



July/August 1988

By David Brandenburg, Golf Course Manager, Rolling Meadows Golf Course

Editors Note: This issue we go back twenty years to review The Grass Roots from July/August of 1988.

The front page headline by Monroe Miller was a bold WE WON! Many of you members remember the lawsuit between the Town of Casey and the Forestry/Rights-of-Way/Turf Coalition. Ralph Mortier, a land owner in Casey, WI (Washburn County) along with the FroWT Coalition brought suite against the town in Washburn Country Circuit Court over local pesticide laws passed by the Town Board in 1985.

Judge Dennis Baily found that the Town of Casey ordinance was

too broad and in conflict with state and federal laws. He reaffirmed the point the local units of government do not have jurisdiction in regulating pesticides. At this time it is unfortunate the same ruling does not effect fertilizer regulations to hinder individual communities from limiting fertilizer applications without the proper knowledge or studies on the effect of such rulings on long-term plant health.



The Campus Connection featured an article by Jeffery Bahr titled "Effects of Iron on Rooting." Along with Dr. Wayne Kussow the study was done with Kentucky

Bluegrass Sod grown in a greenhouse for 9 weeks. A week before the sod was cut, different treatments of nitrogen ranging from 0 to one pound of N/M.

The sod was cut into 4"x4" pieces and placed on half inch wire mesh screens, and four hooks were attached to the screen and extended through the soil and root systems. Iron was applied at zero oz/M or .25oz/M.

One week after transplant to mineral soil the iron had little or no effect on rooting however the samples with .5lbN/M had the greatest rooting. By week two, all the plots had established roots in to the soil.



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In the third week, the sod root strength was tested by attaching the four hooks, coming up through the sod to a rope, which was suspended by a boom and pulley system and attached to a pail on the other end. Sand was poured at a constant rate into the pail until the sod piece was torn from the soil. The pail was weighed and results recorded for each replicate.

In the third week, the iron application did have a minor impact in root strength for the treatments with no extra nitrogen. The treatments with .5lb N/M rooted the best, however the iron had little effect on rooting. One pound of N/M reduced rooting and increased shoot growth. The one set of plots given two applications of iron had less rooting. Jeff's conclusion was iron application is useful in inducing strong roots for sod that is nitrogen deficient. Too much nitrogen, regardless of iron rates can be detrimental to strong root growth.



Two scholarships were announced in this issue of The Grass Roots. Jeffery Bahr, then a senior in Dr. Wayne Kussow's Turf and Grounds Management Program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison was chosen as the recipient of the NOR-AM Turf Scholarship. John Turner, NOR-AM Wisconsin's representative, made the announcement. (It is great to see John Turner is still handing out scholarships at the WTA Winter Conference 20 years later)

Todd Monge was chosen to receive the WGCSA James R. Love Turfgrass Scholarship. Monge was a junior at the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he was majoring in Soil Science with a Turfgrass Management specialty.



Mark Kienert penned two articles highlighting visits to the badger state by USGA Green Section National Director Bill Bengeyfield and USGA Green Section Agronomist Stan Zontek.

Bengeyfield was the featured speaker at the May WGCSA meeting held at Pine Hills Country Club in Sheboygan and hosted by Rod Johnson. Bill focused on turfgrass research during his talk as the USGA was at the halfway point in a major fundraising effort for turf research. This was a timely topic as the Wisconsin members in attendance were undertaking their own fundraising efforts for the O.J. Noer Center for Turfgrass Research.

Joining the group for dinner was Herb Kohler, from the Kohler Company and Pete Dye The architect of the Kohler owned Black Wolf Run Golf Course. The two were together for the Media Day held at the then new Black Wolf Run. Black Wolfs superintendent, Marc Davison made arrangements for those WGCSA members interested to tour the new Pete Dye design.

Event winners were Dick Evenson, who took low gross with a 74 and took low team best ball honors with his partner Jeff Bottenzek.

Mr. Zontek had served for six years as the USGA Agronomist for Wisconsin and was back to entertain and educate the membership in the differences between turf management in Wisconsin and the mid-Atlantic Region. In both areas of the country, overcoming stress related problems is key to a superintendent's success.

The meeting was hosted by Bruce Schweiger at Janesville's Blackhawk Golf Course. Once again the first place team was led by Dick Evenson, who the writer suggested needed a handicap adjustment. Other team members were Jeff Bottenzek, Brad Wagner and Jon Gallus. ♣

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