only be determined by accurate soil testing.

Whoever you choose to do your soil testing, make sure that they are a reputable firm with a good background in soil analysis. I strongly recommend that you choose one company and stay with them, so that the sampling and testing procedures remain as constant as possible. This type of consistency will begin to eliminate erroneous readings plus you will become familiar in comprehending the test results. Remember to have samples run at least once a year over the same tested area in order to monitor the results of the fertilizer program. The physical analysis of a soil is also extremely important so that you can review the exchange capacity of the soil particles. Information such as this will enable the turf manager to determine leaching qualities of fertilizers and help to determine application intervals needed to maintain consistent healthy turf. Certain laboratories perform leaf tissue sampling which is a beneficial aid to compare soil test results to the actual amount of material that is taken up by the plant.

Whether to use liquid or dry fertilizer always seems to raise a good question. I personally like some properties of the two types of fertilizer and incorporate both of them in our fertilizer prgram. Approximately 65 per cent of our total program is liquid fertilizer injected through the irrigation system, while the remaining 35 per cent is dry material. Injected liquid fertilizer has many advantages but the two key items are the fact that the amount of material applied can be regulated with ease and it can be effectively utilized through the winter. The flexibility of the injection pump allows you to increase or decrease the amount of fertilizer you wish to apply. Your fertilizer needs will vary quite a bit depending upon temperature, amount of rainfall, condition

of the turf, etc., so the adjustment on the pump will let you program in those needs. Because of the "busy" winter season, plus the non-growth conditions, liquid fertilizer becomes essential during this time of year. When you are playing 200-300 rounds of golf a day it doesn't seem feasible to shut down your golf course to fertilize. Optimum fertilizer levels during this time of heavy play and colder temperatures are critical in order to maintain the turf in best possible condition. Applying light, frequent amounts of fertilizer in a physical state that can be quickly taken up by the plant, proves that injected liquid fertilizer is the answer during this time of year.

Dry fertilizers play an important role in the total fertilizer program. The proper timing and types of materials applied must be considered when planning a dry fertilizer application. Certain types of dry fertilizer will be better utilized during warm conditions, other types of materials will perform well when the soil moisture is at a higher level. When you decide to feed your turf take these items into consideration before selecting a fertilizer:

- 1. How quick a response I need?
- 2. How long must the fertilizer last?
- 3. What will the normal environmental conditions be like when I apply?
- 4. What are the micro-nutrient needs?
- 5. What is the condition of the turf?

With the answers to these questions you can make selections from the various types of fertilizers available on the market today. You, as a superintendent, should evaluate your fertilizer needs and percentages when formulating a mix. The sources of materials should be studied and chosen with great detail in order to insure proper effectiveness of the fertilizer. Inorganic and organic (synthetic and natural) sources of nitrogen, should be put in proper ratio so that you can receive what you want out of the fertilizer mix. Applying these dry fertilizer mixes at predetermined amounts should be as accurate as possible. Fertilizer spreaders should be calibrated so that you are spreading the actual amount that you think you are. Special care must be taken when applying with bulk spreaders because a mistake can appear after three or four fairways are already completed. Dry fertilizers serve their purpose at different times of the year by forcing the roots to act out their plant function of taking up nutrients that were applied to the soil.

Whatever type of fertilizer you decide to use, make sure that the material is tested by the State Fertilizer Inspector. On every ton of fertilizer purchased you pay a \$.25 tax to the State for this inspection service, so, for your protection, you should use this service. In order to insure that consumers are receiving the proper quality and quantity of fertilizers, have the material tested before it leaves the vendors plant.

Accurate record keeping that involves all the particulars about your fertilizer applications are very helpful. Make sure all the settings and amounts used are recorded along with helpful data concerning the environmental conditions. Keep copies of all your fertilizer tags on file for reference materials if any questions arise. You spent a lot of time reviewing the turf on a day to day business, but don't neglect to study your fertilizer program to evaluate its strong and weak points.

GCSAA FORUM TAKES UNIQUE APPROACH TO NATION'S WATER PROBLEMS

GCSAA's 53rd International Turfgrass Conference in New Orleans Jan. 28-Feb. 5 will provide what may be the year's most complete and comprehensive discussion of the nation's water problems. Two conference water symposiums will bring together 12 of the nation's leading experts on water and golf for a look at the future of the game in a water-short world.

According to Dr. Joseph P. Rossillon, executive director of the Freshwater Biological Research Foundation in Navarre, Minn., the United States may be headed for a water crisis rivaling the energy crunch which hit in 1973. The only difference, according to Rossillon, is that we may not have eight years to adjust to it.

For golf courses in several parts of the country, the situation already is critical. Courses have been forced to ration or completely cease using water as government agencies debate the best use of available supplies. The situation may become even more critical, according to Rossillon.

Besides Rossillon, participants in the first symposium Feb. 1 include Dr. Calvin Alexander Jr., associate professor of geology and geophysics at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis; Dr. William A. Thomas, a Chicago attorney who specializes in water and energy law; and Walter Wilkie, president of Wilkie Turf Equipment, Pontiac, Mich.

The second water symposium Feb. 2 will begin with a panel discussion by four golf course superintendents who recently have been forced to deal with restricted water supplies at their courses. They are Jack Martin, Shackamaxon

Country Club, Westfield, N.J.; David. M. Bailey, Atlantis Country Club, Lake Worth, Fla.; Peter Pedrazzi, CGCS, Crestmont Country Club, Florham Park, N.J., and James G. Prusa, Pasatiempo Golf Club, Scotts Valley, Calif.

Panelists will focus on their experiences with government regulations, alternative water sources and water-conscious turf management techniques.

Also speaking in the second session are former United States Golf Association President Frank "Sandy" Tatum, Ed Seay, director of design for Arnold Palmer's golf course operations, and Dr. James B. Beard, professor of turf and crop physiology at Texas A&M University. Speakers will discuss ways a water shortage will affect turf management practices, golf course design and the game of golf itself.

The session will conclude with a discussion by GCSAA Executive Director James E. McLoughlin of efforts by golf's allied associations to position the game to cope with the problems it faces in this and other areas.

The water symposiums are two of nine education sessions scheduled during GCSAA's New Orleans Conference. Other sessions will deal with personal financial planning, golf course drainage, putting green speed, communications, tree management programs and cart management.

Conference activities also include the world's largest trade show devoted exclusively to golf course and fine turf management, a behind-the-scenes tour of the Louisiana Superdome, a full schedule of social activities and the Association's annual membership meeting.

Diagnostic Quiz: Bermudagrass

By DR. ROBERT DARST and DR. W.R. THOMPSON, JR.

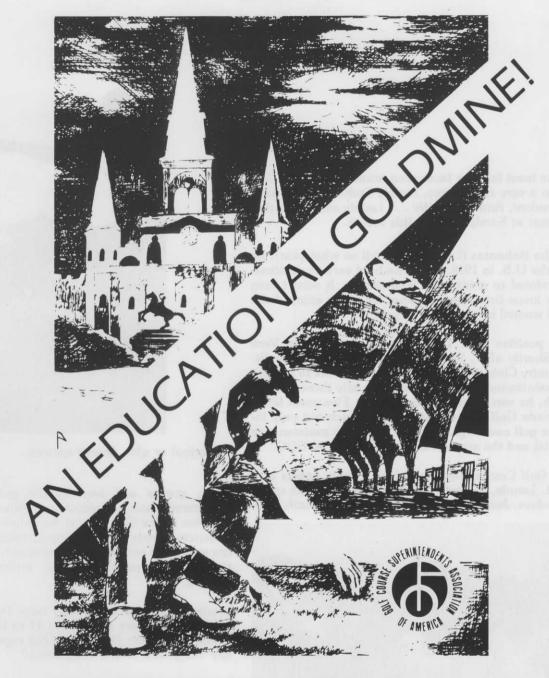
Clues: Producers of hybrid bermudagrass often experience moderate to severe stand losses in both hay meadows and pastures. The problem has been around about as long as the hybrid bermudas have. Close observation of affected areas reveals that older leaves develop small tan to purplish-brown spots. Young plant tops appear lemon yellow or wilted. In severe cases, leaves (and sometimes the entire plant) may die. In research plots, consistent differences have been seen in earliness of spring growth, rhizome numbers (in early spring and in late summer) and ground cover plots receiving a balanced fertilizer versus without. Soil types can influence the time required to develop this condition and the degree of severity. What is the problem? For answer, see below.

Answer:

This is a coastal bermudagrass that is deficient in potash. In some cases, the deficiency becomes so severe that heavy stand loss occurs. Helminthosporium leaf spot often invades the affected pasture or meadow. Winter hardiness drops and rhizome production can be reduced drastically. Hybrid bermudagrass grown on some soils shows the condition sooner than on others. Those soils containing K-bearing minerals in the lower soil profile sometimes provide reserve K nutrition for a while. Even on these soils, however, the condition ultimately shows itself. Heavy K2O applications (up to 300-400 lbs./A) will help bring back stands and return pastures and meadows to normal production levels. The condition can be prevented by balancing N and P2O5 applications with adequate K2O.

EVERYBODY'S GOING TO BE THERE:

New Orleans - 1982



GCSAA's 53rd International Turfgrass Conference & Show

LONNIE STUBBS – COURSE SUPERINTENDENT HE MAKES EVERYTHING GO – AND GROW

By JAN SHELLEY

One of the most familiar faces seen around Sandpiper Bay belongs to a very special guy, Lonnie Stubbs, Golf Course Superintendent. And no wonder . . . Lonnie will be starting his 21st year at Sandpiper Bay this month.

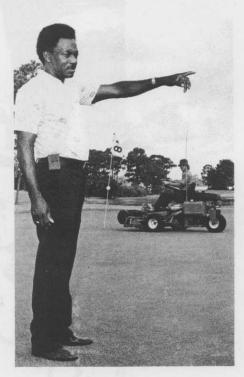
Born in the Bahamas (Lonnie won't tell us what year), he came to the U.S. in 1948, where he held various positions . . . all related to plants and landscaping. It wasn't long before he knew that this was what he really enjoyed the most and wanted to make his career.

His first position with GDC was landscaping in Vero Shores. Shortly after, Sandpiper Bay (then called the St. Lucie Country Club and Villas) persuaded Lonnie to join the ground maintenance crew, where, after only three months on the job, he was promoted to foreman. Five years later, he was made Golf Course Supervisor, which not only included the golf course grounds but also lawn maintenance at the hotel and the surrounding homes built by GDC.

Now, as Golf Course Superintendent, Lonnie boasts of a staff of 31. Lonnie, his men and their achievements speak for themselves. Just take a look around at the beautiful fair-



Lonnie Stubbs with Craig Baker (center) and Tom Burrows at recent Treasure Coast golf outing.



Underfoot or afar, Lonnie notices.

ways, greens and tees at the golf courses and the manicured lawns and plantings surrounding the hotel. As a member of the Golf Course Superintendent Association of America, Lonnie is constantly attending seminars all over the state (and sometimes out of state), to keep informed on the latest in new chemicals, insect control, fertilizer, seeding, etc.

Lonnie is married to a lovely lady, Daisy, who has given him six handsome sons, ages 17 to 29. He said that was planned since he didn't want the expense of marrying off any daughters! Is that true, Daisy?

Lonnie was recently elected President of the newly formed Treasure Coast Chapter, Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association.

Sandpiper Bay is proud of Lonnie and his achievements and sincerely hopes he'll be around for another 21 years.

Editors note: Jan Shelly is the Public Relations Director of the Sandpiper Bay Resort. The above article appeared in the Souvenir Program of the 1981 Florida Open.

WATER PROBLEMS

Mr. Bruce Adams So. Fla. Water Management District P O Box V West Palm Beach, Fla. 33402

Dear Bruce:

Thank you for your invitation to meet with you regarding the turf industry's water use needs.

As a follow up to that meeting held in the So. Fla. Water Management District headquarters on Wednesday, Oct. 28, 1981, at 10 A.M. and which was attended by S.F.W.M.D. staff personnel and representatives of the turf industry, I wish to submit the following position paper.

We, the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association, are in tune with the critical water situation which has developed and become so much a part of our daily existence. We pledge our cooperation in assisting your efforts to provide equitable, reasonable amounts of water for all required consumption. More specifically we, the superintendents of golf courses situated in your water management district, offer these facts and figures for your information and consideration.

Located in your area of administration are approximately 350 golf courses with an average acreage of 125. This constitutes an urban life supporting factor by providing oxygen for 2,920,000 people each year.

A conservative estimate of the economic value of these courses is a yearly dollar volume of 350 million. This does not include the consideration of variables such as the dollar volume of business generated by supporting and allied industries.

Although somewhat difficult to ascertain in a dollar volume, the negative impact on future development and tax dollar revenue without the involvement of a golf course is immeasurable and, in the eyes of revenue seeking government entities, unthinkable.

Recognizing the fact that we are large users of water and also being cognizant of the inordinate energy costs involved in our irrigation process, demands on our application systems for more sensitive control and monitoring have been met. We have the ability to place water in specific areas. The ability to automatically shut off during a measurable rainfall is incorporated. Rainfall amounts are the key factor of consideration in our irrigation programs and the period following a rain is carefully observed as to atmospheric conditions, previous and future weather conditions, temperature, wind velocity, and the condition of the turf before further irrigation is applied.

We also offer our support in regulation assistance through

our association communication tools and by personal surveillance and contact.

The detailed water requirement schedule which follows divides the average golf course into five basic areas which are listed in an importance priority.

#1 - Greens

#2 - Tees

#3 - Fairways

#4 - Roughs

#5 - Non-Playing and Common

Greens, Tees, and Fairways are self explanatory. Roughs are in two forms — short or controlled and deep. Non playing areas are basically clubhouse grounds and practice areas. Common areas refer primarily to entrances and approach boulevards.

	Maximum	Minimum
Greens	2" - 21/2" per wk.	
Tees	2" - 21/2" per wk.	1" - 11/4" per wk.
Fairways	11/2" - 2" per wk.	
Roughs		1/4" - 1/2" per wk.
Non-Playing	1" - 2" per wk.	
and common		

The maximum amounts are for ideal playing conditions. The mnimum amounts are for grass survival in a semi dormant stage with further play being determined by each individual. Please note that survival of greens is an absolute and this is at a playable state — they survive in a playable condition or they don't survive.

Please keep in mind the time required to accomplish a complete irrigation cycle on the average golf course is a minimum of 12 hours.

An average golf course of 125 acres generally will have the following area breakdown:

Greens	9 acres	=	7.2%
Tees	9 acres	=	7.2%
Fairways	65 acres	=	52%
Roughs	32 acres	=	25.6%
Non Playing	10 acres	=	8%

and common

Bruce, I wish to again thank you for the opportunity to present this information to you. The situation is difficult but it can only be enhanced by your efforts and our cooperation. We would appreciate meeting with you in the near future to discuss final determination of our situation.

Respectfully, Bill Wagner

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