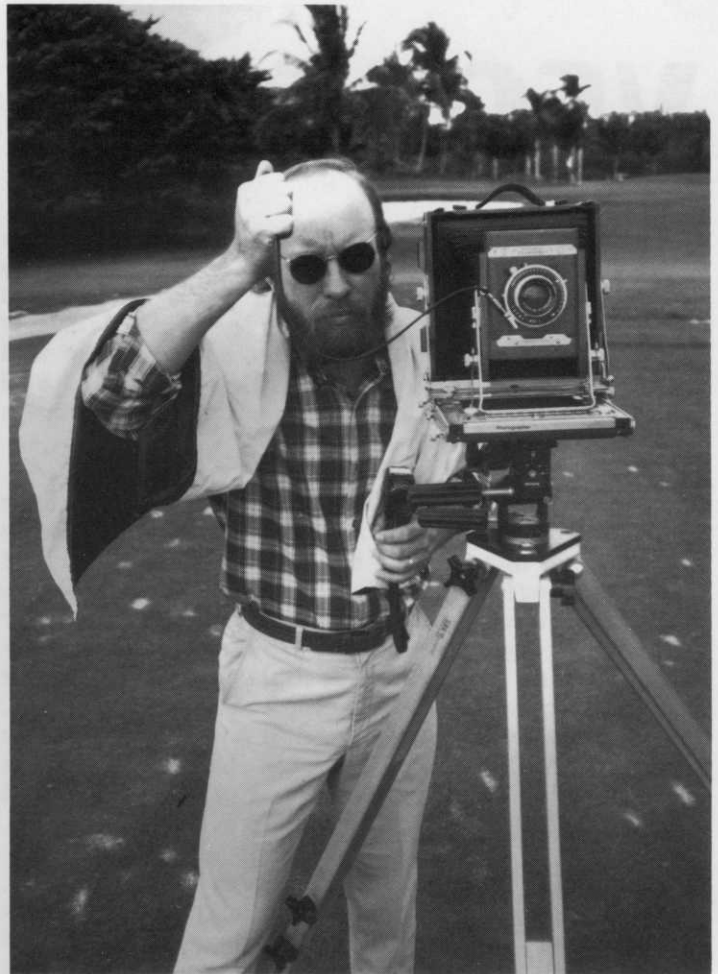


When all variables are set the master is ready.



The camera is a Deardorff 5x5. Because of two page cover format a 5" x 7" film is used. Greater detail is achieved because of large size. A 35mm camera would never be used.



## southern turf nurseries

*Product—Experience—Service*

### CERTIFIED-QUALITY GRASSES

Tifway	Emerald Zoysia	Green Renovation
Tifway II	Meyer Zoysia	Golf Course Sprigging
Tifgreen*	Centipede	Golf Course Row-Planting
Tifgreen II*	Sod	
Tifdwarf*	Sprigs	

\*Greens quality



**southern turf nurseries, inc.**

Tifton, Georgia / Norcross, Georgia /  
800-841-6413 / 800-241-9451 /

# VEGAS: (A WIFE'S VIEWPOINT)

I'm sure most of the superintendent's wives were as excited as I was when the time for the Las Vegas Convention was drawing near. But this also brings about questions or uncertainties for some of us. For example, can we get time off from work, who will keep the children or pets, additional air fare and other concerns that have to be considered when a trip is planned.

We made reservations to fly out of Ft. Lauderdale on January 29th at 6:15 a.m. We boarded the plane on schedule but once on board, the servicemen had problems fueling the plane. We were not able to depart until 7:45 a.m., which made us late for our connecting flight in Atlanta. We did not know if we would be able to get another flight to Las Vegas that day, but fortunately they held the connecting flight. As we were preparing to land in Atlanta, the plane lunged straight up to avoid another plane on the runway hidden by the heavy fog. Everyone breathed a sigh of relief as we touched solid ground.

The scenery to Las Vegas was breathtaking, especially to someone who had not been out west before. Enroute to our destination we flew over the Rocky Mountains, the Continental Divide and Lake Mead. We also got a good view of the Grand Canyon as our pilot tipped the wings of the plane for us.

Inside the Las Vegas airport, the atmosphere was set early with the slot machines and the clanging of the coins.

We then went to the MGM Grand Hotel where we had reservations. Seeing all of the bright lights, slot machines, blackjack tables and the crowds of people was an appropriate initiation to Las Vegas.

After settling into our room, we began to make plans for our activities. We decided to visit the Hoover Dam on Sunday. The drive through the desert-like terrain and rocky hillsides, was definitely a change from Florida. We took the tour under the dam where we learned a lot about its actual construction. For example, it was scheduled to be built in six years, but was completed in four years. There is enough concrete in the dam to build a highway from San Francisco to New York City eight inches thick. They say the estimated cost to replace the concrete today would be 240 million dollars. The water is approximately 500 feet deep. There is enough water in Lake Mead (created by the dam) to sustain the natural flow of the river for two years. The turbines that drive the dam (approximately 12-14 of them) are seven stories tall and the two pipes that supply the water for the turbines are 30 feet in diameter. The water travels through the pipes at 45 m.p.h. and a three-story

house on a train could fit inside them.

With the exception of the Hoover Dam, the activities I shared with my husband had to be planned in and around his conference schedule. Since Tim was the voting delegate for the state of Florida, most of our nights were spent interviewing candidates or fulfilling his association duties. His days were very busy attending conference sessions, the equipment show and carrying out his association activities.

In the meantime, I managed to squeeze a day of shopping in at the Fashion Mall. Shopping is one of my favorite hobbies so I felt right at home. Tim and I had agreed that we wouldn't spend any money on shopping but somehow, in a beautiful mall, that was soon forgotten. I did bring back some unusual souvenirs, which I hope to have a long time.

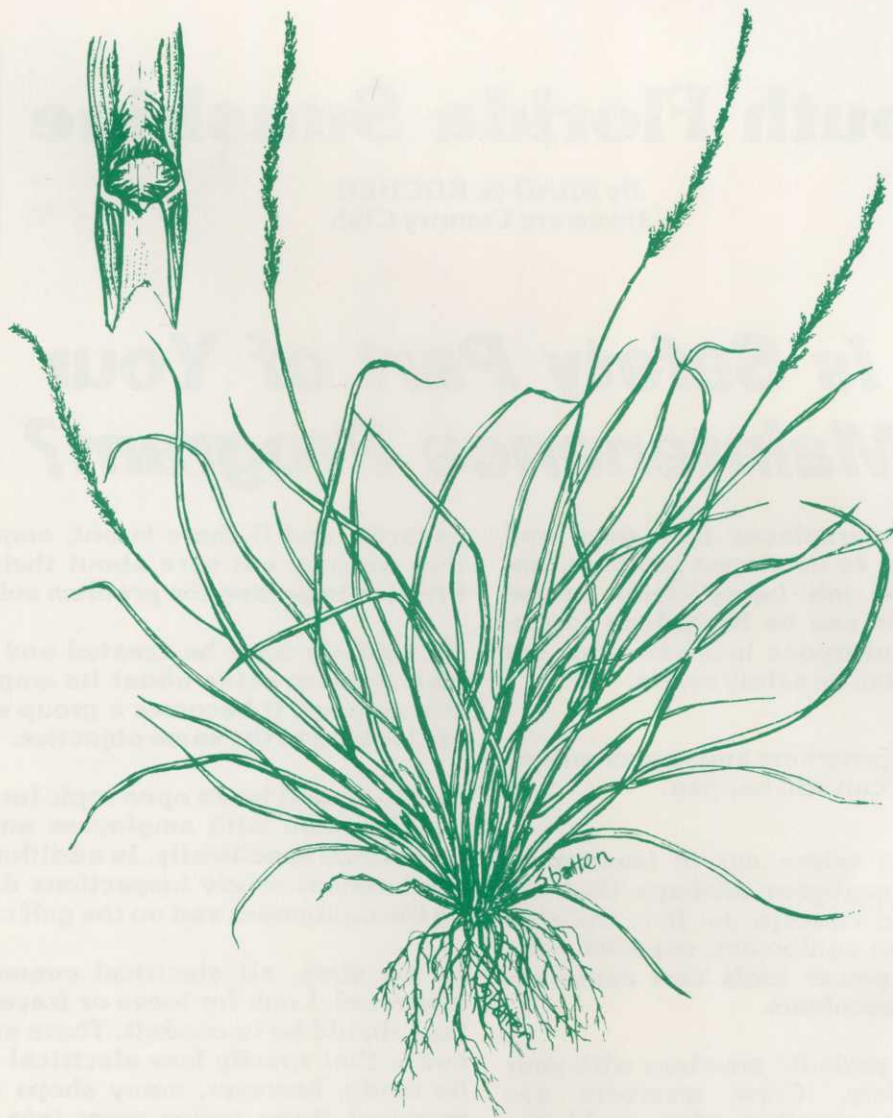
Something else I enjoy doing, that I'm sure most women do, is dining out. We had dinner at Barrymore's inside the MGM. It was a very enjoyable evening and mid-way through dinner we looked over to the table next to us and saw Dom Deloise and Ava Gabor. We also had dinner at Caruso's which was a delicious Italian restaurant.

We wanted to go to a show while we were there, so we decided to see Siegfried and Roy's Magical Show. It would be hard for me to describe in words just how amazing this show was. People and things literally disappeared before our eyes. They did all sorts of exciting magical illusions. They say people go there time and time again to try to figure out how exactly they do these illusions.

One of the most amazing sights was driving down the strip of the old part of Las Vegas at night. It was as if it was day with all the bright lights. They say it is the only place where you don't have to have a flash on your camera at night.

Also mixed in with all the fun was going to the equipment show and attending some of the seminars. Participating in these functions, allows me to become more involved with my husband's career. I really enjoyed attending and being a part of these educational programs because they were interesting and informative. Being the wife of a golf course superintendent is not always easy (with all the pressures and responsibilities that they have), but taking an interest can assist in understanding the daily routine of being a golf course superintendent.

We enjoyed our stay in Las Vegas very much, and though we were sad to leave, we were glad to get back home to Florida. ■



# SMUTGRASS

(*Sporobolus indicus* (L.) R. Br.)

By STEVE BATTEN

**Smutgrass is a perennial weed introduced into the United States from Asia. It is commonly found in rough areas on golf courses in the Southern United States from Virginia to Texas. It is also common to South America as far south as Argentina. Smutgrass has even been found on a ship's ballast in Oregon.**

**The black smut on smutgrass is the result of a fungus which is often present on the seed head. If golf players rub their slacks or equipment against the seed head, a black streak will occur which of course makes the weed extremely objectionable. Since it is a bunch type of grass with wiry thin leaves, then it also becomes an unfortunate natural hazard if a golf ball were to come to rest next to it.**

**A vigorous seed producer, Smutgrass can bloom all year in South Florida. If it is allowed to grow without mowing, it is less likely to form a branched growth habit. Close mowing at frequent intervals is one method of control.**

**The most common methods of control in the temperate climatic regions of the United States are fall applied applications of Dowpon or Atrazine over bermudagrass turf at higher mowing heights such as golf course roughs. It has been reported that metribuzin (Sencor) at labeled rates for bermudagrass will provide some control.**

**One of the most effective controls is the application of non selective herbicides such as glyphosate (Roundup) with a sponge or rope wick applicators. Many golf course superintendents have designed their own applicators with wick booms on wheels 3-5 inches above the soil surface. This allows selective placement of the herbicide onto the Smutgrass and off of the surrounding bermudagrass.**



# South Florida Sunshine



By BRAD G. KOCHER  
Inverrary Country Club

## ***Is Safety Part of Your Maintenance Program?***

Each year corporate workplaces lose days and weeks of worktime due to employee sickness, absenteeism and on the job injury. Golf course maintenance operations can be hazardous to employees' well being if everyone involved does not make a conscious effort to be safety aware.

Despite diligent safety programs and conscientious employees — accidents can still happen.

It is the accident that arises out of inadequate safety programs, the negligent mishaps that are preventable and should concern us. It is the slippery floor, bald tires on equipment, exposed belts or lack of shields on power tools that cause accidents — preventable accidents.

It is important to have periodic meetings with your crew concerning safety. Crew members are generally the first to see pending safety problems, and if we have an open line of communication with our employees and encourage them to report safety violations or hazards, our accident losses will be minimized.

Even more important is that management follows up on any and all observations made by employees. Employees have to know that we will do something about safety problems — and do it quickly. There should be a sense of urgency about rectifying

hazards, and if there is not, employees will sense that we may not care about their safety, or are a little lax in getting the problem solved.

An attitude must be created and perpetuated that management cares about its employees' safety. In this manner, it becomes a group effort and all eyes are looking to the same objective.

Safety should be an open topic for discussion at any meeting held with employees and should also be mentioned specifically. In addition, there should be semi-annual safety inspections done in the shop, on the equipment and on the golf course.

In the shop, all electrical connections should be inspected. Look for loose or frayed wires and wires that should be in conduit. There are city and county codes that specify how electrical connections must be made, however, many shops were built before many of these codes went into effect, and even though your shop may not be governed by some of the newer requirements an update should be performed.

Fire is one of the major safety hazards that can be prevented. Ask for an inspection by your local fire department. They will tell you if you have enough fire extinguishers, if they are properly marked and

*(Continued on page 35)*

## **FOR MAXIMUM TURFGRASS AT MINIMUM EXPENSE!**



*Turfgrass Consulting Services*

**ROBERT L. WILLCOX**

1261 S.W. 27th Place  
Boynton Beach, Fla. 33435

EXPERIENCED PROFESSIONAL  
SOIL TESTING ANALYSIS  
COMPLETE AGRONOMIC  
PROGRAMS AVAILABLE

(305) 736-2056



QUALITY FERTILIZERS SINCE 1904

spaced, and if they are the right type. They also will look at electrical connections, flammable liquids and potential hazards from sparks, and give a written recommendation.

A lot of people may be reluctant to have a fire inspection and feel that all of their recommendations may cost a great deal of money. Granted, deficiencies may cost one hundred dollars or a thousand. Add the price of all the equipment that is in the shop on a given day, plus all the mechanics tools, and shop equipment that you would be without if you had a fire, and you will see it is well worth it. There are several golf course maintenance operations that have experienced a devastating fire and I am sure that replacing the equipment was the easiest problem to solve after the fire.

Equipment should also be inspected at regular intervals. Operators should check their equipment for potential safety problems daily. Mechanics should include a safety inspection when they perform weekly or monthly fluid or filter changes.

Bald tires, steering problems and inadequate brakes are areas that can be the most hazardous to operators and even to innocent bystanders. A piece of equipment that goes out of control can end up in a lake or injure people in nearby golf carts. Our equipment frequently travels many of the same paths as the golfers and a sudden breakage of equipment could be disastrous.

Other equipment problems to look for are worn or frayed wires that could spark near the gas tank or ignite excess oil on the engine block. Buildup of oil or grease on the engine not only is a fire hazard, but decreases engine life because the engine runs hotter.

On the course, safety hazards not only involve employees, but also golfers. Low hanging branches have hit many people in the face or eyes and have also damaged exhaust pipes and golf cart roof tops. Look at golf cart and equipment routing. Are there blind spots? Patchwork should be done on worn cartpaths to prevent tires from dropping into ruts and losing control.

Safety should be an ongoing program. Too many times we fix problems after accidents happen. It is good that we respond to problems quickly, but too often the problem has existed long before the accident happened.

Most of our maintenance programs on equipment include preventative maintenance. Frequent greasing and oil changes are part of a good preventative maintenance schedule. Maybe we should also add a preventive safety maintenance program to our maintenance vocabulary. It can only help to make everyone safety aware. ■

FERTILIZER - LIME - DOLOMITE



PROMPT - QUALITY - SERVICE

813-687-9652  
Home

Unit  
88.76

813-299-1181  
Mobile

SPECIALIST  
IN  
GOLF COURSE SPREADING

ALMAR

Quality

Service

Economy

CHEMICAL CO., INC.

P.O. BOX 18101

TAMPA, FLA. 33679

CALL COLLECT 813-839-3363

# Watching Your Tees & Q's

By STEVE BATTEN AND BUD WHITE  
United States Golf Association-Green Section  
Southeastern Region



## *Don't Bury Your Head in the Sand*

Excessive rain and above average soil temperatures have caused a loss of overseeded turfgrasses late this fall in South Florida. Many golf course superintendents have been victims of weather conditions that have been more favorable to the optimal growth of the bermudagrass than to the establishment of overseeded turfgrasses. Natural conditions such as these can often make growing turfgrass difficult. A few golf courses were having problems with Pythium on overseeded grasses during the warm weather period in December. Like so many disease and insect problems, the Pythium was observed on different golf courses during the same week when environmental conditions were favorable for its appearance. One golf course superintendent who had a Pythium problem ordered additional seed the last of December and was told by the seed supplier that he was the tenth person to order additional ryegrass seed that particular week.

This means that there were a lot of untold problems with overseeded greens at approximately the same time. The superintendent that is referred to in this story was able to detect the disease problem in time to correct it before all of his overseeded ryegrass was lost to disease. He enlisted the help of two turfgrass consultants, a professional diagnostic laboratory, and a Florida Turfgrass research pathologist. But what about the other untold stories? Did they correct their overseeding loses in time? How many golf course superintendents buried

their heads in the sand?

Growing turfgrass under warm humid conditions can often present more questions than there are answers. In Florida there are over 750 golf courses with many of these concentrated into small areas. There is a wealth of information available about local turfgrass conditions at any one time from neighboring golf course superintendents. Sharing this information over a telephone or a neighborly cup of coffee can put out a large amount of these daily fires.

Anytime a turfgrass pest problem exists, the superintendent should try to enlist the help of an outside professional. Documentation of these problems on paper whether they are nematodes, insects, or disease can help to explain the problems to the owners and or membership of a golf course. The hardest problems for the membership to understand are the unseen turfgrass pests such as nematodes or soil born disease.

There are many sources of help available. One of the best sources is through the County Horticulture Extension Agent. The County Horticulture Extension Agents have access to professional non bias research and extension turfgrass personnel who need to know the scope of any present turfgrass pest problem in existence during any one period of the year. Turfgrass consultants, such as the USGA Green Section can provide a consultation service

*(Continued on page 43)*



**Atlas Peat & Soil Inc.**

P.O. BOX 667  
BOYNTON BEACH, FLORIDA 33435  
(305) 734-7300



# Because it grows on you.



We've just given our Motor 180 a big lift. Big lifts. So now, you can adjust ground clearance without ever leaving your seat. Add that to the Motor 180's purring engine, impressive 71" cutting width, stabilizing low center of gravity and wide wheel track, and you've given yourself a big lift. Raise your standards to a Ransomes Motor 180. It will grow on you.

For a personal demonstration, contact Florida Turf Equipment, Inc., 1910 State Road # 427, Longwood, Florida 32750. Phone: 305/331-6440.

**RANSOMES**

**BOB-CAT<sup>®</sup>**

## The grass machine.



# CRABGRASS OR GOOSEGRASS?

# CONTROL BOTH

If you think you've seen late-germinating crabgrass in your turf, you may really have been looking at a goosegrass problem.

Either way, you can solve the problem with CHIPCO® RONSTAR® herbicide.

### THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CRABGRASS AND GOOSEGRASS.

Goosegrass is more common than you might think. It's easily mistaken for crabgrass, especially when it's mowed.

What's the difference? Check the color first. Goosegrass is a

darker green. And it always grows in tufts. Crabgrass doesn't.

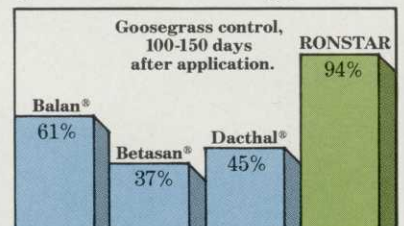
There's another important difference: goosegrass is much harder to control. Unless you use RONSTAR.

### CRABGRASS OR GOOSEGRASS... IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE WITH RONSTAR G.

RONSTAR is the only herbicide you can count on for effective preemergent control of both crabgrass and goosegrass.

While other products will give you satisfactory performance on

crabgrass, they don't even come close to RONSTAR on goosegrass. Years of testing prove it:



Summary of 9 years of testing conducted by University Experiment Station and Rhône-Poulenc personnel.

So you have two choices. Use an ordinary crabgrass herbicide





**GOOSEGRASS OR CRABGRASS?**

**WITH RONSTAR.**

HERBICIDE

and hope crabgrass is your only problem.

Or play it safe and use RONSTAR this season, for excellent, season-long control of both crabgrass and goosegrass.

**NO RAIN-OUTS,  
ROOT PRUNING OR  
PROBLEMS WITH PLANTINGS.**

RONSTAR is the most convenient herbicide for your turf care program. It won't leach, so you can fit it into your schedule earlier. It's highly selective, causing no root pruning in peren-

nial bluegrass, perennial ryegrass and bermudagrass, no harm to ornamental plantings or trees.

**QUALITY CHIPCO TURF CARE  
IS THE "RIGHT APPROACH."**

Wherever the professionals really care for turf — and especially where both crabgrass and goosegrass are problems — word is getting around. CHIPCO RONSTAR herbicide is your best choice for effective, convenient, long-lasting control.

For more information on RONSTAR or other CHIPCO

products, ask your CHIPCO distributor.

Rhône-Poulenc Inc., Agrochemical Division, Monmouth Junction, NJ 08852.



**RONSTAR<sup>®</sup>**  
**SPREAD THE WORD.**

Please read label carefully, and use only as directed.

# Treasure Coast "Tide"ings

By JAMES P. CALLAGHAN  
Rio Mar Country Club

## Playing It Safe at Martin Downs

Working on a golf course maintenance crew is very often taken lightly from a safety standpoint which can be very dangerous and extremely costly to your club. Higher insurance rates, lost man hours and possible lawsuits can result from unsafe working habits. As golf course superintendents, we have a responsibility to initiate and carry out a sound safety program that will avoid injuries and other major catastrophies.

At Martin Downs, an expansive development with 36 holes of golf in Stuart, operation and employee safety have been given top priority. Bill Mangold, Golf Course Superintendent, regularly holds employee meetings and safety is usually a major topic of conversation. I have invited Bill to share his safety program, which includes employee safety, equipment safety, chemical safety and fire hazards, with the readers of THE FLORIDA GREEN.

### Employee Safety

Bill opened our interview by stating, "An employee's safety is sometimes the hardest thing to get through to him. They will come up with all kinds of excuses on why they cannot conform to the rules. In most cases, that's all they are; excuses — with no real merit." Bill handles excuses firmly by stressing the importance of safety to all of his employees.

At Martin Downs, workers are required to wear hard toe shoes at all times. Sneakers, sandals and similar types of unsubstantial shoes are not permitted to be worn. Wearing rings, watches and bracelets are discouraged when they could catch on equipment and cause injury. Bill recommends that shirt-tails be tucked in and that pant legs be tucked

in boots or tied when working in situations where snagging of clothing is hazardous. Likewise, long hair is to be tied back to avoid snagging and obstruction of vision.

During regular employee meetings at Martin Downs, workers are constantly reminded safety — even things like the danger of cables or chains snapping when pulling out disabled equipment that may seem tedious, but could cause severe personal injury. Employees are encouraged to report any unsafe procedures or acts of other employees so that they may be put to rest for everyone's protection. Bill commented, "If you can strive to emphasize that the most important facet of safety is COMMON SENSE to your employees, accidents will be few and far between."

### Equipment Safety

Most accidents on the golf course involve equipment — either by mechanical failure or some fault of the operator. When asked to give his opinion on this fact, Bill Mangold replied, "Many times accidents happen when a new employee is put on a new piece of equipment for which he has not been properly trained. We cannot afford to take it for granted that he knows enough about a piece of equipment to operate it. We must go over it with him from head to toe and point out all features, especially those that pertain to safety." Bill continued, "After an accident occurs, it's very easy to blame the employee, but in fact it is our fault for not training him properly."

Some safety points that Bill stresses are: shut down equipment when fueling it, make sure not to overfill



## Your Sand Man

E. R. JAHNA IND., INC. 102 E. TILLMAN AVE.  
LAKE WALES, FLA. (813) 676-9431