

customers. However, there is **no** question about whether or not we will be in the business of turf — the answer is a resounding **YES**. We are committed to it over the long haul, for years to come. Our investment and support is such that we will be a supplier for the future.

In the final analysis, 1984 was a good year for us. We have gained some valuable experience and, more importantly, we have gained the friendship of our customers.

## CHANGES IN THE TURF INDUSTRY

By Ronald W. Schumacher  
Horst Distributing, Inc.

I started in this business in 1962. At that time, most golf courses cut

their greens at 3/16" to 5/16", three or four times a week. (It was only the daring Superintendent that would cut at 3/16"). The greens were cut with walking Greens-mowers.

Mostly, the greens were aerified twice a year; in the spring and in the fall — sometimes in the summer with smaller tines. Some golf courses had the Ryan Greensaire, but many of them used the old West Point aerifier (Similar to a Fairway Aerifier only smaller).

Verticutting was done generally twice a year. At that time they would verticut deeply and really try to remove a lot of thatch and mat all at once.

Some Superintendents believed in Top Dressing and some didn't. The top dressing that was used varied, from soil, to a mixture of

soil, sand and peat. There were no powered top dressers. The men would use shovels to spread the top dressing over the green and then mat it in with a walking drag mat. (Big machines were not allowed on the green, such as a Cushman or a Golf Car).

Sometime about 1963 or 1964, Sod-Master developed the Top Dresser and then Ryan came out with theirs. I sold the first Sod Master to Jack Frahm at Oshkosh Country Club and then, as I recall, Bob Musbach at North Shore Golf Club in Menasha bought one and Irv Johnson of Butte Des Morts Country Club in Appleton bought one. As time went by, top dressing became very common. I should say that before World War II, top dressing was common, but because of gasoline rationing many superintendents couldn't get soil and sand delivered to their clubs, so they didn't top dress.

Fairways were mostly common Kentucky Bluegrass and Poa Annua. They were cut maybe twice a week and almost always over an inch height of cut.

Tees were cut with 22" greens-mowers or 26" or 30" walk-behind reel mowers.

The transition from minimal maintenance to the very intense maintenance that we have now, came about gradually over the years as golfers began demanding better and better playing conditions. It is my opinion that the T.V. coverage of Pro Tournaments was very influential in bringing this about.

Now lets talk about equipment and its development. In 1962 a walking greensmower cost about \$400.00. Today, because of inflation, it costs about \$2800.00.

Triplex Greensmowers were developed first in 1969 at a cost of \$3200.00. They are now over \$10,000.00.

Other Triplex Mowers such as the Jacobsen Turf King and the Toro 76" Pro sold for \$1200.00. They are now from \$6000.00 to \$9000.00.

In 1962 golf courses were being maintained with walking mowers (other than fairways) as labor became more expensive riding mowers became more popular. When it was realized that much more work could be accomplished with less man hours, the maintenance level gradually intensified. Now we have reached the



### CALO-CLOR® BRAND

Still the best above all the rest

Consistently the number one Snow Mold control in university trials and on golf courses. An excellent suspendible material which provides season-long control with one application.

### CALO-GRAN® BRAND

Same quality as CALO-CLOR, with convenience of a granular formulation

The same effective control as CALO-CLOR, plus the convenience of dry application. Two pounds of CALO-GRAN is equivalent to 1 oz. of CALO-CLOR.



### PROFESSIONAL TURF PRODUCTS

Mallinckrodt

Turf Products



point where the big mowers, because of their weight are phasing out and I would bet that in 5 years, many of the private clubs will be cutting with walk behind greensmowers again.

To sum this up, I guess that while everything changes, nothing under the sun is new, but it has been very interesting.

## FERTILIZER AND PESTICIDE TRENDS—1984 AND BEYOND

By Tom Wentz  
Regional Manager  
O. M. Scott and Sons

Golf course fertilizer and pesticide usage in the 1980's have changed dramatically from the usage patterns of the early to mid '70's. These changes, I believe, have developed as a result of the demand for faster greens, budget constraints, reduced acreages, new disease specific fungicides, new diseases, and a higher degree of turf manicuring. This list can go on and on. The patterns that I have observed throughout the 10 state midwest region are listed below:

### I. Fertilizer Usage

— Reduced nitrogen usage on greens. The amounts of N used per 1000 per year vary from one golf course to another, but there has been a reduction overall in the total N used per season.

— Trend to spoon feeding low amounts of N each week. Incorporation into fungicide sprays is becoming a regular practice.

— Coupled with the low N, there has been an upsurge in iron and minor nutrient supplement treatments.

— Trend toward higher K feeding on greens. Many of the soil test reports around the midwest indicate the soil low on K. The use of more sand for topdressing has created a need to be aware of the plant nutritional requirements.

— The greatest reason for reduced fertilizer usage on fairways has been the reduction in fairway acreage. Contour mowing and the trend toward narrower fairways has taken the average 50 acre — 18 hole fairway of the past to the current 20-25 acre fairway.

— Greater trend to supplemental treatments of higher K fertilizer for fairways or use of a 1:2, N:K fertilizer ratio product.

— I have observed reduction in total N applied on Triplex mowed fairways. Although, where clippings are removed, a good fertility program is needed.

Overall, fertilizer usage has dropped due to reduced acreage, and the demand for faster greens.

### II. Pesticide Usage

#### A. Fungicides

The newer fungicides today are not as broad spectrum but usually give longer periods of disease control. Superintendents have realized the importance of alternating fungicides in their preventative disease programs. The newer disease specific fungicides will require this to continue.

— Observed greater fungicide usage on fairways. Possibly with the reduced fairway acreage, more budgets can handle expanded usage for fairway treatment. I believe there is more pressure on the superintendent to keep up with competing clubs and golfer demand for greater manicuring.

— The varied type "patch" diseases, Fusariums, Anthracnose, resistant strains of Dollarspot have created a need to understand fungicide limitations, re-think cultural practices and develop better preventative treatment programs.

#### B. Insecticides

— The long term Residual Isofenphos Insecticide has been a welcome relief to those superintendents who have had to deal with grub problems. Similar residual type insecticides will be arriving on the market in the near future.

#### C. Herbicides

— The use of PGR's (Plant Growth Regulators) has been on the increase. This year I saw Embark being used for Poa seed head suppression. Look for the development of improved PGR's that open up greater use in the golf course turf market.

The requirements for the golf course superintendent to keep abreast of changes within the golf course management field is even greater today than in the past. We are living in a constantly changing world, an information society where the need to "Keep Up" is even more important. Trends will

change in the future as they have done in the past, and how you react and respond to these changes will determine your future success.



## Hanley's Donates To WGCSA Scholarship and Research Fund

Neil Richter, general manager of Hanley Implement in Sun Prairie, presented a check for \$500 to the WGCSA at the November meeting at Tumblebrook Country Club. The gift will be added to the WGCSA Scholarship and Research Fund.

Speaking on behalf of the officers and directors of Hanleys, Richter expressed their sincere feeling for the need for investment in research that will help deal with cultural problems as they arise, as well as the basic kind of research necessary prior to field application. He also feels that any business is only as good as the people in it and applauds the WGCSA scholarship program.

Sincere thanks to Hanley Implement from everyone in the WGCSA.