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Superintendent's Headaches Never Disappear

*There are always
trace elements of
migraine due to turf
and labor deficiencies
and uncooperative weather*

Mention the word headache, within earshot of a supt. and you strike not only a sensitive but a responsive nerve. "Don't get us talking about our troubles," says one weathered turfman, "unless you're prepared to stay for lunch and, for that matter, maybe dinner. We have so many of them that most of us take a kind of perverse pride in them. We wouldn't know what to do if we didn't have them."

Numerous as they are, though, green-masters generally concede that their headaches continue to fall into three main classifications — those that stem from labor; those that have their roots in the soil and turf; and those that are caused by outside influences, such as weather.

Three veteran supts., recently queried by Golfdom as to new developments or new discoveries on the headache frontier, agreed that nobody has invented any troubles that haven't been previously encountered. But the old ones are still doing business at the same old stand and, if anything, they've multiplied.

Two of the three turfmen, Ray Gerber of Glen Oak CC in Glen Ellyn, Ill., and James A. Reid of the Suburban Club in Pikesville, Md., blame most of their woes on the labor situation. Burt R. Anderson of Augusta (Me.) CC says he'd be taking the coward's way out if he were to accuse the golfers, which sometimes is a temptation, but to be completely honest he has to concede that the weather easily out-prints them.

"To give you an example," says Burt,

"we were hit with four inches of snow last Oct. 26. It went away and came back a few times between that date and Christmas. But by the end of January our course ordinarily looks like the original ice-cap. It's usually late May or early June before all the holes at Augusta are ready for play."

Soil Hard to Dent

Anderson traces the source of Augusta's trouble to impermeable soil. Agronomists agree with him that perhaps 30 to 40 per cent of the course is covered with soil that has little or no penetrative quality. In recent years, the U. S. Soil Conservation Service has helped Burt attack the problem. Waterways and diversion ditches have been dug, drains opened and tile lines put in, but it is going to take a few more years and a considerable cash outlay before the entire course is reclaimed.

Subpar soil of this nature, of course, results in poor drainage. Every year a good deal of Augusta's fairway turf is lost because of spring sogginess and it is replenished with nothing more promising than annual bluegrass and knotweed. The latter is tolerated because it beats bare earth.

Those Maine Winters

A supt. can go along with this condition, says Anderson, hoping in time to correct it. But when he has subnormal drainage combined with Maine winters to contend with, that is something else. Alternate rain and snow and freezing and thawing through November and December usually give a good start on an ice

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layer by the first of the year. Thirty days later greens and for that matter, practically the entire course, are locked in ice.

With circulation shut off from above, there has to be good drainage if the greens are to have a chance of surviving. Perhaps one of three putting surfaces at the Maine club don't have this quality. Having endured the ice condition for a number of years, Anderson feels that bentgrass tolerates having the air shut off during the winter and the waterlogging that comes with the spring thaw, much better than annual bluegrass. At least, the greens that are predominantly bent snap back much quicker, according to his observations.

Theory on Winterkill

Experience and observations have prompted another theory that Anderson feels should be considered by supts. in the Northern climes. "When the frost leaves the ground," he says, "the ice layer separates from the turf and starts to weaken or break up in spots. From this time until the snow departs is a critical period. If the ground is impermeable, or nearly so, water fills the space between the ice and earth and smothers the turf. If the soil can be penetrated, water passes off, allowing the air to circulate in this void and enabling the grass to survive. If at all possible," the Maine greenmaster concludes, "the ice should be removed from the greens during the critical period."

The last statement, of course, brings up the question of "How are you going to remove the ice?" That is one that has stumped the experts for a long time. There is no effective ice removal equipment available today and even if there were, getting it to the greensites would pose a difficult transportation problem. Until thawing conditions set in, it is almost impossible to get rid of the ice sheets that cover the greens.

About a year ago, Burt Anderson suggested to the local sheriff, a member of Augusta's green committee, that perhaps a gang of county prisoners could be brought out to the club and put to work removing ice from the greens.

"That," the sheriff rejoined, "probably would be classed as cruel and inhuman treatment. We'd never get away with it."

"I guess maybe he's right," Anderson agrees.

"I suppose," says the Augusta supt., putting his finger on the source of his headaches, "it all goes back to the weather. In time, we may get our drainage problem licked, notwithstanding Maine's



Fred J. D. MacKay (center), who has done so much for golf in Virginia since coming to the U.S. from Scotland 60 years ago, was cited by the Central Virginia Turfgrass Assn. in recognition of his service to the game. Dick Amidon (l), past president of the association, is seen presenting a silver bowl to Fred. At right is Alan Brodie, another native of Scotland who was a pro at Virginia clubs for many years. MacKay has played golf since 1887 but his age still is classed as Confidential.

impermeable soil. But the weather! What can we do about it? Import some from Florida in the depths of the winter? That's a thought."

The Labor Problem

In going into the labor situation, Ray Gerber looks at it from an overall viewpoint, while Jim Reid cites some specific cases in examining it, adding that these are typical of what a supt. has to repeatedly put up with, whether he's in the business for three or 30 years.

"In our locality," observes Ray Gerber, "it's almost impossible, except by accident, to get reliable men under prevailing conditions. Turnover is much too high and almost constant training of new men takes too much of our time. It may be necessary very soon for clubs to provide living quarters for maintenance department employees, as they do for others, if they are going to attract the right kind of help."

As for traffic, playing conditions and such things, Gerber says they aren't changing, but have changed. Many club officails don't realize it or recognize it, but the verb in this case is in the past tense. To back up this assertion, the Glen Ellyn turfman points to increased play throughout the day due to the clubs getting larger, to constantly swelling women's activity, and to the demands that increasingly turf wise golfers are making for what amounts

(Continued on page 100)

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Slow to Leave Range, Player Assumes Risk

By WILLIAM JABINE

Now that winter has driven Northern golfers off the fairways and onto the indoor practice ranges, it's time to consider what happens when a golfer playing inside is hit by a ricocheting ball.

A Massachusetts golfer who had been practicing in a cage provided and maintained by the club to which he belonged, surrendered the club he had been using to a fellow member and prepared to leave. He was a little slow in taking his departure and was struck by a ball driven by the fellow club member. He brought an action charging negligence against both this man and the club. The trial court directed verdicts for both defendants and the plaintiff appealed to the supreme judicial court of Massachusetts.

That court upheld the verdict of the trial court, holding that the golfer who was dilatory in leaving the cage assumed the risk of being struck by a flying ball. Instead of handing down an extended opinion, the Court confined itself to a succinct rescript, which follows:

Peril in Remaining

"This is an action of tort for negligent injury. The plaintiff and individual defendant were members of the corporate defendant, Parkway CC, Inc., called Blue Hill CC, in which there is a steel-framed indoor golf practice cage. The plaintiff, who had driven some balls into the cage, either put down the driver, which was picked up by the individual defendant, or handed it to him. The plaintiff went to the rear of the room where he was struck in some manner by a ball while the individual defendant was practicing.

"The judge directed verdicts for the defendants. There was no error.

"The plaintiff was the player immediately preceding the individual defendant. Although the plaintiff had finished practicing he had not left the room where the cage was when injured. The peril in remaining in what in effect was a closed driving range was obvious. The purpose was, of course, to drive into the net, but, as this case shows, there was a risk that all balls would not find the



Horace W. Smith, golf course architect, Mrs. Isidore Perlman and Dr. Joseph Parnicky are behind the work of the UVS Golf Swing program that is building a three-hole course for mentally retarded students at the Edward R. Johnstone Training and Research Center in Bordentown, N. J. Smith of Worcester, Pa., donated his services in designing and building the course; Mrs. Perlman spearheaded the rehabilitation project; and Dr. Parnicky is supt. of the Research Center.

mark. This risk the plaintiff assumed both as to the owner of the premises and as to the following player. (Citations)" (*Salamoff v. Godfrey et al.*, 182 N.E. 2d 482.)

N. Y. Taxi Drivers Do Their Hacking at Bethpage

Barnet Wood, a New York City newspaper golf writer, started about a year ago to get taxi cab drivers interested in playing golf and before 1962 was over, had arranged 15 outings for them at Bethpage State Park. Late in September, the cabbies climaxed their season with a big tournament. Wood hopes to keep the program going in 1963.

Wood hardly had to sell the idea, but more or less for the record he pointed out in his early pitches, the advantage of playing golf. In Bethpage, he said, there is available what he referred to as a \$25 million country club, the privileges of which can be enjoyed for only \$2.50 a round. On taxi day, players also were given a special discount at the range — only a charge of 25 cents was made for each bucket of balls they hit.

At the tournament, each participant was given a shag bag, key ring and cigarette lighter by Wm. Teacher & Sons. Teacher also made sure that the players were properly lubricated as it donated a dozen bottles of Scotch to the entertainment committee. Trophies and other prizes were donated by several New York industrial and commercial firms.



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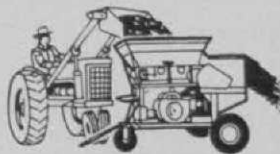
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TURF TIPS FROM O.J. NOER

Yield and Chemical Composition of the Clippings from a Tifgreen Bermuda Green

In 1956 at the American Society of Agronomy meeting, we reported the yield and composition of grass clippings from a green of common Bermudagrass. The data was from the 14th green at the Memphis CC. The yield of dry grass clippings, for a period of 18 weeks, was 120.19 pounds per 1,000 sq. ft. The average composition was 4.62 per cent nitrogen, 1.35 per cent phosphoric acid, 2.86 per cent potash, and 1.18 per cent of sulfur, reported as the trioxide. The actual quantities removed, per 1,000 sq.

ft. during the 18 weeks were 5.62 pounds nitrogen (1.34 per month), 1.48 pounds phosphoric acid (0.35 per month), 3.36 pounds potash (0.80 per month), and 1.22 pounds sulfur trioxide (0.29 per month).

In 1957 the greens at Memphis CC were converted to improved Tifgreen (Tifton 328). It was decided to weigh clippings from one of these greens, collect samples for dry weight determination, and for chemical analysis. The same green, No. 14 was selected. The growing period was from May 3, to Oct. 18, or for 24 weeks.

A soil sample was collected for testing by the Truog method in January, 1958.

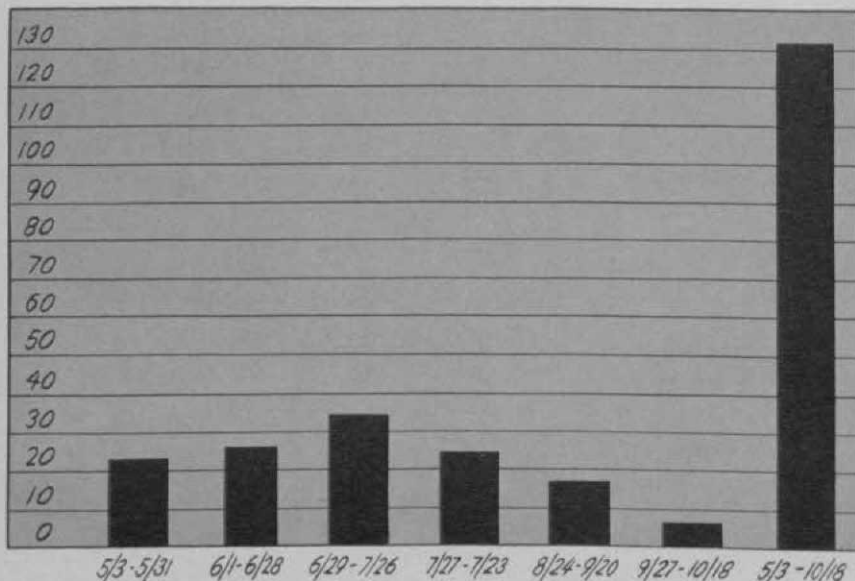
(Text continued on page 62)

TABLE NO. 2

Yield of Tifgreen Bermuda

Dry weight — pounds per 1,000 sq. ft. by periods

(Tables 1, 3 and 4
appear on page 60)



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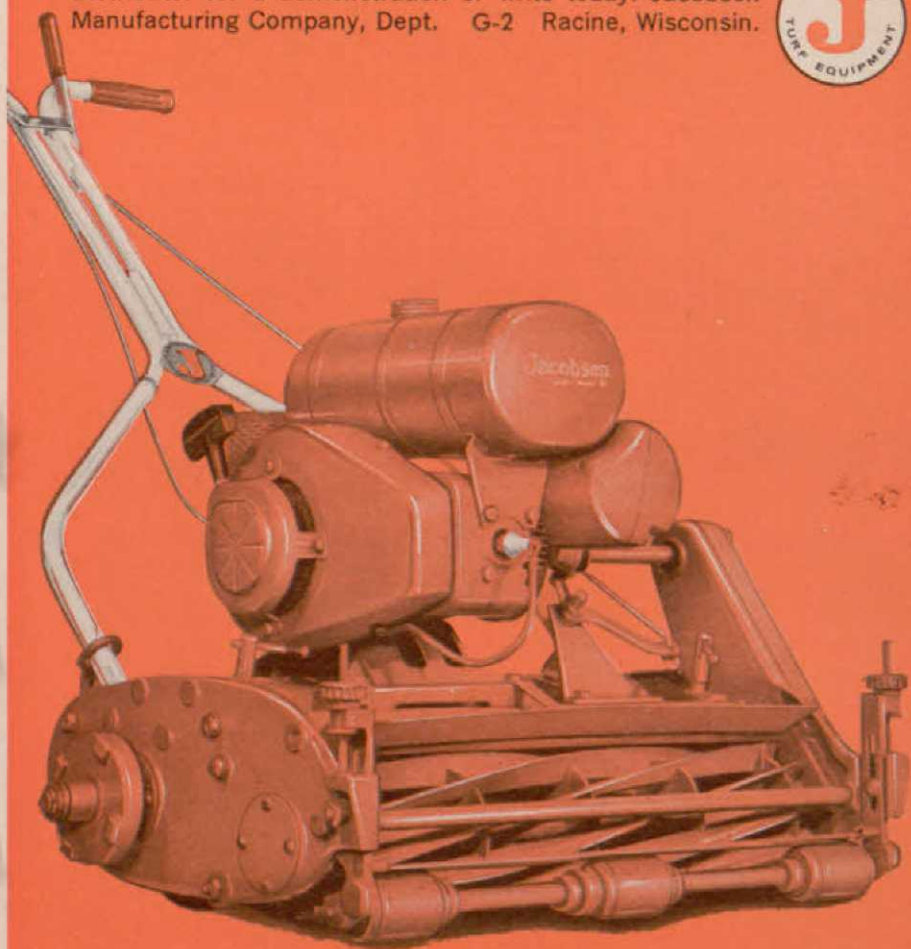


TABLE NO. 1

Fertilization of No. 14 Green
 Kind of fertilizer Rate per 1,000 Sq. Ft. and
 Actual amounts of Nitrogen, Phosphoric Acid and
 Potash Applied

Time of Application	Fertilizer and analysis	Lbs. per 1,000 Sq. Ft.	Amount Applied 1,000 Sq. Ft.		
			N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O
April 21, 1958	Vertagreen 10-6-4	25	2.50	1.5	1.00
May 5, 1958	Milorganite 5.75-4.0-0.75	30	1.72	1.2	0.23
May 30, 1958	Milorganite 5.75-4.0-0.75	30	1.72	1.2	0.23
June 30, 1958	Milorganite 5.75-4.0-0.75	30	1.72	1.2	0.23
July 8, 1958	Turf Special 10-5-5	20	2.00	1.0	1.00
Three Topdress	Cyanamid 20-0-0	11.5	2.30		
Totals		146.5	11.96	6.1	2.69

TABLE NO. 3

Analysis Titgreen Clippings
 Percentage of Major Plant Food Nutrients

Clipping Period	No. of Weeks	Nitrogen	Phos. Acid	Potash	Sulphur Trioxide
5/3 - 5/31	4	5.54	1.31	2.16	1.50
6/1 - 6/28	4	5.68	1.41	2.20	1.23
6/29 - 7/26	4	5.16	1.31	2.13	1.20
7/27 - 8/23	4	5.35	1.27	2.06	1.18
8/24 - 9/20	4	5.13	1.23	2.05	1.52
9/29 - 10/18	4	4.83	1.12	1.73	1.47
Average		5.28	1.27	2.05	1.35

TABLE NO. 4

Analysis Titgreen Clippings
 Pounds of Major Plant Food Nutrients

Clipping Period	No. of Weeks	Nitrogen	Phos. Acid	Potash	Sulphur Trioxide
5/3 - 5/31	4	1.23	0.29	0.48	0.33
6/1 - 6/28	4	1.49	0.37	0.58	0.32
6/29 - 7/26	4	1.77	0.45	0.73	0.41
7/21 - 8/23	4	1.32	0.31	0.51	0.29
8/24 - 9/20	4	0.90	0.22	0.36	0.27
9/29 - 10/18	4	0.33	0.08	0.12	0.10
Totals		7.04	1.72	2.78	1.72