



A walk through the French Quarter tells you that New Orleans is a very old town.

SPECIAL SHOW AWARD

I collected my 20th Jacobsen Show Hat this year. Of course, I have every one they've given since my first GCSAA conference in Boston in 1973 in my collection.

Giving golf course superintendents this neat memento from each show is very generous and greatly appreciated. This year's hat may be their nicest ever. A tip o' my (Jacobsen) hat to them!

BEST PROGRAM INNOVATION

The Green Chairman Session. This feature has potential; hopefully, GCSAA will see fit to develop and polish it for next year.

MAJOR COINCIDENCE

Both GCSAA president elect Bill Roberts and CMAA president elect Jack Sullivan started their quest for national leadership in Wisconsin. We all know of Roberts' roots in Stevens Point. But did you know that until a few years ago Sullivan was the clubhouse manager at the Nakoma Golf Club in Madison?

More interesting yet is that both men moved from here to Michigan (go figure that one!). In fact, they ended up next door neighbors in Grosse Pointe, "a drive and a wedge apart" as Jack told me.

There shouldn't be any miscommunication between the GCSAA and the CMAA this year. (You know, misunderstandings about things like the general manager concept.)



If you want really smooth greens,...



Randy and JoAnn Smith were happy to see Nakoma's former clubhouse manager, Jack Sullivan. Jack is new president of the CMAA.

IF I HAD MY WAY . . .

The blasted (and often boring) proceedings at the banquet take way too long.

An hour and a quarter is out of line; it seems an eternity when you are in the audience. If I had my way, I would build a trap door behind the podium where the speakers have to stand to reach the microphone. At the end of 45 minutes the trap door would open, swallowing whoever was speaking at the moment (and everyone thereafter, too).

I understand some patience is required to do necessary business. But too much time is spent on personal items that are meaningless, uninteresting and, frankly, unnecessary to inflict on the audience. This has been true for many years.

Advice to Willy: KEEP IT SHORT. You'll make thousands of friends.



Mrs. Roberts and Mrs. Roberts—mother and wife of the new GCSAA president.

ENTERTAINMENT

The show put on by Kenny Rogers was pretty good. There are a couple of reasons why I am able to say that:

1. he followed an unusually good dinner, and
2. he kept the hillbilly music to an absolute minimum, and
3. he didn't invite some poor fool up to the stage for ridicule.

Post Conference Reflections

I wasn't wild about heading to New Orleans for this meeting. I remembered it, from two previous visits to attend GCSAA conferences, as a grubby and dirty town with too many sleazy characters on the loose.

My memory was correct. However, there were some improvements that moved NOLA up the GCSAA city list a little bit.

Notable among them were the Riverwalk and the new convention center. The Rivergate, site of the previous two conferences I attended in NOLA, now stands empty. It is a real dinosaur when compared to the new facility.

The weather was decent during our five day stay, despite a few periods of rain. A day with an 84 degree F. high is bound to bring smiles to a Badger.

The hotel situation was pretty good; I heard little grouching about accommodations this year, a change for the better from last year. I did hear a lot of griping about the obscene cost of a room however. The shuttle service between hotels and the convention center seemed to work well.

(Continued on page 23)



A look at the near future—a bulk delivery system for fungicides that eliminates scores and scores of containers.

Reinders

TURF EQUIPMENT

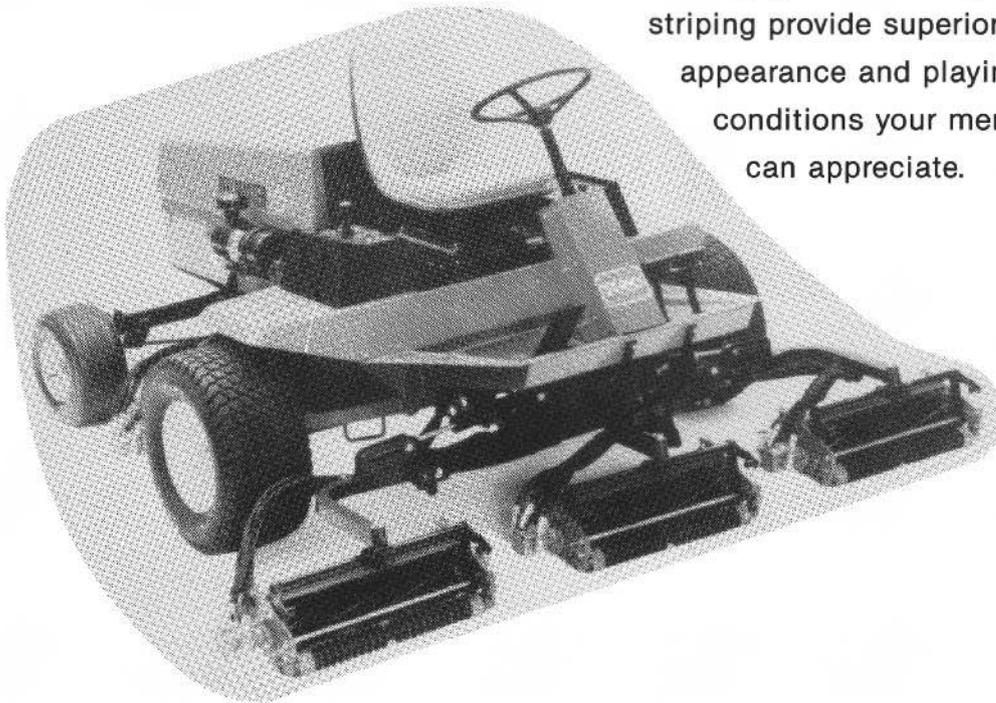
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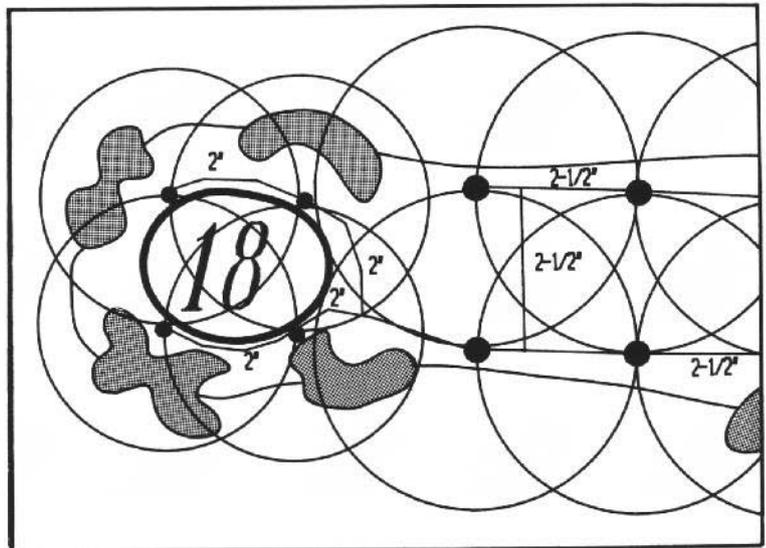


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Steve Cadenelli wrapped up his presidency in New Orleans.



Thank you and good-bye until next year in Anaheim in January.

Now that the past year for the GCSAA is over, it is fair to judge Steve Cadenelli on how he did at the helm. Personally, I give him good marks. I think he worked hard. I know a lot of nuts and bolts items were completed. And I believe he confronted some touchy situations in the media with courage. Nice job. Plus, he's a former newsletter editor!

Many superintendents put it this way: "The New Orleans conference was better than I expected." That's sort of how I feel. Certainly, it was above average, despite the lack of any appeal for families.

Still, if we don't go back to bayou country for a long time, you won't hear any complaining from me.

And, finally, this meeting will always be most remembered because Bill Roberts took charge as president. It just cannot get any better than that. See y'all in Anaheim next year!

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1992 WTA Winter Conference & Show A Gathering of First Class Turf Professionals, Equipment & Education

By Tom Schwab

The weather outside was dreary and drizzling, yet the attitude inside for the 11th annual Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Winter Conference and Show couldn't have been any more bright and enlightening. The trade show is growing and evolving with more exhibitors than ever before. New for this year were a few pieces of equipment to inspect along with the usual tabletop format with informative industry representatives. The educational sessions were top notch with a broad appeal to everyone and anyone in the turfgrass industry.

Evident was all the hard work and organizing it took to put together this largest ever WTA winter conference. Special thanks are given to the organizing committee of Wayne Otto (chairman), Gary Zwirlein, Tom Salaiz, Ed Devinger, Bill Vogel, Dave Payne and Terry Kurth. Thanks are also given to session chairmen Bill Vogel, Bob Erdahl, Terry Kerth and Dave Payne for the introductions and organization.

Welcoming remarks were given by Tom Salaiz, manager of the O.J. Noer research facility, and Gary Zwirlein, president of WTA. They reassured us the faculty positions for turf at the University of Wisconsin will be filled to replace retiring professors Gayle Worf and Bob Newman. Also mentioned was

that the Noer facility is ours and any of us can make suggestions for research projects. Next came the research updates from the University of Wisconsin Professors Newman, Kussow and Koval. All had enlightening information to share. Missing from this year's conference was Dr. Worf. His new duties as interim Dean of Agricultural Extension kept him away. It's hard to believe we won't be seeing him much anymore with those duties and his upcoming retirement.

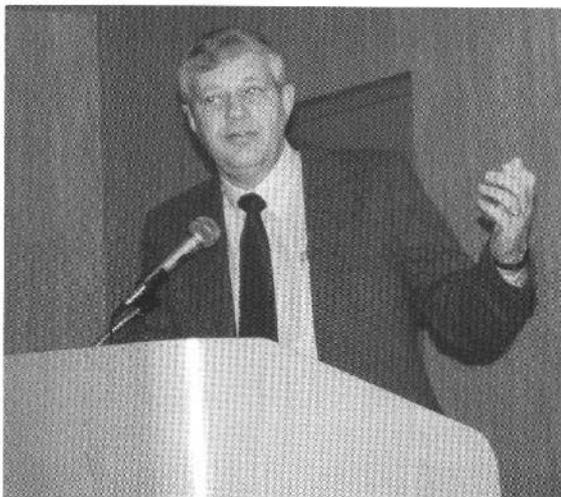
Terry Kurth, past president of WTA, and Rod Johnson, past president of WGCSA, next addressed some current legislative and regulatory issues that will be affecting all of us. Their message was for all of us to get involved in the legislative process. We have to keep the handling of pesticides in the hands of trained people and we must get the message out that responsible use of pesticides does not harm the environment.

After lunch Tuesday and again Wednesday morning, attendees had a choice of two groups of educational sessions to visit. One group of lectures was aimed primarily toward golf course superintendents. The other talks were mainly for park managers, lawn care professionals, athletic field managers, sod growers & landscapers. Many of the sessions were for everyone.

As always, the USGA Green Section was on the agenda. Bob Vavrek shared many slides and turf tips he has accumulated from the 1991 Turf Advisory Service visits. He covered tree pruning, drainage tiling, turf covers, seeding techniques, new equipment, machinery problems, weed problems and many other pest problems from Sclerotinia to skunks.

The University of Wisconsin contributed extensively both days with lectures from Professors Newman, Koval and Kussow. Dr. Koval's talk was, "Insect Pest Management Tools for the 90's." He discussed some biological controls and also some chemicals that will work at extremely dilute rates that are being developed. He commented that 99% of insect control is done naturally. Of the 1% that we control, he reinforced that we must continue to talk to legislators to maintain this percentage of control. He warned that we should only protect the controls that are environmentally responsible.

Dr. Kussow gave an extremely timely and informative address entitled "Nutrient and Pesticide losses in Turf." He evaluated four studies that looked at these possible losses into the groundwater. The results showed some areas of concern that need our attention. One is that soluble N sources can leach 4



Professor Wayne Kussow makes a point during the conference educational session.



Bob Vavrek and Marc Davison enjoying lunch at the Olympia.



Don Maske presents UW-Madison Turf Management student Don Beuthin NOR AM scholarship.

to 10 times more than slow release N sources. Another is that acid forms of herbicide can possibly leach whereas ester forms won't. The studies concluded turf is environmentally safe when looking at leaching and run-off potential of nutrients and pesticides. Some of the reasons for this finding are that turf provides a permanent dense groundcover, has a dense fibrous root system, typically has high water infiltration rates, often has a thatch layer, is a high value crop that permits use of slow release nitrogen sources, N applications are spread out over season and N rates are less than optimum for biomass production.

Industry and government were also well represented by Doug Houseworth of Ciba Geigi, Jerry Ingenthron of Monsanto, Bruce Augustin of Lesco and Dave Frederickson from Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

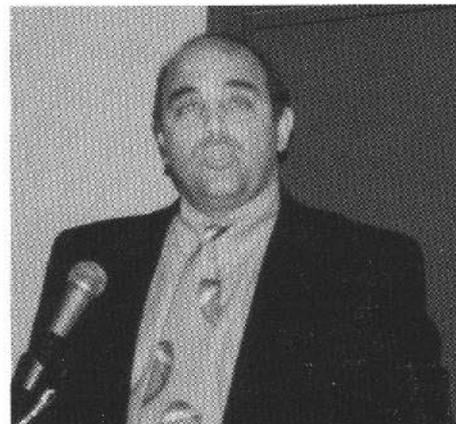
An interesting turf species was introduced by Bill Junk from Fine Lawn Research, Inc. The species is *Poa Supina* which was claimed to be the most shade and wear tolerant turf available. It sounded like a plant too good to be true. I hope it's not a disappointment like some other products have been in the past. I'd like to try some seed.

Marc Davison gave an interesting talk titled, "How I use my computer at Blackwolf Run." Tom Delaney from The Professional Lawn Care Association of America spoke on lawn care in the 90's. Dr. Mike Agnew of Iowa State University is becoming a regular on the Wisconsin speaking tour and often gives one of the most interesting lectures. His report, "Handling Environmental Stresses", was one such talk. He offered tips on what to do or not to do in wet or drought years.

Wednesday's award banquet and luncheon had many presentations for

scholarships and research. Spring Valley Turf Products presented a \$500 scholarship to U.W. junior Jay Packard. Nor Am gave a \$1,000 scholarship to Don Beuthin, a senior at the U.W. Both are students in the CALS Turf grounds program. WTA was presented other monies to be used for scholarships and research in the amounts of \$4,000 from Ciba Geigi, \$200 from the Northern Great Lakes GCSA, \$5,870 from Reinders Brothers Daconil promotion and \$1,000 from Horst Distributing.

The luncheon speaker, U.W. football coach Barry Alvarez, was able to fit us into his busy schedule. He told an array of anecdotes about his college and early playing years, his recruiting work and his players. He also told how he gets his players to motivate and set goals. The inevitable question came up about the synthetic turf at Camp Randall. He said his preference would be natural grass. Maybe the U.W. will be smarter next time they replace the rug.



Wisconsin head football coach Barry Alvarez wowed the crowd with his enthusiasm about the Badger football team.

This conference just keeps getting better. The planning committee keeps topping itself every year and deserves a lot of thanks. The ever increasing attendance and expanded trade show added much to the 1992 conference.

Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Conference & Show

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 Countryside Golf course
 Crawford Tree Service
 Dairymen's Country Club
 Deer Run Golf Club
 Dodge Point Golf Club
 Edgewood Golf Course (Big Bend)
 Elks Country Club
 Escanaba Country Club
 Euroactividade (The Springs)
 Evergreen Country Club
 Fox Hills Inn & Country Club
 Fox Lake Golf Course
 Fox Valley Golf Club
 Grand View Golf course
 Green Bay Packers
 Green Meadow Turf

(Reinders Program, continued)

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 Nakoma Golf Club
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 Nine Springs Golf Club
 North Shore Glof Club (Menasha)
 North Shore Country Club (Mequon)
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WGCSA Monthly Programs for 1992

Date	Location	Speaker/Topic
March 23 (Monday)	Spring Business/Educational Meeting Sheraton Hotel-Fond du Lac, WI "The Golf Course Irrigation Network"	Bob Emmerich Tom Emmerich Peter Beaves
April 27 (Monday)	Evergreen Country Club-Elkhorn, WI Bill Rogers, G.C. Superintendent	Gregg Richards "Weed Controls in Bentgrass"
May 18 (Monday)	Country Club of Beloit-Beloit, WI Don Ferger, G.C. Superintendent	Dr. Randall Kane "Disease Control in the '90's: Hit or Miss"
June 8 (Monday)	Watertown Country Club-Watertown, WI Ron Grunewald, G.C. Superintendent	NO SPEAKERS FOR SUMMER MONTHS
July 13 (Monday)	Cedar Creek C.C.-Onalaska, WI Pat Norton, G.C. Superintendent	
August 10 (Monday)	Waupaca Country Club-Waupaca, WI Kris Pinkerton, G.C. Superintendent	
September 21 (Monday)	Brown Deer Golf Club-Brown Deer, WI Robert Stock, G.C. Superintendent	Bob Vavrek Jr. "1992 Season in Review"
October 5 (Monday)	LaCrosse Country Club-LaCrosse, WI Joe Bahr, G.C. Superintendent	Dr. Donald White "Poa Annuua Breeding Research at Univ. of Minnesota"
November 9 (Monday)	Fall Business Meeting Site to be determined in coordination with the Regional GCSAA Educational Seminar. (A early evening meeting time will be scheduled.)	WGSCA Business
November 9-10 (Monday) (Tuesday)	WGCSA/GCSAA Regional Seminar Milwaukee, WI (Location site specifics to be determined by the GCSAA)	"Environmental considerations in Golf Course Management"



Fertilizers, Werewolves and Instruction Make a Bad Threesome

by Rob Schultz

Whenever I read another story about the danger of pesticides used on golf courses I think about a kid named Bennie, who used to hang around the local muni where I grew up.

To say Bennie was a tad strange is like saying that Saddam Hussein has a problem with his temper. Bennie had hair, lots of hair. Even though he couldn't have been older than 17, hair covered his back and you could braid the stuff coming out of his nose and ears. We called him the werewolf.

To make matters worse, nobody ever learned anything about him because Bennie had a tendency to talk the way rock-and-roller James Brown sang.

One day, when a buddy and I were playing golf with a couple of local old-timers, we were told the story of why Bennie was Bennie.

"He likes to lick his golf balls when there's fertilizer on the greens," said one of the old-timers.

For years, I was stupid enough to believe that story. One day after I slurped all over my Maxfli and found one of those tiny white nuggets between my teeth, I ran home certain to find hair growing where it wasn't supposed to. I was certain I would soon be howling at the moon.

Unfortunately, there are still plenty of people who still believe in similar stories. Like my neighbor, who boards up his house whenever I spread Milorganite on my lawn.

The untruths about fertilizers and pesticides head my list of what I have decided to call golf stupidity.

Next on my list are the instruction features that make up the bulk of the national golf magazines which flood my mailbox every month.

These instruction pieces have wonderful intentions, but they should carry a warning label that says: "Surgeon General's warning that digesting the hundreds of instructional pieces appearing in monthly magazines can cause hypertension, broken hearts and angry golf partners who have to listen to four

hours of instruction speak while trying to complete a round."

One article will tell golfers to keep the right elbow tucked close to the body at all times while the next one will say it's OK to let the elbow fly away from the body.

Yet another magazine will blare a headline on the cover that offers sure-fire cures for the slice. When you start reading, the author, Dr. William Allen Randolph Joseph, who received doctorates in physics and anatomy and why the most intelligent people only have first names, will explain that is you keep your left arm at a 30 degree angle, your right arm at a 46 degree angle, your chin at a 14 degree angle and clip six nose hairs prior to your round, you won't slice.

I've played golf with lots of folks who have read every word of every instructional article ever written. They are notoriously the slowest golfers on the planet because it takes them twenty minutes to set up for every shot. I'd love to pen an instructional piece entitled, "Sure-fire cure to speed up play." The article would be summed up in three

words: "Ban instructional articles."

Everybody needs a golf lesson once and awhile. I've had plenty of them and learned that the best teachers offer maybe one piece of advice that involves just one swing thought. But such advice wouldn't sell magazines. Golf has mirrored the medical profession. Reading a golf instructional article or spending gobs of money on one of those silly instruction schools are like going to the doctor looking for a prescription for a sinus infection and he tells you he needs to run a battery of tests on you. Since you have no clue about medicine, you agree to \$1,000 worth of tests and go home feeling no better and without the prescription you wanted in the first place.

Next on the list brings us back to the golf course superintendent's position, or the job that virtually every golfer on this planet thinks he knows more about than the golf course superintendent.

There's an old saying that claims there are two certainties in life: Death and taxes. Wrong. There are three things: Death, taxes and gripes about the golf course.

I can count on one of my golf partners complaining about a blade of grass that's either out of place or not green enough during every round of golf. Here's the scenario: One of my partners pulls out his Golf Digest and reads over how to address the ball to ensure he won't slice, skull or chili-dip—terms which belong more in a Jeffrey Dahmer trial than on a golf course. Then the golfer makes the worst swing in the history of the game and his ball sails over two fairways and into a divot left by another Golf Digest subscriber. Now my partner is mad. "Why didn't the grounds crew repair that?" He screams. "Now there's no chance I can make par."

My other partners stand around and wonder how a golfer can act like that. I always have a pat answer.

I tell them, "He likes to lick his golf balls when there's fertilizer on the greens."

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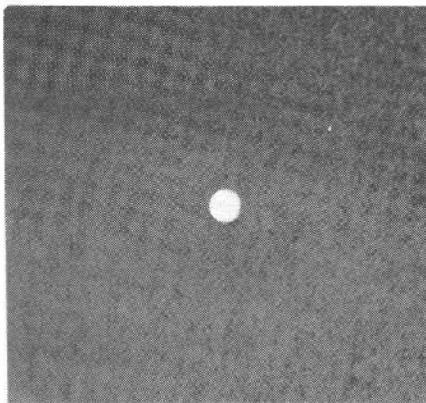
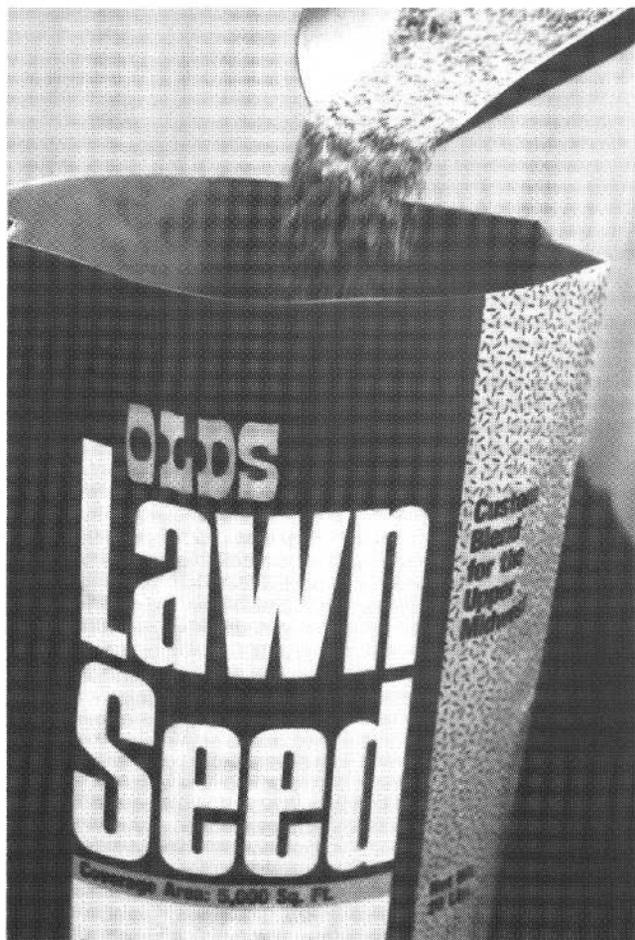
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OLDS



Winter Turfgrass Management

by Dean Musbach
Superintendent, Timber Ridge Country Club

One thing for sure—winter is long in the northwoods. Having turf under snow and ice for 130 to 160 days is common. Every superintendent in Wisconsin has concerns about the winter. Snow mold, ice damage and desiccation can be devastating. Despite years of research, superintendents still struggle to control turf damage during the winter.

It is especially important for northern superintendents to control every factor they can. Cultural practices are the key. A sound fertility program, proper water management, attentive pest control, and an aggressive aeration and thatch control program will minimize damage during most winters. Other factors that need to be considered are: soil structure; turf variety; and the age, style and topography of the golf course.

Much of the soil in northern Wisconsin is a sandy loam. Unfortunately, when the pioneers of golf course construction built greens, they dredged river beds and bogs in search of rich black soil. Little did they know that fifty years later superintendents would still be struggling to grow turf on that "black gold." At least the pioneers of golf course construction had an excuse; USGA golf green specifications were not yet conceived.

Like the rest of the country, Northern Wisconsin is enjoying the golf boom. Unfortunately, in an effort to save money, people continue to ignore the USGA green specification, and they replaced it with the so-called "modified USGA green." This is like calling a Yugo a "modified Mercedes." Both cars have similar components, but when it comes to performance, the Mercedes easily wins. Like the Mercedes, the USGA green speaks for itself. The bottom line is, "you get what you pay for."

In the late 1970's, Wadsworth built Timber Ridge. At the developer's request, Wadsworth built two types of "modified USGA greens" during two construction phases. Phase one greens were built with medium course sands mixed with decomposed saw dust. Phase two greens were built with medium fine sands mixed with peat. In

both phases, the choker layer, gravel base and drain tile were omitted.

Needless to say, neither modified green works properly (i.e., no perched water table). Phase one greens drain too rapidly, and phase two greens drain poorly.

In northern Wisconsin, many superintendents are trying to maintain *Poa annua* and bentgrass on heavy, poorly drained soil. They are making progress thanks to modern technology. Deep tine aerifying, improved green covers and improved fungicides have helped improve turf quality.

Years before deep tine aerifying, many northern superintendents stripped a row of sod through drainage contours and low pockets to facilitate better surface drainage on greens. The following spring they replaced the sod, and the greens were ready to play.

Recently, some superintendents have reported excellent results with deep tine aerifying. An improved infil-

tration rate has eliminated pockets of water that were destructive in the past. Deep tine aerifying has improved both the infiltration rate and the root structure.

The development of the green cover has also had an impact in the north. Superintendents tried using clear and opaque PVC tarps during the early 1970's, but these materials proved to be inadequate because conditions beneath the tarps were difficult to control.

Today many superintendents use new improved green covers to prevent desiccation and ice damage. These green covers are also used for spring renovations.

Last year, I attended an excellent turf symposium about winter kill in Iron Mountain, Michigan. Superintendents who were using covers said that the geotextile cover works best for desiccation while the light polyethylene cover is superior for controlling ice. They said the ice is easily removed by snow blowing the covered area; then using a shovel handle, the ice is shattered and easily pushed off the cover. For many superintendents in the northwoods, this is a common practice.

Despite manufacturers' claims, green covers have not minimized snow mold; to the contrary, if covers are not carefully managed during the spring and fall, snow mold can be severe.

Snowmold continues to be the most devastating disease in northern Wisconsin. Many courses spend their entire fungicide budget to prevent damage to their greens. No single combination of fungicides consistently gives positive results, especially combinations that do not include mercury. Many fungicides boast that they control snow mold, but they are barely adequate in the northern snow belt.

At this time, only a few northern courses have the budget to treat tees and fairways for snow mold. Most courses are maintaining *Poa/bluegrass/ryegrass* tees and fairways. PCNB at various rates has been the fungicide of choice, but the results have been minimally adequate.

(Continued on page 31)

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