

Faubel proves prevention theory versus gypsy moths

By Peter Blais

Homeowners near Saginaw (Mich.) Country Club are about to get a dose of the old adage concerning an ounce of prevention being worth a pound of cure.

Over the past seven years, superintendent Gerald Faubel closely monitored the consistent build-up of gypsy moths, which can defoliate an entire golf course in a few weeks.

"We reached a threshold last fall that, if we allowed the population to keep growing, we were going to

suffer significant damage," said the immediate past president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

Faubel decided an aerial spraying of BT was in order. He informed the owners of the 200 neighboring home sites this spring that the application was about to take place and invited them to participate.

They declined. "People usually wait until fecal matter is actually falling from the trees before they'll do anything. By then, it's too late," Faubel said.

"It's difficult to get homeowners to agree to spray. A single person can stop a spraying project, even if all his neighbors want it.

"It usually takes a county-wide mandate. But, by that time, the situation is often too bad to save the trees."

Saginaw Country Club is isolated enough that it did not need its neighbors' approval.

Faubel said he received no negative reaction after informing neighbors the application would go ahead. In fact, many were out with

cameras at 5:30 a.m. the day the plane swooped over the golf course, he added.

"We got excellent control of the moths within a few days," Faubel said. "We knocked the population back to the point where we won't have to spray next year and probably for a few years after that.

"By monitoring the population closely, you can alleviate most problems with a single pesticide application. We'll keep monitoring. We're willing to suffer some damage, but not wholesale devastation.

When the population reaches a critical level again, we'll treat it.

"We save money by not having to treat yearly and also make the trees healthier. It shows that a true integrated pest management approach can work."

And what of Saginaw Country Club's neighbors?

Studies of the gypsy moth larval population already show that trees at many home sites will suffer significant damage next spring, according to Faubel.

"It's a shame," he said.

ing, We Only plex Mowers.



you 8 choices in a liquid cooled, diesel powered, highly versatile triplex. Use it on the fairway or rough. Or for trimming.

Such versatility is achieved by independent hydraulic reel control drive that lets you adjust your 335 to meet all kinds of mowing conditions. Plus variable reel speed for the best quality of cut anywhere on your course.

And all Reelmasters come with Toro's Direct Today



48 Hours Parts Delivery program. Any part not immediately available from your Toro distributor can be delivered within 48 hours anywhere in the 48 contiguous United States.

Call your Toro distributor for a demonstration today. Strictly speaking, we believe you'll really like what you see.

Reelmaster® Mowers.



The Professionals That Keep You Cutting.

Snowstorm

Continued from page 15

Country Club, in southeastern Minnesota.

"It's strange. We usually get a lot more snow than they do up there," said assistant superintendent Jeff Anderson.

Anderson was shoveling off the snow so the sun could melt the underlying ice, allowing a final snow mold fungicide application. Power outages, fallen trees and downed branches were major problems.

"We lost three full trees, including a big willow, and a lot of large branches," Anderson reported.

Sioux Falls, S.D., and Omaha, Neb., roughly marked the western edge of the storm, which tracked from south to north.

"We just got the lines blown out the morning the storm hit," said Tom Jansa, assistant pro at Elmwood Golf Course in Sioux Falls, recipient of a dozen inches of early-season snow.

"It wasn't as good of a job as we would have done if we could have waited a little longer," he said. "We also moved up the snow mold application and got it done that same morning. The course closes Nov. 1. So, we basically lost just one afternoon's worth of play."

Omaha got three inches of ice, followed by eight inches of snow and 40-mile-per-hour winds, according to Omaha Country Club assistant superintendent Joe Adams.

The course received less than 24 hours notice of the storm's arrival and had no time to blow out the irrigation system or apply fall fertilizers and fungicides.

"We usually don't have to do those things for another three or four weeks," Adams said during the first week of November. "We've been digging up drains and bleeding the sprinkler heads. We've had to chip through ice to get at them.

"The ground is still soft, so we should not have any cracked pipes. The ice insulated everything."

The storm tracked as far east as Dubuque, Iowa, on the Illinois border.

"We got 1-1/2 inches. It's stopped us from getting a few things done," said Jim Burton of Dubuque Golf & Country Club.

"My wife is in the landscaping business. She's got \$3,000 worth of perennials sitting in the garage that she wanted to plant on the course and other places."