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(cont. from page 70)

to mow every day — often we don't even have someone available once a week.

Dr. Krans: We have the same problem in Mississippi. We cannot afford to maintain the greens. So we have gone to a golf course and built the greens on the golf course and then they maintain it for us. That is how we do the research. Maybe you can find a golf course near the Experimental Station and use it to do the research.

Dr. Freeman: We have no plans to have a 100% Bentgrass green at the University of Florida at this time. We will have a Field Day in the spring where we will show the results of overseeding Bent on Tifdwarf. We do not know how to cope with overseeding problems and appreciate the opportunity of hearing your side of it. We can now go back to Gainesville and put our heads together to see what we need to do to help you.

Question #3: How much money would we need to build a green?

Moderator Brown: \$25,000.

Question #4: What about the so-called shortage of Penncross seed and the non-certified Penncross seed that is out in the market place.

Dr. Duich (Summary): We have never recognized such a thing as non-certified Penncross. When the variety was originally released, the only way to maintain genetic qual-

ity of the seed was to force the grower to plant and grow from first generation material. Certification sounds really good on paper but in order to have a strong program it has to be executed. If a field doesn't pass certification standards, we are turning it down.

As far as the demand for seed, we are trying to balance the supply and demand situation. I know how much seed has been shipped. We have never had as much seed shipped as has been sold. It is physically impossible to have all the seed ready this time of year, not by September 1 or even by October 1.

WE HAVE NO PLANS TO HAVE A 100% BENTGRASS GREEN AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA AT THIS TIME.

Dr. Ed Freeman

Question #5: I have a question about buying treated seeds. If a seed is treated it means that the bag has been opened to be treated. How is this handled to maintain certification status?

Dr. Duich: Yes, that is right. You have to use interagency certification to police this. For example, if you want to use a blend of 4 different rye grasses and you want to certify the seed, you must get a representative from the seed company to physically be there when the seed bags are opened. We do Interagency Certification all over the country and I don't know why you can't do that in Florida. If you can't get it done in Florida, then I know you can get it done in other states.

Question #6: What is the shelf life of an unopened bag of Penncross?

Dr. Duich: One of the factors that affects longevity is moisture. If you can maintain your supply at 5-9% moisture, you can keep it for many years. If the moisture rate goes down lower than 5% you are going to get a very rapid drop in germination. You will get an even more rapid drop in germination if the moisture goes over 10% and you expose it to heat. The key is to control that moisture and keep it between 5 and 9%. For optimum situations, the total of temperature and humidity of the storage area cannot be more than 100. That is; 2/3 temperature and 1/3 humidity.

Moderator Brown: Again, thanks to the FGCSA for putting together this program and special thanks to the hands-on superintendents who deal with the everyday problems of bentgrass and to our distinguished panelists who have contributed so much to what I believe has been an extremely excellent program on "Bentgrass in Florida." How about a follow-up seminar, "Bentgrass — Part II?" ■

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Indian Hills Country Club, Marietta, GA.

EDITORIAL

A SUPER LIFE

The superintendent should be paid well and be asked to perform, but should also be treated with compassion and respect.

*By John R. Piersol
Lake City Community College
Lake City, FL*

John R. Piersol is the Chairperson of Golf Course and Landscape Operations programs at the Lake City Community College located in Lake City, FL. The two-year school includes golf course operations and landscaping in their curriculum.

A career as a golf course superintendent is rewarding. The working environment is nice, and one gets a real feeling of accomplishment trying to provide the turf quality and aesthetic surroundings the members can afford. It really sounds like a super job, and it can be so. Too often the demands put on the superintendent are so great that his/her family life suffers.

OVER WORKED?

Greens Committees need to remember that golf course superintendents are people too. They have needs, wants and feelings just like everyone else. Most superintendents feel a strong attachment to their course. This is because they sincerely enjoy what they are doing, and there is always the feeling that their job is on the line, and they better not "mess up." Thus, many hours are spent on the course, often six to seven days a week. This is great for the membership, but such a schedule can wreck a family.

Superintendents get married and have children like the rest of us. The family is an important part of our society. (At least, I hope people still feel that way. The high divorce rate and the ease with which children are shuffled off to day care centers does make one wonder about society's current feelings about the family.) My family is very important to me, and I am sure many superintendents feel the same way. Twelve to fifteen hour days, six or seven days a week doesn't leave much family time. Such strain on the home can lead to divorce which is not uncommon among superintendents.

ANSWERS

It doesn't need to be that way. The golf course members need to be more compassionate when dealing with their superintendent. It is great to have a dedicated superintendent, but like anyone else, they need some time to themselves and for their families. The membership should

allow the superintendent to build an organization (ex: good assistant superintendent, foreman, etc.) so that he can get away from the course without constantly worrying about the way the course is being maintained. Building such an organization requires a financial commitment to salaries.

Besides the time restraints on family life, job security is another weakness of golf course superintendency. In Florida, good superintendents are paid good salaries. This is only fair. The membership does have a right to demand performance if they are paying \$30,000-\$70,000. (The salary range for an established graduate of Lake City Community College.) Although the annual dollars look good, sometimes the time and performance demands are unrealistic. The golf course superintendent often evolves into the resident horticulturist in charge of all landscape development and interior plants as well as 18-holes or more of golf. If effluent is used, he may be assigned sewage treatment plant responsibilities. All these duties can be handled if the superintendent becomes the Director of Grounds Management and is able to hire a golf course superintendent, landscape superintendent, etc. If not able to delegate some of the extra responsibilities, the superintendent will probably not be able to keep up with everything. Some tasks may slip, and the greens committee wrongfully concludes that it must be time for a new superintendent.

Sometimes superintendents change just because there is a new greens committee. Another dubious personnel policy. It costs money every time any trained people leave. It would make more sense for the new committee members to work with the superintendent rather than assume someone else is better. (In defense of greens committees, it must be said that some superintendents do lack the necessary public relations skills to work with constantly changing management.)

EXCITING AND CHALLENGING

A golf course superintendent has a very exciting and challenging position. It is fun to work outside developing programs for the golf course so that the course plays well and the membership is treated to an aesthetically pleasing experience. The superintendency has evolved into a position that requires practical experience, formal technical training and good communications and management skills. People with such credentials demand respectable salaries. Greens committees should be reasonable in what they ask the superintendent to do. Just managing the golf course produces enough job stress. The superintendent should be paid well and be asked to perform, but he/she should also be treated with compassion and respect. Such treatment makes any position a super job. ■

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