

of the examining committee that graded Larry Lennert's Masters Degree thesis. That committee included Professors Kussow, Helmke and Lowery.

It wasn't an easy task; it required, for me, the very deliberate reading of Larry's thesis. But what an educational experience that was!

Larry's thesis was extremely well written; it turns out that I wasn't the only one who noted that. Each professor commented on the same.

The document is absolutely loaded with information—practical and pragmatic information—that will help turfgrass managers in Wisconsin and elsewhere. Golf course superintendents will be especially helped.

Part of a thesis defense in the Department of Soil Science is a seminar open to anyone. It was clear during Larry's lecture that this young man is also very articulate and an excellent speaker.

My primary concern is that Larry and his major professor get this information published, first in a "juried" technical journal so that it can be referenced. Then they need to write about a half dozen articles for the popular literature for use by people like me.

As you know, the subject of his research project was "iron and its use in turfgrass management in Wisconsin". It was supported by the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association.

By the way, he passed his examination, and was given permission to pursue a PhD if he desires.

Quite frankly, I was very proud of the kid. You would have been also. Our business needs bright and educated people like Larry Lennert. His dedicated performance in completion of his thesis will make it easy for the WTA to fund another project in the future.

Nice work by the major professor, too!

The whole world probably knows by now that Jim Spindler left the Milorganite Division of MMSD. He left his position as Marketing Director there for a similar position with ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Jim, his wife Missey and daughter Kiersten will move to the Lancaster area around the time you receive this issue of *THE GRASS ROOTS*.

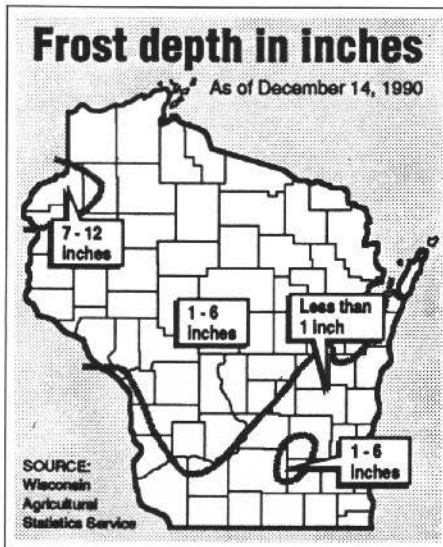
Spindler has become one of us since he accepted the MMSD position in 1985. He started as field agronomist, moved into the market development

manager's position and finally was appointed Acting Director of Marketing.

We also knew him as the coordinator for the annual Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium. He will continue to serve as research director for the O.J. NOER RESEARCH FOUNDATION.

Jim was a very active, capable and visible person in our Wisconsin golf course industry. We are going to miss his presence. He has promised to return to next year's Symposium, a promise I hope he'll be able to keep. Congratulations and good luck.

The accompanying graphics showing frost and snow depths around Wisconsin at mid-December indicate why state climatologist Pam Naber offers up such positive reports these days.



The mild weather that followed the December 3rd snowstorm across Wisconsin really helped to recharge underground water supplies in our state. We are continuing to recover

from the prolonged drought.

The snow fell primarily on unfrozen ground. The warm temperatures melted a lot of the snow and it infiltrated the soil instead of running off.

The water tables in most parts of Wisconsin have gradually risen through the wet periods of autumn. The deficit has shrunk so significantly that in many areas the water level is within a few inches of normal.

For three consecutive years, rainfall lagged behind the normal total of 31.3 inches, causing the water table to drop and topsoil moisture to disappear.

It is always sad to learn of someone's passing; it may be more true when that someone made unusual contributions in a way you appreciate. Such was the case when Bob Sommers sent USGA Green Section Committee members the obituary of Fred Grau.

This is as it appeared in the December 6, 1990 issue of *The New York Times*. Dr. Grau was a former national director of the Green Section.

Fred Grau, 88, Dies; Developer of Grasses

Fred V. Grau, an agronomist who developed a grass that is used widely to prevent soil erosion and beautify highway slopes, died Saturday at Prince George's Community Hospital in Cheverly, Md. He was 88 years old and lived in College Park, Md.

He died of congestive heart failure, his daughter, Ellen Mentzer of Silver Spring, Md., said.

Dr. Grau received his doctorate in 1935 at the University of Maryland. He was the founder of Grasslyn Inc. and developed crownvetch, a perennial that is widely cultivated for its pink flowers and tenacious roots. He also helped develop zoysia varieties that require small amounts of water and fertilizer and are used on athletic fields.

He was a specialist in turf grasses and from 1945 to 1953 was director of the United States Golf Association Green Section. Dr. Grau was an agricultural extension agent at Pennsylvania State University and was later with the Department of Agriculture's Beltsville Agricultural Research Station of the Department of Agriculture.

In addition to his daughter, he is survived by a son, Fred Jr. of State College, Pa.; a sister, Edith Reynolds of Pensacola, Fla., and six grandchildren.