

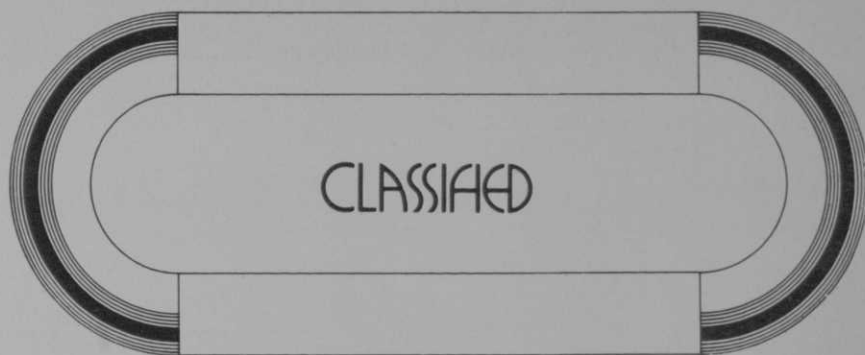
DELUGE from page 42

west and Northern states from big scale flooding was that the 1972 to 1973 winter was mild and dry. In May, Minnesota and the Dakotas were reporting a shortage of soil moisture. There was very little snow-mold, either in these three states or others in the vicinity of the Canadian border. Farther south there wasn't even evidence of it. This is a disease, though, that superintendents know how to ward off through a combination of the right fungicide treatments and good drainage.

You can be sure that drainage was something that occupied the attention of most Midwest and Northern superintendents last fall. Where the heavy rains that came from August on showed up weak spots in a club's drainage system, steps were usually taken to correct them. It's Lee Record's impression, although he hasn't kept a tally on the activity, that there has been more trenching for drain tile and pipe at golf clubs in the last six or eight months than he has ever seen before. And the work hasn't been merely confined to greens and tees and areas surrounding them. A lot of fairways have been torn up in an effort to channel water out of low lying areas. And, at clubs where water crept up to or filtered inside the clubhouse doors, which was rather common last fall, there hasn't been any hesitancy in tearing up parking lots and grounds and installing runoff tiles in them. If nothing else, the weather last year has made superintendents highly sensitive to flooding problems.

It's interesting to note in this vein that Charlie Wilson of Milwaukee Sewerage reaches back into the hundreds of books he has read on golf course construction and maintenance and summons a passage he recalls from a poem written 50 years ago by G.A. Farley. In his introductory remarks, Farley said something to the effect that turf management consists of three main tenets: 1) Drainage; 2) Drainage, and 3) Drainage.

Maybe that sums it up as well as anyone is ever going to say it. For any superintendent who has lived through the ordeal of flood or high water in the last year, there is probably no need to read beyond Farley's introductory remarks. □



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