



GET SMART

By Bruce Worzella



The early 70's sit-com, about a secret agent starring Don Adams, came to mind when deciding my president's message title. Educating himself and staying ahead in an ever-changing world was part of Don Adams' solution to staying alive. Golf course superintendents are not spies, but do need to stay in touch with what is confronting us.

This time of the year we concentrate on our continuing education. We have enough time so that we can now read more than one article per publication. We have time to attend various seminars and conferences. A good example was the past WTA winter conference.

Wisconsin turf managers proved that they want to absorb as much education as possible by breaking the all-time attendance record. An excellent job was done by the WTA to focus the meeting on education.

What really concerns me, though,

are the government regulations that are coming. As everyone knows, or should know, pesticide regulations, storage, loading and mixing, and application are big issues.

The posting of a golf course also is not very far away. Our neighboring states are already complying. A positive note has been the involvement of Rod Johnson with the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). He has given us a voice and a chance at some workable solutions.

Do not be too discouraged about pending Wisconsin regulations; we are not alone. On January 21 and 22, I attended a Government Relations Liaison seminar at the GCSAA headquarters. Thirty-one other concerned chapter officials discussed many topics relating to golf courses and government regulation. The excellent involvement

of GCSAA at the federal level has now given us working at the state level a direction for consistency throughout the country.

Some of the subjects that were addressed were: understanding the media and not being afraid of an interview; knowing exactly how bills are introduced from a state legislator and how you can affect them; communicating with your local government; and legally addressing your concerns to the proper people.

The intent of this seminar was not to move mountains, but for golf course superintendents to learn how to professionally approach issues that have impact on their everyday duties.

In conclusion, educating ourselves and becoming involved with circumstances that affect our work and our surroundings will only make our profession stronger in the eyes of everyone.

Table of Contents

Roberts Rules	1
President's Message	2
Editor's Notebook	3
The Wisconsin Golf Course Quiz	7
Wisconsin Pathology Report	9
Wisconsin Soils Report	12
The Public Golf Course Superintendent	13
Personality Profile	17
1992 WTA Winter Conference & Show	24
The Sports Page	27
Life in the Northwoods	29
Jottings from Golf Course Journal	33
Shop Talk	35
Wisconsin Golf Course Survey	36
Notes from the Noer Facility	37
John Deere Championship	39
Editorial	41
From Across the Country	42
1991 Article Index	43
The Sporting Green	47



(L to R) Mike Semler, Bruce Worzella, Rod Johnson, Bill Knight, Pat Norton, Tom Schwab, Mark Kienert, Scott Schaller and Mike Handrich.

1991-1992 WGCSA Board of Directors

PRESIDENT

Bruce Worzella
West Bend Country Club
5846 Hwy Z
West Bend, WI 53095

TREASURER

Tom Schwab
Monroe Country Club
East End 21st Street
Glendale, WI 53566

PAST PRESIDENT

Rodney Johnson
Sheboygan Pine Hills Country Club
Box 1066
Sheboygan, WI 53081

VICE PRESIDENT

Mike Semler
Cherokee Country Club
5000 N. Sherman Ave.
Madison, WI 53704

DIRECTORS

William Knight
Ozaukee County Parks
3344 West Grace
Glendale, WI 53566

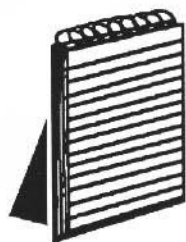
Mike Handrich
Racine Country Club
3700 Henry Circle
Racine, WI 53404

SECRETARY

Mark Kienert
Bull's Eye Country Club
Box 921, Airport Ave.
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

Patrick Norton
Cedar Creek Country Club
1226 Oak Ave. North
Onalaska, WI 54650

Scott Schaller
South Hills Country Club
647 County Trunk V
Fond du Lac, WI 54935



THE MEETING SEASON

By Monroe S. Miller

As I move into my 20th year as a Wisconsin golf course superintendent, I can report that one of the biggest changes I have seen has been the quality and the quantity of educational offerings in our business. There are more and more of them, and they get better and better each year.

Starting with the Symposium, moving through the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Winter Conference (after the WGCSA fall business meeting) and on to the GCSAA conference and show, the materials presented this year were almost universally excellent.

WGCSA members who happened to attend turf conferences in other states—Michigan, Minnesota, Illinois and Massachusetts, to name ones I have heard about—report a similar high level of quality lectures.

It is, in my view, a reflection of the times we are in. The problems are serious, the issues divisive and the answers elusive. Sound educational programming is the best solution to meet the challenges head on.

To all those responsible for the planning and execution of these great meetings—CONGRATULATIONS!

Although we're in the middle of the educational meeting time, it still seems like the holidays were just yesterday.

It was a wonderful holiday season. Time spent with family, Christmas gifts and relaxation all made it the best time of year.

Books and clothes were what I mostly received for Christmas.

One of the nicest gifts, however, was a visit. On the Friday before Christmas, Jim Love stopped by the shop.

Armed with Christmas stollen, he came looking for some coffee to drink with it. We all happily obliged him.

During winter months, Jim and Nancy and their springer spaniel Shy head to warmer climes, travelling in the RV purchased at retirement. They've been everywhere from St. Augustine to San Diego to Seattle.

I am convinced that on one of their previous trips to Florida, Jim must have found the Ponce de Leon fountain of youth. He looks great!

And it is obvious he is enjoying his retirement. I think the two of them are as busy now as they were in the middle of two very busy careers.

As we visited and reminisced, I couldn't help wondering, "where have the last six years gone?"

Speaking of the Christmas past, we dedicated ourselves, more than ever, to making it an "American" Christmas. We have always been aware of the "Made in USA" label, but we searched harder than ever in 1991 to complete our gift lists with things made by our own citizens.

Now that the new golf season is just around the corner, I'm going to continue, as I have for years, to seek out equipment and supplies we will need for the golf season that carry that same USA label.

As long as the Japanese and other Asian countries are so intransigent when it comes to fair and free trade with the U.S., they won't get my discretionary business.

I hope lots of you agree. Too many of our fellow Americans are hurting economically to not want to help in a very easy and significant way.

The following data and graphic from the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service tell a lot about the moisture status all around Wisconsin for the past five seasons.

The key word is "season". The totals for the year are normally in the low 30s. The stat service defines the season as April through September.

That's close to our golf season, at least in terms of the bulk of rounds played. Several things are obvious. The years of 1987, 1988 and 1989 were extremely dry. I contend that I am still seeing the cumulative effects of those

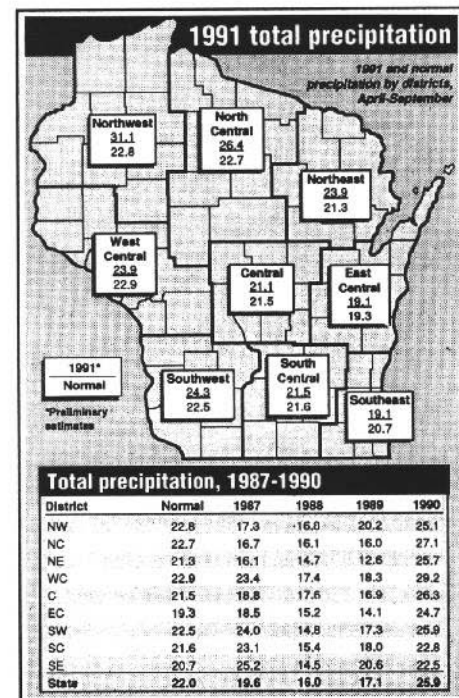
dry years in our trees. The 1990 season is the only one of the last five that was "wet". And the season past was about as close to normal as you will probably see.

Two things are less obvious. First, as always, is the fact that distribution isn't indicated by such tabulated information. Much of the rain we received in 1991 came in buckets and was followed by weeks of painful heat and drought.

Secondly, although the 1991 season was normal, the totals for the year should be well above the annual norm.

We were wallowing in the mud from the last week of October right through the end of the year.

But who can really complain about catch-up moisture, even if it causes some aggravation? Not me.



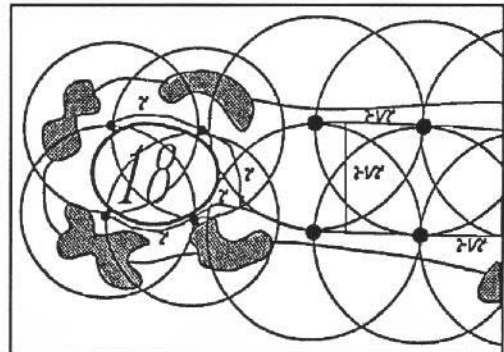
Also included here for your information, again from the Wisconsin Ag Stat Service, are details of frost depth and snow depth at Christmas. They beg the question "can one think springtime thoughts at Christmas time?"

(Continued on page 5)

THE PROBLEM SLOVERS



- FULL LINE STOCKING DISTRIBUTOR
- CONTROLLER REPAIR & WIRE TRACING
- CONSULTING AND COMPUTER AIDED DESIGN SERVICES
- PUMPS, PUMP STATIONS AND CONTROL RETROFITS
- PLASTIC PIPE AND FITTINGS



Reinders IRRIGATION SUPPLY

APPLETON—900 Randolph Dr. (414) 788-0200

ELM GROVE—13400 Watertown Plank Rd. (414) 786-3301 • 800 782-3300

We Make Your Problems Crystal Clear

Each year, more golf course superintendents realize a simple and energy efficient method of treating problem water quality in their streams and ponds. Otterbine Floating Aerators help prevent algae, aquatic weeds and noxious odors by speeding up the breakdown of wastes.

Through Otterbines' Floating Aerators, up to 3.6 pounds of dissolved oxygen is circulated into 37,500 gallons of water per horsepower hour. With dissolved oxygen, bacteria will break down organic wastes naturally, leaving you clearer and cleaner water.

Otterbine Floating Aerators are self-contained units which range in pumping capacity from 16 to 3,100 gallons per minute. Unit sizes are available in 1/6 to 10 horsepower. Minimum pond size can be as small as 8 feet in diameter and 13 inches deep. These aerators can also beautifully illuminate fountains with low voltage light kits and timing systems.

**For more information on
Otterbine Floating Aerators contact:**

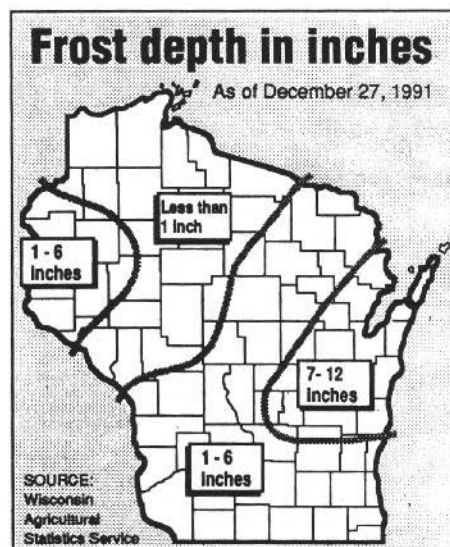
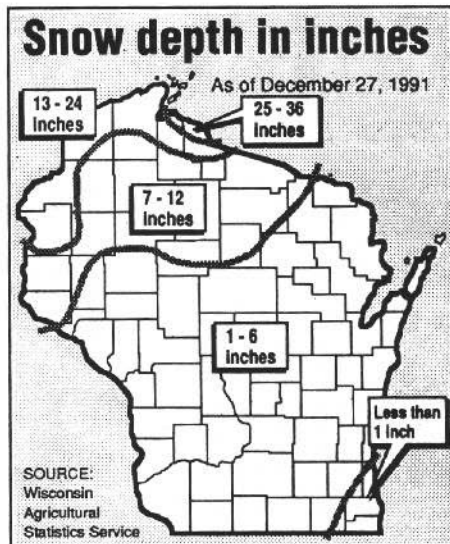


Reinders Irrigation Supply

800 782-3300 Milw. (414) 786-3301
13400 Watertown Plank Road, P.O. Box 825
Elm Grove, Wisconsin 53122-0825

(Continued from page 3)

Here's a certainty: with a temperature of 52 degrees on February 3, be assured everybody on my crew couldn't help think about anything BUT spring.



Well, the bureaucrats and politicians in this state have justified the lack of respect the public has for them once again.

MONEY magazine editors have sentenced Wisconsin to "Tax Hell" status again this year. The sentence is an annual ranking of states based on tax burdens on a typical household. For us the burden in 1991 was \$7,762.

Wisconsin was the sixth worst state in the U.S. and the District of Columbia. In 1990 we had the dubious distinction of placing fourth, and we secured the eighth place in 1989.

You'd think the message to the public sector would be loud and clear: "You have enough money. Use it wisely, reduce waste, work harder and work

smarter. More money is not your answer. Taxes do not need to be raised."

Yet, the increases in state property tax bills mailed in December were more than **DOUBLE** the rate of inflation. It simply has to stop.

Ultimately, if this course continues, it is your fault and mine. The politicians who promote excessive spending need to be removed from office. Period. If you don't vote, they stay. They spend, You pay. You bellyache. They continue unabated because you aren't concerned enough to turn them out.

It is frustrating and disgusting; one hates to think about it. That is especially true when you realize you are getting poor value for your dollar. Witness the slow slide of the University of Wisconsin System, roads in poor shape, increases in crime, etc. etc.

How long will we wait before we do something?

It wouldn't have taken a genius or a crystal ball to predict that Toro's purchase of Lawn Boy from OMC wouldn't be good for Wisconsin in the long run.

The first thing that happened was that they ceased mower manufacturing in Plymouth/Sheboygan Falls.

Now they are "restructuring" and closing Lawn Boy administrative offices there, affecting about 120 white collar employees.

Part of this restructuring involves the closing of a plant in Mississippi, a move costing that state more jobs than Wisconsin lost.

Who should be surprised by this tragic news—it is the story of life and business in America today. And it's sad, very sad.

I have an interest in big trees that may be more than most Wisconsin golf course superintendents. The reason likely is because we have the Wisconsin champion Shagbark Hickory adjacent to our sixth green.

That interest is heightened whenever the American Forestry Association issues its annual edition of the National Register of Big Trees. This list records the nation's biggest trees, and the list can change significantly from year to year. Storms and other disasters remove some. Others are replaced by new finds.

Wisconsin has four national record trees—none on a golf course as near as I can tell. The record black spruce is in Taylor county, the record white poplar is in Fond du Lac county, the silver maple grows in Columbia County and

the record peachleaf willow is located in West Allis.

Most interesting of all may be the question of "who has the most champion big trees?"

Texas and California have 81 and 74, respectively. That is not really surprising, considering the sheer size of each and the wide swing in climate each state offers.

Could you guess which state had the second highest number (75) of the biggest trees in America?

Frankly, I'd never guess that it would be Michigan. I mean, Wisconsin has only four champs and Minnesota has even fewer with only one. How can a state at a similar northern latitude have so many big trees?

After consideration, however, it is less surprising than at first. Michigan has ample rainfall and a far milder climate than either Wisconsin or Minnesota. They are surrounded on three sides by Great Lakes!

The state has good soils, and many acres of virgin timber. Forests uncut by man are particularly fertile places to search for record size trees.

Although I wouldn't want Michigan's social problems, and for sure don't want anything to do with its poor economic conditions, it is only natural to be envious of the very wide range of plant materials Michigan golf course superintendents have to choose from.

If you would like a list of America's biggest trees, send \$2.00 on to: The American Forestry Association, P.O. Box 2000, Washington, D. C.

Nick Christians, a horticulture professor at Iowa State University and well known turfgrass researcher, has discovered what is thought to be the first "natural" herbicide and fertilizer: corn gluten meal.

The product is a protein substance extracted from corn during processing. It interferes with the germination of crabgrass and other weeds. In addition to suppressing weed seed germination, it analyzes ten percent nitrogen!

Dr. Christians points out that the corn by-product is more expensive and less effective than synthetic herbicides, but it could offer homeowners (and others) an alternative for standard herbicides. It will be an option for use in some areas where standard materials are restricted.

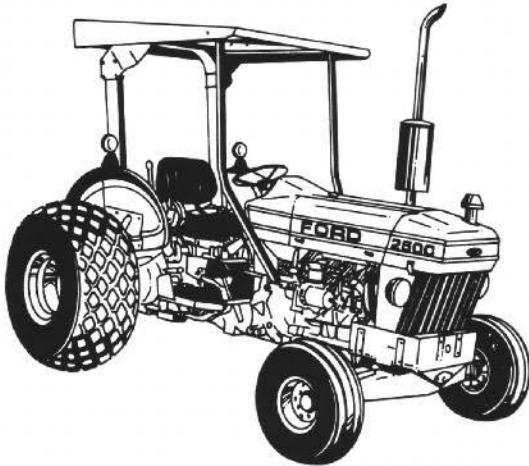
The corn meal has been under testing on ISU research plots for more than seven years. Development of the prod-

(Continued on page 7)

Hanley

Quality Products Since 1928

HARDWARE
TURF — AGRICULTURE — POWER EQUIPMENT



Ford 250C/260C tractors for all reasons

Mowing, grading, loading, landscaping—Ford utility tractors make it easy:

- 52- or 63-*SAE* net horsepower.
- Rugged cast-iron engine oil pan.
- Industrial box-beam front axle.
- Optional front-wheel-drive assist shifts on the go.
- Choice 8x2 constant mesh transmission, 6x4 manual-reversing transmission, or 8x8 power-reversing transmission with torque converter. All equipped with independent PTO.
- Vertical or horizontal exhaust.
- Optional 2800-lb. loader.
- Three-point hydraulics powered by 10.5-gpm gear pump.

You wanted a versatile and durable utility tractor! Stop by and see them today.

RANSOMES GREENS 3000 BRINGS GREENS CARE INTO THE 21st CENTURY

Versatile reel options

are all interchangeable. Choose from 9 blade front mounted Verti-Groom, 9 blade Greens, 7 blade Fairway and Tees, or Verti-cut reels.

Armchair comfort

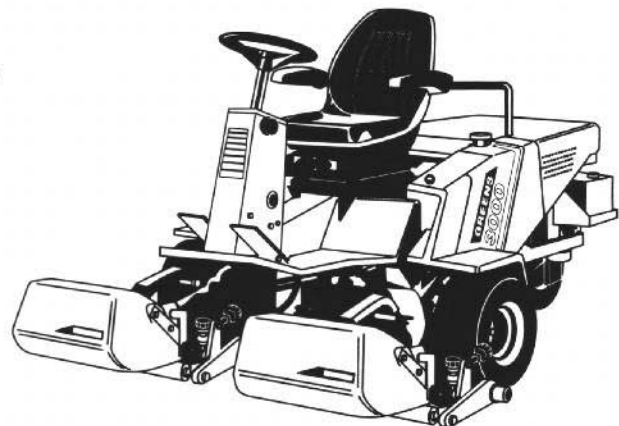
reduces operator fatigue. Adjustable tilt steering wheel and power steering. All controls and gauges are in easy reach and sight. Padded seat with adjustable back rest.

High cutting frequency

of 138 cuts per yard at 4 mph with 9 blade reels.

Cutting height adjusts

quickly and easily without the use of tools to as low as 1/8".



RANSOMES
GREENS 3000

WHERE GREAT IDEAS START

For a **FREE** demonstration contact:

(Continued from page 5)

uct is far enough along that it might reach the marketplace in the spring of 1993.

Dr. Christians discovered the fertility and herbicide value of corn gluten meal by accident. He and Dr. Clint Hodges - a past speaker at our Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium—were using left over corn meal from the ISU dorm food service as a growth medium for microbes used in their research. They noticed it inhibited the germination of weed grasses.

Iowa was an easy place to acquire other corn by-products. After greenhouse testing, they found the key ingredient was the gluten meal.

Christians has been primarily studying effects on crabgrass. However, it has been tested on other grasses and broadleaf weeds and shows some capability of cutting infestations by 50 to 60 percent.

Development has reached the stage where they've taken the meal powder and processed it into pellets which can be easily spread with a fertilizer spreader. Also, they are looking at how it affects root growth and development.

I cannot help but think I would be very interested in trying this product when it reaches the Wisconsin marketplace. It is going to have an appeal to more than just users, and may add a margin of comfort to those who object to the standard products under fire today.

Despite many years of use of hundreds of tons of Milorganite for just about every purpose imaginable on a golf course, applying it as a deterrent to deer never occurred to me.

Although we occasionally see a white tail on our course, they aren't a problem like they are on other golf courses in our area and urban areas in northern parts of the country.

Deer have done severe damage at Nakoma over the years, and could potentially do the same at University Ridge.

Landscape managers, golf course superintendents and others in New England have for a long time been using Milorganite to reduce damage to ornamentals by browsing deer.

A study is underway at Cornell University's Cooperative Extension Service that will try to quantify Milorganite effectiveness at keeping deer away from valuable plants.

The study so far has shown that Milorganite is effective in keeping deer from browsing on Hosta and Taxus species when it is applied around the

plant's base. The rate of application is five pounds per 100 square feet. It is broadcast on the surface around the plant and should be applied one or two times a month and after each snowfall during the winter.

Some other techniques are under examination, too. Hopefully, there will be a significant increase in demand as

a result for this excellent all-Wisconsin product.

That's it. As the meeting season winds down to a close, the spirit starts churning in anticipation for opening day. Now there's a cause for celebration!

The Wisconsin Golf Course Quiz



MORE TRIVIA

By Monroe S. Miller

With each succeeding issue of *THE GRASS ROOTS*, I always end up wondering if I will be able to come up with questions fitting for this feature for another issue.

Somehow, through conversations over the couple of months in between issues, interesting facts and tidbits of information about our business come to light.

For me, these odds and ends and trivia are ingredients that add to the flavor and fun of working in the Wisconsin golf course industry. Is that true for you?

Anyway, here are the quiz questions for issue two of '92.

1. What Wisconsin golf course has seen uninterrupted service from a father and son since 1925?

2. What Wisconsin golf course has an active playing member in the PGA tour and an active playing member in the LPGA tour? (Hint: the PGA player is also on the green committee.)

3. Speaking of green committees, name a former green committee member at a Wisconsin golf course who was an all-American football player at the UW. In addition to his three letters in football, he won three letters in basketball and three in baseball. He also played professional football in the NFL for a lot of years.

4. What organization most likely built the largest shop for an 18-hole golf facility in Wisconsin in the past twenty years?

5. Which of the following crops accounts for the most samples annually in the University of Wisconsin Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratory?

- A. Corn
- B. Turf
- C. Alfalfa
- D. Oats
- E. Cranberry
- F. Peas
- G. Snap beans
- H. Cherries

- ANSWERS
1. Westmoor Country Club has had Bert Bertram or his father on the golf course staff since construction started in 1925. That is the ultimate in loyal and good service!
 2. Nakoma Golf Club. Andy North and Sherril Steinhauer are members. North is on the Nakoma green committee.
 3. Pat Richter has been active on Maple Bluff's green committee for many years. He is now the athletic director at the University of Wisconsin - Madison.
 4. SENTRYWORLD.
 5. B. Turf.

MEET YOUR TALL FESCUE NEEDS WITH THE BEST

Lofts has three of the best-performing tall fescues available. Each one offers all the good looks and tough performance you need:

- Attractive, dark green color
- Fine-leaved texture
- Resistance to drought, disease, insects and traffic
- No thatch buildup
- Adaptability to sun or shade
- Less maintenance than bluegrasses or ryegrasses

New Rebel Jr.* even offers the added advantage of slower growth. All of these varieties offer good looks, tough performance and low maintenance. When you need a fescue, choose one of the best!



Lofts Seed Inc.

World's largest marketer of turfgrass seed
Bound Brook, NJ 08805
(201) 356-8700 • (800) 526-3890
(800) 624-1474 (N.J.)

CALL TOLL FREE
1-800-627-5495

Milwaukee (414) 276-0373
Chicago (312) 876-1172
Minneapolis (612) 522-7059
Indiana (219) 393-3553



Kellogg Inc.
Seeds and Supplies



A SIGNIFICANT EPA DECISION!

By Dr. Gayle L. Worf
Extension Plant Pathologist
University of Wisconsin-Madison

In the mail this week (February 16) came some good news from the "EBDC/ETU Task Force". The letter indicated that the EPA has completed the Special Review on these chemicals by announcing "Position Document 4 (PD 4)". PD 4 is the EPA's final disposition of investigations concerning a given pesticide under special review, and essentially indicates whether the chemical will be "up or out".

At issue has been whether these products, including mancozeb, maneb or metiram (Dithane M45, Manzate 200, Lesco 4, Fore, Formec and Pace are examples of products including one of these compounds) could be continue to be used on 45 different food crops. Their continued use on turf or ornamentals was not a direct question, although the long term availability would soon become a concern if their more popular uses were lost. Already announced was the continued commercial use for turf and ornamentals, providing stepped up protective clothing and other steps were followed. (Supposedly, homeowner use has been banned, but I didn't note that on several 1992 labels I examined.)

More important to turf and nursery managers was the process that was used, and the outcome it generated. You may recall our discussion of this earlier. EBDC's have been available since the 1940's and have been more heavily used than any other fungicide nationally and internationally. The 1940's prediction that "there never would be found a more effective fungicide" has essentially held true, though not necessarily in the turf world. Until the mid-1970's it was regarded as "completely safe". It was registered on nearly 90 food crops.

Then in the re-registration process concerns mounted over ETU (ethylene thiourea), a metabolite of the parent compound. Seems it had been found to be carcinogenic in new tests. The protocol in place called for banning the products outright. But wait! This product has already been used for almost half a century without any evidence of problems. And the arithmetic about alleged residues on our potatoes and tomatoes (and other crops) leading to the severe allegations was claimed by industry to be based upon totally inaccurate use patterns.

To EPA's credit, they set in motion a very detailed and deliberate study in 1987, establishing via intensive Market Basket Surveys and other means to measure how much EBDC's, and ETU, society was consuming and exposed to, including babies and infirmed folks. Almost 6,000 samples were screened, both by earlier methods and by newer procedures that had to be developed to prove that "there was no needle in the haystack". More than 80% of the samples showed no residues, even with the most sophisticated procedures, and almost all the remaining were at the lower limits of analytical detection. EPA was also willing to look at their formula which assumed that every crop on the label was sprayed 100%, and at the frequency and rate that was legal according to the label.

In coming to the verdict, the industry has agreed to reduce the number of food crops on the label, essentially eliminating those crops on which EBDC's use were trivial at most. But it improves the concern about theoretical exposure. They also set some restrictions on frequency of application that are in fact what was being used at the time of the Market Basket Survey. The result of this is that the fungicide has survived, and it sets forth what hopefully will continue to be a realistic posture by the EPA in dealing with the application of the provisions of the Delaney Amendment. The Task Force has commended the EPA for this new approach. One wonders how much the Alar scare had upon this new look. But in any event, agriculture, society, industry and the EPA are the better for it.

I would like to believe the new posture will signal more sensitivity to turf and ornamental fungicide use patterns, too, but that's a light year jump ahead.

Fungicide stability, then and now

EBDC's are one of the two fungicides I would most want to have for ornamental foliage disease control, along with Benlate (which is now no longer available for this purpose!) It never made its way to the top in turf circles for Wisconsin, probably as much as anything because it's poor on dollar spot. But I wish the new chemicals were as stable in effectiveness over the years. In nearly a half century of use on millions of acres and hundreds of pathogens, there never has been a single report, to my knowledge, of fungicide resistance emerging! Quite a success record.

I wish we could say that for the systemics. The concern about resistance with the sterol inhibitors apparently is heating up, with increasing evidence of dollar spot resistance occurring in other states. I don't yet know of similar problems in Wisconsin. Are we using them more prudently? Or have we just been lucky? Probably the latter. Interesting—and challenging—times.

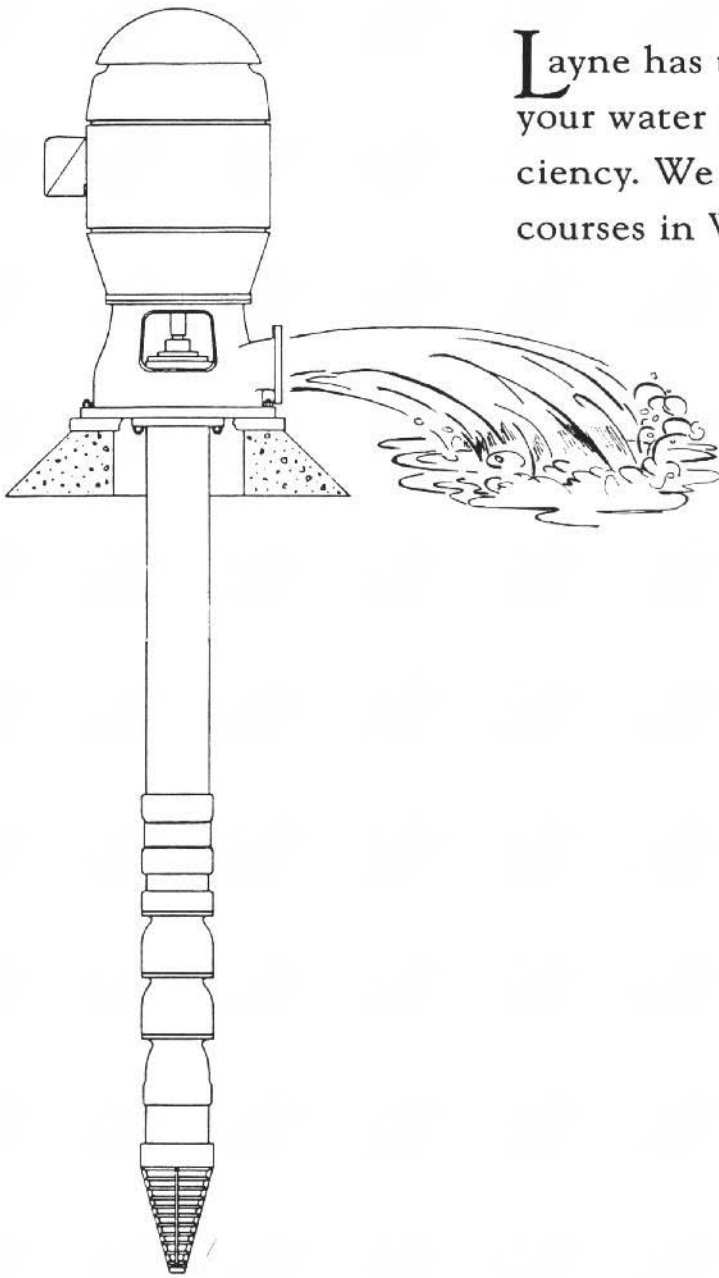
Poa annua by a bacterial disease?

In the recent IR-4 Committee minutes there was brief mention of the project Dr. David Roberts, Michigan State University, is involved with concerning the use of *Xanthomonas campestris* as a potential for the control of annual bluegrass. Dave found this bacterial isolate as a follow-up of his work in which he established that a species of this bacterium, *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *graminis*, was the mysterious cause of "C-15 decline", or bacterial wilt of 'Toronto' bentgrass as we now recognize it. I've not talked with Dave about this project. I don't know how far along it may be at present. But I can imagine some of the questions that EPA—and maybe golf course superintendents—might have about it.

One might be: "How stable is the bacterium? How do I know that it won't 'cross over' onto bentgrass or some other beneficial turf?"

It's Not Too Early To Think About The Pumping Season!

Layne has the resources and expertise to keep your water pumping system operating at peak efficiency. We have been providing services to golf courses in Wisconsin for over 80 years.



COMPLETE WATER SYSTEM SERVICES

- Designing a new pumping system or finding additional water supply.
- Complete pump repair & installation on any brand or make of pump.
- New & reconditioned pump sales of numerous pump brands.
- Well investigation & rehabilitation with proven methods resulting in as much as 700% improvement in well efficiency.
- Well televising.
- Hydropneumatic tank & pressure problem solving.
- 3 to 350 HP loaner electric motors.
- 24 hour Emergency Service.

QUALITY, EFFICIENCY & COST EFFECTIVENESS

Stop by and visit with us at the National Golf Show in New Orleans. Booth #1320.

Layne-Northwest Company

A Division of Layne-Western Company, Inc.

N5005 DuPlainville Rd.
Pewaukee, WI 53072
414-246-4646



3200 Schofield Ave.
Schofield, WI 54476
715-359-4211