



ANTICIPATION — 1988

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After the many difficulties experienced in 1987, an air of optimism seems to pervade the golf turf management groups throughout the Great Lakes Region. After all, how could things get worse? The growing season is already shorter than last year. The folks out west had another dry winter, so there may be more water woes and winter injury again this year. Elsewhere, superintendents say the winter was so-so, which indicates that few problems were anticipated this spring. We can, however, expect a pretty weedy year unless good, dense turf coverage can be developed before warming sunlight reaches the soil and triggers seed germination — especially crabgrass and goosegrass.

The USGA/GCSAA Research project is beginning to produce results. Superintendents were helped last summer by some of the stress management techniques. Others are making good use of the management studies in successful programs of *Poa annua* suppression in bentgrass fairways. Still others have made use of the Turf Grass Information File in writing reports and in project proposals. New grass varieties are approaching the production pipeline which will benefit golf turf in southern and western areas. Up here, we hope to see limited field evaluation of *Poa annua* this summer. The status of the projects will be described in the next issue of the *Green Section Record*.

The issue will include all presentations made at the Green Section's educational session during that fantastic GCSAA International Conference and Show in Houston. Of particular interest to every superintendent (except Ed Fischer and Bruce Williams) is the discussion on women's golf by Judy Bell, the first lady to serve on the USGA Executive Committee. It is must reading, particularly at this time of the year. Her comments on yardage could be valuable references in certain instances, such as siting new forward or Red Course tees.

The *Green Section Specifications for Green Construction* is in the process of an updating rewrite. The good printer willing, it *should* be available for distribution by June 1, 1988. There are no major changes, because the basic principles of soil physics involved in this construction method do not change. This updating is to tighten some of the specifications on components and procedures and to clarify some ambiguities found in previous editions.

Other Recommended Reading: Four publications from the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology published in 1987.

1. Reprint from January issue Science and Food and Agriculture — How Risky are Pesticides?
2. Comments from CAST — 1987 (1)-May. Health Issues Related to Chemicals in the Environment: A Scientific Perspective.
3. Comments from CAST — 1987 (2)-May. Pesticides, Cancer and the Delaney Clause.
4. Comments from Cast — 1987 (3)-December Perspectives on the Safety of 2,4-D.

These papers were written by eminent scientists in the fields of agriculture, medicine, environmental toxicology and statistics at major universities, industry, the USDA, etc. They deal with the *facts* of pesticide usage in an objective, scientific and readable manner. It is the kind of information needed when (not if) we are asked about pesticide safety. For more information write CAST, 137 Lynn Avenue, Ames, Iowa 50010-7120. This organization, incidentally, accepts individual members. Their publications are worth the \$25 fee.

I was stunned last summer when a graduate of two *Majors* universities featuring turfgrass science told me he had never seen the classic time-lapse movie *Water Movement In Soils*. It dates from 1959, but the principles of soil physics do not change. There has never been a better illustration of what

happens to water in a layered soil, why rolling helps seed germination, how salts accumulate and which aeration holes work while others do not. It's only a 25 minute movie, so I cannot believe that any straight lecture can be so enlightening. If anyone who was similarly deprived would like to see the new turf-oriented version, give me a call. We can arrange for either a 16 mm movie or a VHS tape.

About this time of the year when everything is just about ready and the turf conference information and conversations are not yet filed, it gets to be Ponder Time. That's when we try to get oriented and just ponder about something that is unlikely to happen, but . . .

All the Joneses are getting bentgrass fairways for a variety of reasons, but basically because good golfers play best from tight fairway lies. (The last U.S. Open played on bluegrass was in 1950 at Cherry Hills in Denver.) We are learning that good bentgrass fairways don't come free for nothing — lightweight mowing, intensive aeration, some vertical mowing, well-balanced irrigation and better than average drainage.

Now that is the ponderable: What kind of playing quality could be developed for the vast horde of nonchampionship-calibre golfers if we voluntarily put that much effort and care into some of those new, high powered Kentucky bluegrass cultivars? One of the greater Chicago area superintendents came close to this on a test fairway last year and produced very good turf. He is nameless because that really wasn't the intent of the test.

But it shore is a ponderable.

JIM LATHAM will be our speaker on September 12 at his son-in-law Bob Belfield's club, Kettle Hills.