



# ASSESSMENT

By **Kris Pinkerton**, Golf Course Superintendent, Oshkosh Country Club



It seems this past golf season ended as fast as it started. All of our preparation and energy put into getting an early start for the season was repeated in an effort to end the season as effectively. Our courses lie now in dormancy. For most superintendents, winter will be a welcomed break, a shifting of gears so to speak. For others there may be a re-tooling to make next season's efforts better.

First and foremost, after what turned out to be a very long season, it may be time for a break. A break for some may come in the form of abstinence, whether it be an extended weekend, a couple of weeks off or maybe even a few months for some of us. Completely shunning from work for a period of time may do us all some good! You might also "depressurize" by catching up on some reading. Golf Course Management, Superintendent News, Green Section Record and many more are all stacked up, waiting to be read. Still other superintendents may have some teaching commitments in the offseason. Finally, we can not forget about the importance of edu-

cation this offseason. Attending seminars and conferences plays a critical role in our professional development.

This is also the time of the year that we can look back over the season gone by. If your golf season was not so good, this is the time to fix it, and an analysis of past practices can sometimes reveal problems that may be corrected for the future. Pull out your programs, records or expense reports and give them a good objective look. Were the goals you set forth last winter met with satisfactory success? Are there any irregularities? What about inconsistency in "budget vs. actual" for each account on your expense report? I concluded that I had lost focus of the original intent of my fungicide program by mid-June last season. Now I must vow to be better prepared to start the new season.

Making changes is often more difficult than identifying them. It may very well be worthwhile to at least consult your fellow superintendents. Or how about a call or e-mail to one of the many University of Wisconsin-Madison specialists and professors that we have available. Whether or not you seek help or intend to take matters into your own hands, the time to make changes is now! Allowing yourself and staff the most time available to become comfortable and confident with the changes you make will help you be better prepared for when we do thaw out.

So whether you choose to rest, catch up on your reading, plan for the next golf season, or do a well rounded mixture of all of the above as you prepare for the next season, remember that "application and thought forge many an art."

God Bless You In The New Year! 🌿

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