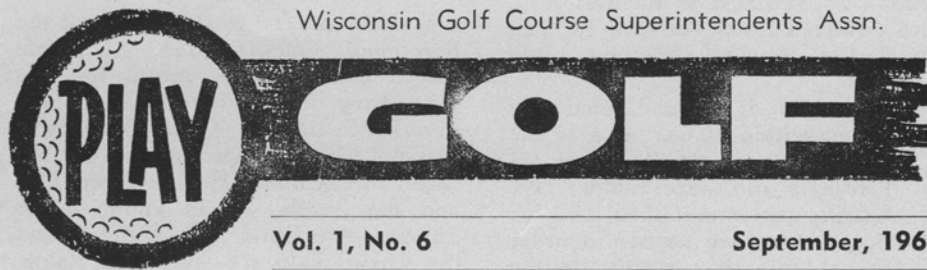


# W G C S A

Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Assn.



Vol. 1, No. 6

September, 1966

## SEPTEMBER MEETING

SEPTEMBER 12TH

Oneida Golf and Riding Club  
Green Bay, Wisconsin

Speaker: Jim Holmes,  
Budgeting Time and Money

### NEW MEMBERS—

Edward Breitrick, Superintendent  
Class A—116 - 8th Street, Clintonville  
Riverside Golf Club, Clintonville, Wisconsin.

Gary Kwas, Assistant Superintendent  
Class B—3300 N. 41st Street, North  
Shore Country Club, Mequon, Wisconsin.

## How to Calibrate a Spreader

J. R. Love

Dept. Soil Science, Univ. of Wis.

To use any applicator (whether it is a sprinkler, a sprayer or a spreader) that has not been calibrated is to invite trouble, either in the form of too much or too little material being applied. Not only do shortages and excesses waste time, material and money, they can also result in turf injury. Furthermore, since the job of calibrating an applicator is relatively simple and one that may be done in the off season, this kind of trouble can and should be avoided. It is hoped that the following article on the calibration of a spreader will be helpful in this connection.

Regardless of whether the spreader is a hand pushed or power drawn model of either the band or spinner type, the basic principles involved in the cali-

bration procedure are the same. However, it should be pointed out in this regard that the spinner type spreader is far less likely to result in streaking (from either overlapping or skipping) and is, therefore, preferred for most jobs. Furthermore, of the two types, the spinner gets the job done faster. The steps involved in calibrating a spreader are as follows:

1. Select a site for the actual calibration that is off the area to be treated, for example, a driveway or the grounds around the shop.
2. Set the opening of the spreader for the desired rate according to the operator's manual or, in the case of the small hand pushed model, this information is also given on the bag of many materials which are sold for turf-grass use. Note: To insure a more

uniform application, it is a good practice to set the spreader at half the desired rate and go over the area twice (either from different directions or by overlapping each pass by 50%).

3. Add a weighed amount of material to the hopper—at least 20 pounds to the small spreader and 80 pounds to the larger ones.
4. Mark off a distance of 25 feet for the hand pushed type and 100 feet for the power drawn models. Remember: if at step 2 the setting was made at half the rate these distances must be doubled.
5. Now make a run with the spreader and observe the lateral distance the material is thrown (in the case of the band type spreader this measurement can be taken directly from the spreader). Be sure when calibrating the spreader to travel at the same speed that will be used under normal operating conditions and to turn the spreader off after each pass or include the turning distance in step 4.
6. Next weigh back the material left in the hopper and subtract this from the total amount added. The difference represents the amount of material applied. From the following formula calculate the rate of application in pounds per 1,000 square feet.

$$\text{Lbs./1000 sq. ft. (equals) pounds of material applied (step 6) } \times 1,000 \text{ (divided by) distance traveled } \times \text{lateral spread in feet (step 4) in feet (step 5).}$$

### Example

Suppose 4.4 pounds of material were  
(continued on page 2)

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(Calibration—cont. from pg. 1)

applied (step 6) to an area 25 feet (step 4) by 7 feet (step 5). The rate of application is calculated as follows:

4.4 pounds x 1,000 (divided by) 25 feet x 7 feet (equals) 25.1 lbs./1,000 sq. ft.

7. Now then, if the calculated rate is not within 10 per cent of the desired one, adjust the setting accordingly and make another run. Usually no more than two or three reruns are needed in order to calibrate the spreader to the desired rate for any material. However, in this connection it should be emphasized that owing to differences in density and particle size, different materials may require different settings and hence a separate calibration.

8. Lastly, it might be well to note that once a spreader has been calibrated it will perform as such only if properly cared for, that is, cleaned and oiled regularly and inspected for worn or loose parts periodically. Attention to these details always pay, they never cost.

# Super Talk

by Peter Miller

We had a very good meeting at the Rivermoor Country Club, 75 people played golf and 125 stayed for dinner. Many thanks to our hosts, the Rivermoor Country Club—Dick Swift and our President Art Post. We can not forget the Jacobsen Manufacturing Co., and the people we all know, Roger Thomas, Art Horst, Bob Reinders and the Christopherson's—Ray and Ralph, who put on this Jacobsen Meeting. These people are working very close with the superintendent and show a real interest in what we are doing. Many thanks.

Our speaker John Voight, the Director of the Botanical Gardens for the Milwaukee County Park System gave a very interesting talk on Landscaping for Color and Utility. With the trouble we are having with Dutch Elm Disease, Oak Wilt, White Pine Blister Rust etc., John's talk was very appropriate. One of the main points that John made was on the selection of trees, selection not for any one reason or any one species, but on a series of points such as, form and branching habits, foliage quality, fruiting habits, foliage coloration, flowering and bark attraction. Never should one plant all of one species of trees. Do not plant like the people of years ago planted elms. Plant trees with simple maintenance and plant these trees knowing what they will look like in ten to fifteen years. John also had a few things to say about shrubs, ground cover and flowers. Shrubs, well maintained require skill, and if not maintained properly you are better off without the shrubs. Select your shrubs as you would your trees. Ground covers can come in handy for foliage effect and replacement of flower beds. Flower beds depend on the contributing parts, do not over plant and plant to a size that can be maintained by interested personnel.

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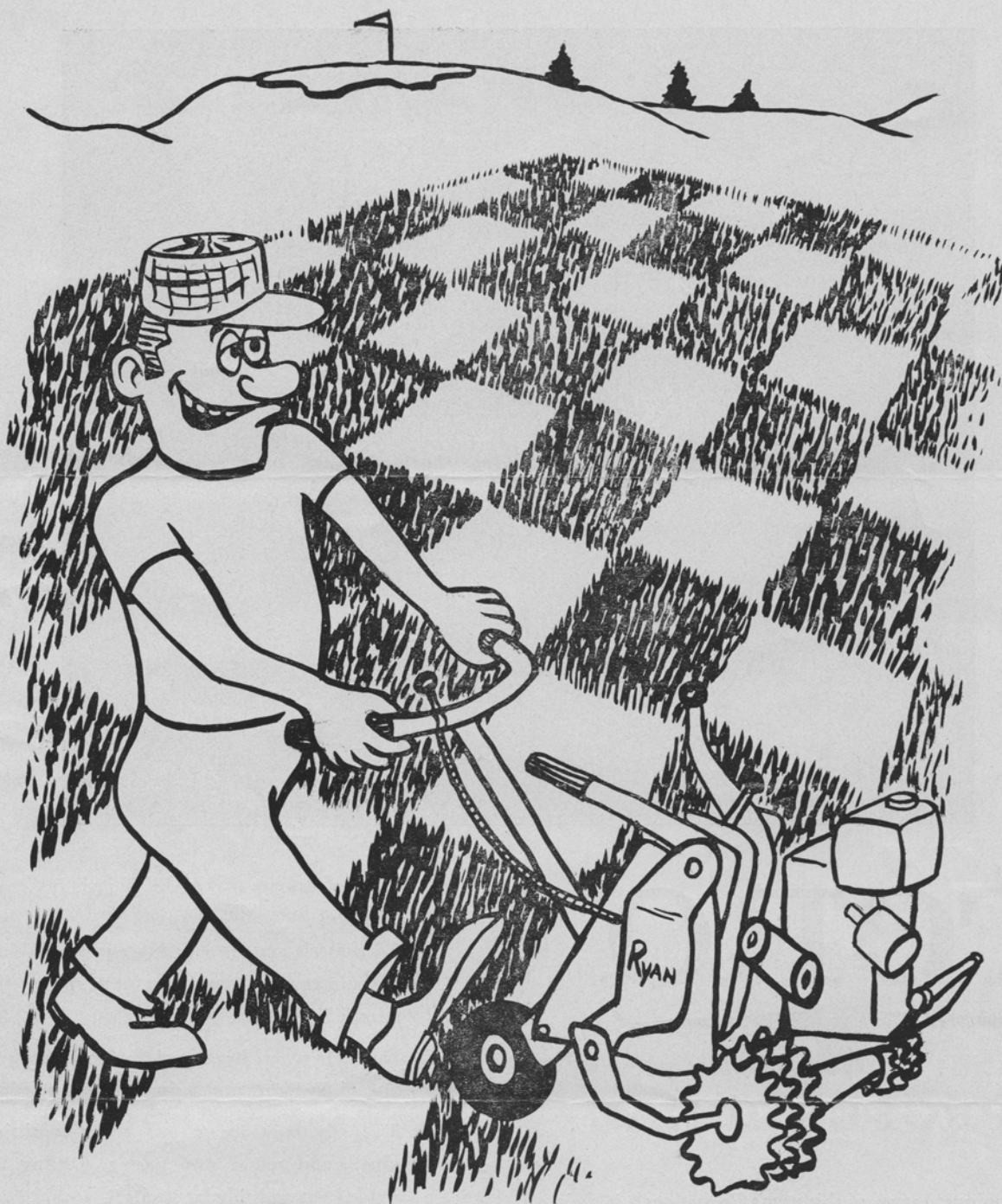
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