

# News

## REGIONAL MEETINGS

### Poa good for fairways, Vargas says in Maryland

Perennial ryegrass and annual bluegrass are the only really suitable turfs for golf course fairways, Michigan State University's Dr. Joseph M. Vargas told golf course superintendents at last month's Turfgrass '79 meeting in Baltimore.

"You are going to get 80 cents back on the dollar when you use perennial ryegrasses, as opposed to 5 cents back on the dollar for Kentucky bluegrasses," Dr. Vargas said.

The event, held January 8-10 at the Baltimore Hilton, drew more than 450 attendees. There were 42 exhibitors in 53 booths.

"I have heard my 'buddy' *Poa annua* called the 'failure grass,'" he

system and a substantial amount of money for mowing equipment, but yet "say they can't afford from \$7,000 to \$10,000 a year for a preventive fungicide program." He said for an average golf course, it takes about \$1,000 a spray for between seven and 10 sprays a season.

Angelo Cammarota, superintendent of Hobbit's Glen Club, Columbia, Md., was given an award as retiring director of the Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents' Association. The "godfather" of the Mid-Atlantic was also named a new director of the Maryland Turfgrass Council.

The Mid-Atlantic also awarded William J. Emerson, superintendent

**RIGHT:** Dr. Joseph Vargas recommends perennial ryegrasses and even *Poa annua* for fairways. **LOWER RIGHT:** William Emerson, past president of Mid-Atlantic GCSA.



told the audience. "In many cases, if it wasn't for *Poa*, they would not have anything but bare soil. Golf course superintendents have been trained for many years that *Poa annua* is a weed, and it just isn't so."

Vargas said that more research is needed on fertilization needs of perennial ryegrasses and annual bluegrass.

"We have a whole lot of research on Merion bluegrass," he said, and added jokingly to make his point, "but there is not enough Merion left on fairways in this country to fill a football field."

He also said that country clubs spend anywhere from \$50,000 to \$500,000 for an automatic sprinkler



of Towson (Md.) Golf and Country Club, its past president award. David S. Fairbank, superintendent of Army-Navy Country Club, Vienna, Va., was given the "Outstanding Service" Award.

## TURFGRASS SEED

### Coated seed will be available in spring

A Canadian firm, Oseco, Inc., has announced that it will introduce a coated grass seed mixture, HB-3, next spring.

The mixture contains Baron Kentucky bluegrass, Highlight chewing fescue, and either Pennfine or Manhattan perennial ryegrass.

Advantages of the coating, which contains phosphorus and a bit of lime, are improved germination especially under dry conditions, healthier establishment, and protection against fertilizer burn.

Oseco will custom coat other varieties of grass seed, if the order is large enough.

For further information, contact Oseco, Inc., P.O. Box 219, Brampton, Ontario, Canada L6V 2L2 (phone 416/457-5080).

## RESEARCH

### Wear simulator test results released

A wear simulator designed to measure comparative wear tolerances of turfgrasses was recently designed and constructed by turf scientists with the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, under a grant from the United States Golf Association Green Section.

Test comparisons of 47 turfgrasses indicated that the simulator could separate turfgrass wear from soil compaction, could operate on a small-plot experimental basis, and could distinguish the relative wear tolerances within species and cultivars.

Test results also revealed that, as a group, the improved turf-type perennial ryegrasses have superior wear tolerance compared to fine-leaved fescue, rough bluegrass, and creeping bentgrasses.

However, as has been observed in the case of over-all winter turf performance, there is not a great deal of difference in wear tolerance among many of the recently released turf-type perennial ryegrasses.

Future plans call for the more wear tolerant grasses from the study to be combined into specific mixtures to determine if such polystands show superior wear

tolerance to the commercially available seed mixtures and blends.

Dr. James Beard, professor with the experiment station and Texas A&M University, said, "The research results here are part of a continuing series of investigations aimed at developing improved turfgrass and turfgrass cultural systems more resistant to turf wear and injury."

## PESTICIDES

### Shell and Dow stop making DBCP

The Shell Chemical Co., a division of the Shell Oil Co., is no longer manufacturing the pesticide DBCP (dibromochloropropane) in the United States and has no plans to import it, according to Rich Hansen, senior public affairs representative for the company. It was incorrectly reported in the November issue of GOLF BUSINESS and other publications that Shell was still importing the chemical for limited use.

J. S. Oostermeyer, general manager of Shell Chemical Co.'s agribusiness operations, said, "We believe DBCP is a good product that can be made in the U.S. even under the strict controls set by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, but it will have to be made by a specialized producer, not someone like Shell that primarily makes large volume chemicals."

Shell marketed the product under the trade name Nemagon. The Dow Chemical Co., which sold DBCP under the Fumazone label, also discontinued making and importing the chemical about 18 months ago, according to W. C. Huck, a spokesman for the company's Agricultural Products Department.

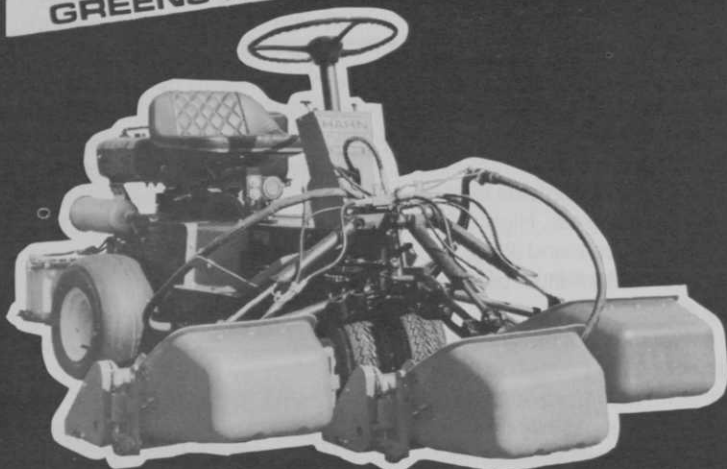
Research revealed that excessive exposure to DBCP vapors damages the kidneys, testes, liver, and other tissues and also causes sterility in human males.

In 1978 OSHA set the maximum employee exposure standard at one part per billion during any 8-hour period. "We thoroughly reviewed the problems of manufacturing DBCP within the (OSHA) standard and concluded it was not feasible with our equipment," Oostermeyer said.

Although Shell will no longer produce the chemical,

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Oostermeyer praised the Environmental Protection Agency for its action concerning the chemical. He said the agency's decision to cancel some uses of the product, but allow others, was made after serious and thoughtful consideration of the product risks and its benefits to society.

## COMPANIES

### Boots and Hercules plan joint company

Hercules Inc., of Wilmington, Del., and Boots Co., of Nottingham, England, have agreed in principle to the formation of a joint company, Boots-Hercules Agrochemicals Co., that will manufacture and sell agricultural and turf chemicals in North America.

Hercules is a major supplier of chemicals to the turf and agricultural industries both in the United States and internationally. Boots is active in agrochemical research and development and is also a leader in the worldwide manufacture and marketing of agrochemicals.

Formation of the joint venture will facilitate the expansion of Boots' products in North America, adding new products to Hercules' established line of agrochemicals. The agreement is subject to detailed legal agreements and approval by the British government.

### Wisconsin Marine begins construction

Wisconsin Marine, Inc., of Lake Mills, Wis., has begun construction of a new 100,000-square-foot manufacturing plant. The plant will consolidate manufacturing operations currently taking place at three separate locations. The company manufactures Bob Cat lawnmowers and snow blowers.

The firm also announced that an agreement with Ransomes Sims and Jeffries, Ltd., of Ipswich, England, will expand their marketing into a complete line of reel mowers.

## REFERENCE

### Turfgrass slide programs available

Two 35-millimeter slide sets, one concerning turfgrass insects of the Northeast and the other about turfgrass diseases, are available from the New York State Turfgrass Association.

Dr. Haruo Tashiro of the Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station developed the 76-slide program concerning turfgrass insects and Dr. Richard Smiley, also of Cornell, compiled the 66-slide set about the identification and control of turfgrass diseases.

The sets can be purchased from NYSTA at a cost of \$20 for New York state residents and \$25 for out-of-state residents. Checks should be made payable to the New York State Turfgrass Association and mailed to Ann Reilly, Executive Secretary, 210 Cartwright Blvd., Massapequa Park, NY 11762.

## PUBLIC COURSES

### Proposed university golf course opposed

The proposed construction of a university-owned and operated golf course at Oregon State University in Corvallis, Ore., has caused much discussion between proponents and opponents of the project.

Against the protests of area golf course owners who say a course run by a public institution would be unfair competition, a subcommittee of the State Board of Higher Education voted in December to recommend leasing the university-owned land to the OSU Foundation to begin the project. The foundation is a private, nonprofit organization that raises funds for the university. The subcommittee presented recommendations to the state board January 26. The board, which must approve all capital improvements made by the university, will make a decision concerning the project.

Those who favor the plan argue that a university-owned course would better serve the school's golf team, faculty, and students. Opponents of the project say a course run by a public institution on tax-free land would be unfair

competition for owners of public courses in the area.

Jerry Claussen, president of the Oregon Golf Course Owners Association and owner of the Golf Club of Oregon in North Albany, Ore., said the two-county area surrounding the university cannot support an additional course. There are currently three 18-hole courses (one public and two private) and three nine-hole public courses in the area.

"As a long-range concept a new course is not a bad idea, but right now the market will not support another golf course," Claussen said.

## CONSTRUCTION

### More new, remodeled golf courses in '79

The construction of more new golf courses, including a growing number of executive courses, and increased remodeling of older courses will occur in 1979, according to Rees Jones, president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects.

"During 1978 we saw many more real estate-oriented projects move from the drawing board to reality," Jones said, "and we see this trend continuing in 1979 as developers continue to recognize the pulling power of a quality golf course."

Jones added that executive and shorter length courses for senior citizens, women, and juniors will continue to gain favor. "These shorter courses, especially if they are a second course at a club or municipal facility, offer many advantages," he said.

Jones also noted that many courses built 25 or more years ago are outmoded because of the improved equipment available to today's golfers. "In many cases, older courses require new trapping, as well as revised greens and tees. Multiple tees, for instance, can add variety and new challenges to an existing course," he said.

### Six Cleveland-area courses threatened

Increased sales of golf courses in major metropolitan areas appears to be a nationwide trend and Cleveland, Ohio, seems to be a good example. The proposed

construction of housing developments has imperiled six courses in the Cleveland metropolitan area: Tam-A-Rac, Lost Nation, Lander Haven, Lyndhurst, Homelinks, and Moreland Hills. All but Lander Haven are public courses.

Robert Negrelli, a Cleveland-based developer, has purchased Moreland Hills Country Club and Lander Haven Country Club and has the option to buy Lyndhurst Golf Course.

Negrelli told GOLF BUSINESS construction has already begun on the 70-acre Moreland Hills course where he plans to build a community of luxury homes on 2-acre lots.

Negrelli said he also plans to transfer ownership of Lander Haven before the start of the new season. The club currently consists of a 27-hole facility and a 9-hole short course. "We have no intention of immediately developing it, but eventually we would like to build some luxury condominiums around a nice 18-hole course," he said.

Negrelli also has the option to buy Lyndhurst Golf Course, but he doesn't yet know if he will exercise that option. "We are currently running into problems with the city of Lyndhurst concerning utilities in the area," he said.

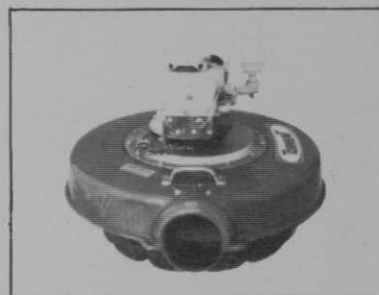
Although actual construction may still be a long way off, Tam-A-Rac Country Club and Lost Nation Country Club are also slated to become housing developments. Tam-A-Rac has to be re-zoned before construction can begin, and the developers of Lost Nation must overcome some problems concerning water service to the area.

An agreement with the developers of Lost Nation requires them to retain 100 acres as a golf course for 20 years, with the city of Willoughby having the first option to purchase the land. Building plans for Tam-A-Rac call for condominiums and single-family homes to surround a 9-hole course. The Homelinks Golf Course is also scheduled to become a multi-family development of apartments, townhouses, and duplexes. Nine holes of the course will remain open to the public.

Negrelli said developers usually don't set out to purchase golf courses, but are generally contacted by the course owners or representatives for the course. "It's unfortunate, but owners are being forced out of business because of higher taxes and maintenance costs. And they often do not raise their greens fees because they are afraid of losing business," he said.

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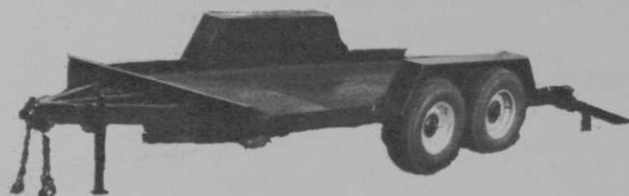
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