



On a Personal Note...

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In this issue, the pathology report will take on a more personal note. A second child is arriving soon in my family, and its impending arrival has sparked a time of reflection and deliberation between my husband, Wayne, and me. Reflection on what parenting has meant to us and how this will intensify with another child. Deliberation on how to balance our very satisfying professional lives with equally cherished family life and responsibility.

I've realized in talking with people over the past several weeks that most adults wrestle with these questions of priorities and lifestyle. And the solutions for each family are as personal and individual as the people in them. What I have decided to do for my solution is to "sequence" my major responsibilities to my young family and to my large extension clientele. Rather than work part-time at both of these large responsibilities, I have decided to take a one-year parental leave of absence, from July 1995 to July 1996.

A leave of absence will allow me to see the youngest child safely through the earliest childhood months and allow me some flexibility to determine how to best meet my commitments to my children and to the UW-Madison after this year.

What a hard decision it was to make! I will miss so many things about my daily working life, and miss so many people. But what makes me feel at peace about the decision is the knowledge of how good it is for children to be with their parents. I am lucky to have a husband who is also making arrangements to get his work done in ways that leave him time to be with his children in their daily lives.

A safety net of service in turf pathology will continue. I am especially concerned about you, the golf course superintendent, who, more than the grain crop grower, or even other kinds of turf managers, are literally under disease "pressure" during the season. I will see to it that four things continue

during my absence: the Turfgrass Disease Diagnostic Lab, the research trials at O.J. Noer facility, the fungicide evaluation trials, particularly for snow mold, and a compilation of research results and information in the *Wisconsin Turf Research Report* next winter.

For those of you who have not received an announcement, the Turfgrass Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (TDDL) is already in service and will continue during my leave. The new lab is intended to complement the existing Plant Pathogen Detection Clinic on the UW-Madison campus by providing disease diagnostic information and management recommendations specifically for turfgrass growers. The TDDL is housed in Room 285 Russell Labs in the Department of Plant Pathology. Steve Millett, Ph.D. candidate in Plant Pathology and Turfgrass Science, runs the daily operation of the clinic, with diagnostic support from myself, M.F. Heimann, Dr. Doug Maxwell and other faculty members in the department with skills in fungal disease diagnosis.

The new laboratory space and increased staff allows turfgrass samples sent to the TDDL to be processed immediately. When you send your sample in, you will be contacted within a day to confirm arrival and to discuss the preliminary diagnosis. If the diagnosis requires longer to confirm, you will be contacted regularly with progress reports. Final diagnosis and management recommendations for commercial samples will be discussed by phone or by FAX. The fee structure for the TDDL has been set at \$25.00 per sample for commercial turf managers, including golf course, sod farms and commercial lawn care companies. Please call Audra (608-845-6536) at the O.J. Noer facility for a brochure outlining the service, addresses, phone and FAX numbers, and tips for taking and sending samples.

Research progress will also contin-

ue in the able hands of Catherine Smejkal, who will maintain the ongoing research plots at O.J. Noer facility, and who will continue the snow mold fungicide trials this fall. I will be sure that the information from the 1994-1995 snow mold trials get to you in the next issue of the *GRASSROOTS*, and a summary of the year's turf pathology research be included in the next issue of the *Wisconsin Turfgrass Research Report*.

I wish you all the best season ever, with lots of hard, but satisfying work, the reward of green, healthy turf, and a job well done. Turf pathology at the University of Wisconsin is committed to helping you towards this goal! 🌱

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