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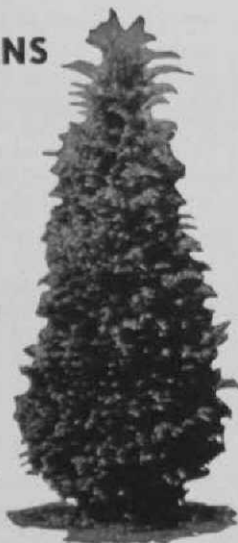
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Morrison Fights Rain as He Preps Course for PGA

By Herb Graffis

IF ever a greenkeeper had a tough break on weather conditions prevailing at a major tournament, that person is Jim Morrison, superintendent of the Hershey (Pa.) course. Jim has two 18-hole courses, and two 9-hole courses, one of the nine's a juvenile course, under his supervision.

The PGA championship, a critical test of golf and course, came to Hershey with the rains. Saturday before the Sunday preliminary practice and exhibition rounds the rain began and fell steadily for almost a week, forcing a one-day postponement of the competition.

Despite this heavy traffic over the course, the pros who played at Hershey commented that the greens were as good—if not better—than any they've played. Even the tracking and scuffing around the cups failed to deflect putts to the extent that there was wailing in the locker-rooms.

Part of the answer, Morrison believes, is in the use of a material that's not common, ground cocoanut shells, in the top-dressing. Hershey's huge chocolate plant makes an ample supply of the pulverized cocoa shells available. The material analyses 2% nitrogen, 1½% phosphorus, and ¾% potash. The material doesn't get spongy when moist, and doesn't get so hard it sends approach shots bounding high and wide.

Jim is strong for the use of hydrated lime. He whips it in (along with sifted compost) with a bamboo pole and has it sprinkled about as much as one sprays in a mercurial treatment. He limes his greens the first of May, June, July and August.

One place where Morrison still has a tough problem is on the fairways. The soil is clay, and not an especially heavy layer of that, over the limestone. Last year the Hershey championship course got its fairway watering system installed, and as many greenkeepers know from experience, until watering schedule is worked out by long and studious experience, the clover crop is going to be abundant. Jim has plenty of that, especially in view of

the fact that grass has a tough job trying to break through the clay.

He is contemplating the use of pulverized steel mill slag to break up the fairway clay, after investigating the successful employment of this material on the Chartiers Heights course at Pittsburgh. The fairway fertilizer campaign will be continued with emphasis.

Morrison has one of the largest and finest bent nurseries in the country. His staff gives it the minimum of treatment required for keeping it in condition, for Morrison is a great believer in the idea that the more work that can be left to nature in turf development, the healthier the turf will be. His maintenance platform is founded on the principle of restricting the staff treatments of turf to such operations as are necessary to offset the unnatural use and mowing conditions to which greens are subject.

Many of the Hershey tees are of seaside bent. It is difficult to keep other grass on these heavily used tees. Morrison says that he doesn't even worry unduly about mild attacks of brown-patch on these tees because the seaside grows so swiftly it requires thinning at times.

The compost situation finds Morrison set for about the next 10 years. Recently a new road was made near the championship course. The topsoil from this road grading supplied him with the basis for his compost pile.

Has Evening Sessions

One of the very interesting phases of Morrison's operations is his evening sessions—two or three times a week—with one of the Hershey plant chemists in soil analysis work.

One of the analyses of compost, and of green and tee soil, follow. The tee soil analyzed was not that of a bent tee. The preceding figures in the compost column refers to dry compost. The accompanying figure gives data on the compost as applied. Jim says that the green and tee tested in this analysis were among his best. Now he's getting to the analysis of his worst greens and tees.

The analysis:

	Compost	Green	Tee
	No. 3	No. 5	No. 12
	D65.97		
SiO2 Silica.....	56.87	76.48	71.88
	D13.31		
AL2O3 Aluminum..	11.47	9.08	14.19

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	D.882		
M90 Magnesium....	.76	.78	.98
Na20 Sodium			
K20 Potash.....	2.02	1.22	1.35
Organic Matter	22.40	9.83	10.09
Nitrogen91	.26	.28
Ash	77.60	90.17	89.91
	D2.65		
Moisture	13.80	1.07	1.50

Two weeks after the PGA tournament, no one will know from the condition of the Hershey championship course that a major tournament was played over it, so Morrison maintains. He is of the opinion that the damage a major tournament does to a course is by no means as extensive or serious as many golfers believe.

Play at Hershey goes well into November, due to favorable weather and the work done in cleaning up the woods that border many of the Hershey holes. Seeding is a major item on the Hershey course September schedule for there's generally favorable growing weather until mid-November.

Morrison makes an important detail of his autumn work that of seeing that the men he can't keep on during the winter get other work around town. He is firm in the belief that a not inconsiderable amount of the expense and uncertainty of course maintenance work is caused by the frequent necessity of having to take on new men when the spring rush begins on courses and the infrequent opportunities afforded to train these men in numerous phases of maintenance work which require an experienced and skilled performance.

Club's Record Keeping Is Model—Corpus Christi (Tex.) G&CC, makes an annual financial statement that is a model job in telling the story of the club's operations and conditions. Assets of the club are \$134,779.77 and there's a conservative expectation that in 3 years the club will be able to retire all of its debt. Right now the club is averaging monthly more than \$700 from oil wells on its property. Even with this monthly figure reduced to \$500 monthly the club will be completely out of hock in 1942. Despite the added income from oil the organization continues to operate its plant on a thrifty basis.