
Supers declare WAR on weevil

When the hyperodes weevil struck at New York courses, superintendents in the metropolitan area banded together to sponsor the research needed.

A little known member of the weevil family, *Hyperodes maculiollis*, infested many clubs in the New York metropolitan area last season causing considerable damage. The damage extended from Long Island to Westchester County and up into southern Connecticut.

The seriousness of the problem prompted several golf course superintendents from Long Island and Westchester to meet with entomologists from New York, Connecticut and New Jersey to discuss the mounting problem.

Letters were written to Dean Charles Palm, College of Agriculture, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York requesting research on this insect; and also indicating that superintendents would be willing to discuss the possibility of donations to speed the process of obtaining research.

On July 21, 1967, a field meeting was held on Long Island, attended by several interested persons including Dr. David Pimentel, head of the entomology department at Cornell, and assisted by Dr. James Brann and Dr. George Gyrisko.

Cornell was willing to undertake this research, but in order to come to a solution in as short a time as possible, it was decided to engage a graduate student full time on this project, offering a doctorate degree.

Dr. Pimentel said that \$18,000 was needed to underwrite an adequate research program to study the *Hyperodes maculiollis* problem. Cornell would support this work with an equal amount of money from tax dollars.

Thus, the Long Island Golf Course Superintendents Association and the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association decided to make a joint effort to establish a research fund. This fund was named the "Golf course superintendents research and turfgrass fund."

Clubs in the area were asked to contribute \$300 or less than one dollar per member. Contributions of an equal amount were requested from commercial concerns, golf associations and individuals interested in this problem.

The Long Island Golf Course Superintendents made a donation of \$20,000 to push this fund over its intended goal from its annual research and scholarship dinner dance. The efforts of all clubs, associations, firms, and individuals made this fund a reality. Periodic progress reports and an annual auditing of funds will be sent to all contributors.

The insect apparently does its damage during April through July, chewing on the roots or crowns of the grass plants. It can completely destroy large areas of turf or weaken it to the extent that it is easily susceptible to disease or death during periods of stress.

At the present time there is no known control for this evil weevil—the life cycle and biology of the insect is unknown—thus control measures are in a state of confusion.

Insects have never respected man, his position, or his property. Next year the weevil may move to another club or area but research is now underway to stem his progress, thanks to a concerted effort. □