

SUPER TALK

Wisconsin
Golf Course
Superintendents
Association

Vol. 2, No. 1

April, 1967

Notes

by Peter Miller

So, here we are ready to embark on another season, with who knows what is coming — weather, disease, rebuilding? In any case, I hope that yours turns out to be a successful one. Here's to luck and a lot of hard work.

I'm beginning to think we should continue Super Talk all year long, as many things go on in winter and summer. Besides that, it's a good time for reflection, which the summer pace usually denies us.

From the crowd at the first winter symposium in Milwaukee on Dec. 14 and 15th I would gather that a great majority of you attended it. The crowds were great and so were the programs. This would have to rank very high on anyone's list of conferences to attend. The Milwaukee Sewerage Commission should be commended for the organization and busy work necessary for a conference of this size, along with their co-sponsorship.

The partner in this, the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents, had delegated a committee for the symposium and our thanks go to Joe Deschler, Tripoli, Allan Kress, Ville du Parc CC and Jerry Faubel, South Hills, Fond du Lac, and to all others that helped make it the success it was. The symposium could easily become one of the outstanding attractions for the "Winter Circuit" of the superintendent.

The program "Winter Injury" is available for those who were not at the conference by writing the Milwaukee Sewerage Commission, Turf Service Bureau, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and asking for the pamphlet, "Winter Injury." This is a synopsis of the various talks written by Dr. Daniel, and is very well done.

The other major event of the winter season was of course the National Golf Course Superintendents Conference in Washington, D.C. I would rate it as the best of the four conferences I've attended yet. The facilities were excellent as was the trade show and with plenty of room. I have to say, though, that this was probably the most expensive conference. The Washington area association went far out of their way to make this a very enjoyable visit, if you take out the eight inches of snow that fell. Only one real complaint, I would like to see the educational assemblies improved. For some reason, with a few exceptions, they leave me cold. It could be, though, that because I was at the advisory committee meetings and the editors luncheon that I could have missed some very good ones, too. By the way, if you can wheedle your way into one of these committees, you will find them very interesting and refreshing, or at least I did.

Are you ready for spring? People wonder what we do all winter. I will tell

(Continued on page 2)

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*Managing Editor and
Advertising Manager*

PETER MILLER
2720 McDivitt Road
Madison, Wisconsin 53713
Phone: Area 608
238-3141
238-2033

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NOTES (Continued from page 1)

you what — work! I think I spend longer working hours in the winter than I do in the summer. I've still got tractors to paint, flag poles to fix, tee markers to paint, and tee signs to make yet. Where did winter go? I know this sounds like something we should never say, but I wish winter was a little bit longer.

Think about offering your golf course for a meeting this year. Let's move around a bit. We won't damage your course; at least not too much. We play on Monday — a good day for outsiders to play your course. And, after all, 50 players more isn't going to hurt your course that much. So let us hear from you for dates. Maybe this will be the first year we can fill up all the dates right away.

What about you people that get your expenses paid to the state meetings? How do you receipt the bill for the meeting? Why couldn't we work out something similar to the club managers where the club will send the bill out for what we signed for? At quite a few clubs this would work out very well.

We have our golf tournament or get-together at the end of the year, but why the end of the year and why just superintendents? Couldn't we sponsor an event where the superintendent could bring the pro, manager or greenschairman

from his own club or, for that matter, anyone from the club that he might like to bring? This is something that we should make a concerted effort to do. We need better relations between the members of our club, whether they be president or anyone on down the list. This is something that can do wonders for us, and why let the pros or the managers beat us to it? It is going to happen, and when it does it would be best for us to be in control.

We should also think about a turf show. There is no reason why we can't work out something with Jacobsen and Toro. It's hard enough to operate at two turf shows and even harder to compare something after you have been there. Let's combine them. Don't say that it can't be done. Other states are doing it. The organization would have to be worked out, and it could be held in a central section, the golf courses in the area could help carry the equipment over. There is no reason it can't be done.

With most of these ideas I am trying to include the greenschairman. I think the most rewarding meeting I attended was last year at Milwaukee with the Great Milwaukee Country Club Association. There the presidents, greenschairmen and superintendents mingled and talked; just fabulous! This man, the greenschairman, is your boss, and many times the things that you do not get across to him do not get across to the club either.

Don Hornibrook, our new secretary, has finished a new mailing list that we will incorporate with ours. If there are any mistakes, please let me know, largely because when they come back to us they

cost us about 30¢. Take careful note of who are advertisers are. These are the people that are paying the bill for this publication. Patronize them and mention that you are happy to see them in the publication.

I have received notices indicating three golf courses that are looking for superintendents: Pine Grove Country Club, Iron Mountain, Michigan — contact Ralph Larson at Elmers Store; Mesaba Country Club, Hibbing, Minnesota — contact T. B. Spanner, Range Firestone Service, 1907 3rd Ave. East; Trout Lake Golf and Country Club, Woodruff, Wisconsin — contact Mr. Hopkins.

See you April 10th at Ryerson's meeting. In case you have forgotten the address, it is 5278 N. Port Washington Rd., Wilwaukee. The dinner and the festivities will take place at the Bavarian Club which is at 5423 N. Port Washington Rd. They have a great program in line for us. If you get there for lunch you will probably have to buy your own, but then after that you can bowl for free (check to find out which alleys Ryerson has reserved) and follow that with dinner provided by the Ryerson firm. This put together should be a very enjoyable day. Be sure to stop in at their new facilities.

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Leaf Spot and Melting Out of Bluegrass

Gayle L. Worf
Extension Plant Pathologist

When Dreschler first announced to the world in 1923 that a disease called "leaf spot and melting out" had been discovered affecting bluegrass, he described it as being a common but seemingly inconsequential organism. That situation has changed. Today this disease is the most important bluegrass disease we know, at least so far as Wisconsin is concerned. Our changing attitude toward the disease has come about with our correspondingly increased desire to have more beautiful, lush, dense carpets of green for lawns and fairways. When we began to cut a little more frequently (with power mowers replacing the perspiring lawn mower) and we pushed up nitrogen applications to new levels, we unknowingly set the stage for much greater disease activity by this fungus!

Most of us in turf work can readily identify the leaf spots phase of the disease by the very characteristic purple or brown lesions on the leaves, which usually have a gray or white center. These may grow together or become so intense as to cause a rapid blight of the leaves which, of course, is damaging and unsightly. However, the greatest

damage probably comes when the fungus settles into a crown and root rot phase. New tillers and roots are then killed, and the stand becomes thin and "melted out."

The disease is caused by the Helminthosporium fungus. There are several species that can affect turf — *H. vagans*, *H. dictyoides*, and *H. sativum*, perhaps others. We believe the symptoms and turf reactions to the various species are similar, but this is a matter that should be examined further.

Leaf spot is considered a springtime disease. Lower temperatures favor the disease. With the high temperature of July, the disease stops. Most observations also tell us that the disease is aggravated by low mowing and high nitrogen levels. This recent data out of New Jersey serves as an example:

Variety	Fertility level and cutting height ^a			
	"moderate"		"high"	
	1½"	¾"	1½"	¾"
Merion	4	4	3	6
Kentucky Common	17	17	32	38

^aSeverity of disease indicated by % of infection.

Obviously there is a difference in varietal response, too, for Merion is resis-

ant to the disease, and this is a primary reason for its popularity in Wisconsin. Not all reports agree as to comparative susceptibility of grasses, and this may be due in part because of different fungus species or different environmental conditions. However, Newport is considered to be more tolerant than Common, and Park as equally susceptible as Common to the disease.

Fertility response is not absolute. In my personal observation, I have seen very severe melting out in early spring on lawns quite low in nitrogen, but which showed substantial recovery following fertilizer application.

Since weather and fertility responses can't be controlled precisely, and since varietal resistance can't be a total answer, either as many of us are already "stuck" with susceptible varieties; and no variety is resistant to all problems; we would like very much to be able to use some fungicide treatments to supplement good cultural practices. Several materials are registered for use on this disease and when applied properly and at the right time, will minimize damage and increase turf density substantially. However, good coverage is essential and repeated applications are required. In our fungicide trial with Pete Miller last year at the Nakoma golf course, infection in plots sprayed three times with Fore, Dyrene and DAC 2787, disease incidence was about 3%; non-treated plots averaged 36% infection. Turf density was correspondingly increased. The difficulty comes in methods of application. More work needs to be done on this problem, either to provide faster methods or to reduce the number of applications required. Some possibilities might exist with the use of early spring drenches in irrigation water, or the use of additives which increase fungicide activity and distribution.

Knowing and recognizing Helminthosporium damage, and observing its response to various cultural and management practices, is perhaps as good an indicator of good springtime bluegrass care as one can find. Its control will go a long way towards providing good turf density through the remainder of the summer.

1967 Wisconsin Turf Conference

The 1867 Turf Conference will be four one-day turf meetings held in districts throughout the state instead of the one-two day meeting in Madison. These district meetings will be run from the 4th to the 7th of April. In place of the general meetings there will be workshop sessions, and bluegrass in particular will be emphasized.

This is the tentative program:

- 9:00-9:30 a.m. — Registration and Coffee
- 9:30-10:00 a.m.—Overview of Conference and Objectives
- 10:00-12:00 a.m.—Weed and Grass Identification
- 12:00-1:15 p.m.—Lunch and Get-Acquainted Hour

1:15-2:15 p.m.—Fertilizers and Their Influence on Weed Problems

2:15-3:15 p.m.—Disease and Insect Problems Related to Weeds in Lawns

3:15-4:15 p.m. — Chemical Methods of Weed Control

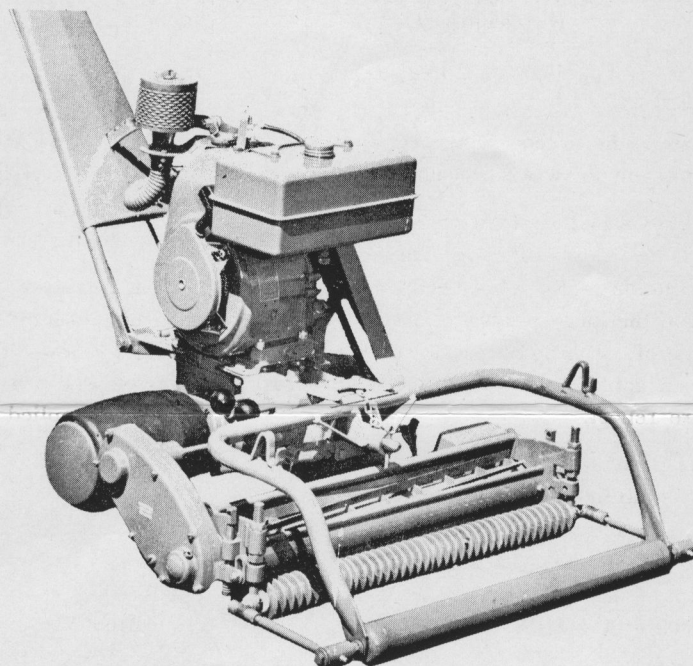
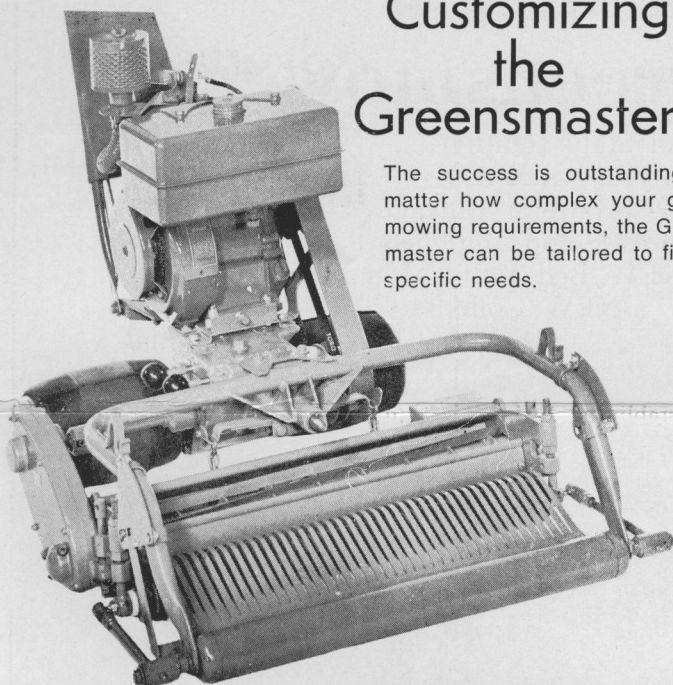
The locations are:

- April 4 — Milwaukee — Tyrolea House, 1673 S. 108th St. (Hwy. 100)
- April 5 — Wausau — Holiday Inn
- April 6 — Green Bay — Court House Annex
- April 7 — LaCrosse — Maple Grove C.C. (about 2 miles S. of West Salem off county trunk M. Roads will be marked.)

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Pre-Emergence Herbicides For Turf

By Robert Newman
University of Wisconsin Extension
Horticulturist

Mr. Peter Miller, your editor, and I have often discussed and just plain cussed the weeds that are commonly found on fairways and greens.

Pete asked me to write a short report on the results of our University turf herbicide trials. This report deals only with the pre-emergence herbicides for control of annual grasses. Broadleaf weed control will be discussed in a future report.

Our trials show that the once-a-year application of a pre-emergence herbicide is a practical and effective method to control crabgrass. Crabgrass is an annual grass that comes up from seed each year, starting about mid-May.

The pre-emergence herbicides we speak of are chemicals that are applied to an area before the crabgrass germinates. In southern Wisconsin these herbicides should be in place by May 1 for crabgrass control. Pre-emergence herbicides will have no effect when applied to established crabgrass.

All the pre-emergence crabgrass herbicides now on the midwest market are effective. They are commonly available in a granular form for application with fertilizer spreaders. Several are available as wettable powders or emulsifiable concentrates for liquid applications in sprayers.

Our trials show that either form is effective.

Price per pound of actual ingredient should influence your choice of formulation. One application of a pre-emergence crabgrass herbicide will give one season's control. Several give some, but not full, protection the following season.

These herbicides should not be disturbed once they are applied. When a divot is taken out of a treated fairway, crabgrass often appears. The herbicide has been removed with the divot, and newly-exposed crabgrass seed germinates.

Aerification by core removal often results in the germination of some seed brought up in the cores.

The effectiveness of these crabgrass preventers is somewhat dependent on rainfall. Control is best when there is a rain shortly after application. Extended droughts after application often give very spotty control of crabgrass.

Tupersan is the only pre-emergence crabgrass herbicide that can safely be applied on new bluegrass, fescue and bentgrass seedings. The other herbicides should be applied on established turf. They will kill germinating bluegrass, fescue and bentgrass along with crabgrass and other grassy weeds.

Pete and I agree completely that there is a lot more to weed control than the application of a herbicide. Before herbicides are used a turf manager should review his management program to be sure that he is doing everything within his control to promote the growth and vigor of his desirable grasses.

Herbicides can prevent or kill certain weeds, but it is competition from the desirable grasses that keeps an area weed free in the long run.

Several of the pre-emergence herbicides will give good control of germinating annual bluegrass seed. Annual bluegrass appears to germinate primarily in spring and fall.

The use of pre-emergence herbicides for annual bluegrass control calls for caution. You must have a good stand of bentgrass on a green to fill in the areas formerly occupied by the annual bluegrass.

You won't be able to seed these areas immediately, since those pre-emergence herbicides effective in annual bluegrass control also kill germinating bentgrass.

Effective chemical weed control might be surmised as the use of the proper herbicide at the recommended rates, on a correctly identified weed problem, at the time of the season that it will do the most good.

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