

SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR STUDY

By Monroe S. Miller

This issue's version of the SURVEY will not have any measures or quantitative characteristics to it.

Instead, we decided to canvas a wide number of WGCSA members and see what they need the most help with in their particular golf course management situations. The results are, in effect, suggestions for research work at the new NOER research facility.

Really, there are no surprises here for our faculty at Wisconsin. The results are pretty much a reaffirmation of issues confronting Wisconsin golf course superintendents and are well known.

The most consistent suggestions related to pesticides—their fate on turfs, alternatives, etc. A lot of people alluded to the need to do a better job in telling the public the beneficial side of these products. That matter, which is very real, needed to be addressed in quarters other than the NOER facility.

GRASS RESEARCH

Fescues vs. ryes in overseeding
Bentgrass varieties which are most prosperous without pesticides
Bentgrass variety trials and evaluations

Determine which Kentucky bluegrass varieties are most tolerant of lower heights of cut

Development of bentgrass variety with growth habit best suited to support of a golf ball. This could be part of a broader plant breeding program

Dormant seeding techniques of bentgrass into new and also into existing stands of other grasses, especially *Poa annua*

Determine the best fairway turf for Wisconsin conditions

Do a definitive study on shade tolerant grasses

PESTICIDES

Fate of pesticides applied to turf areas. Complement work already done elsewhere, only specific with regard to Wisconsin conditions

Study disease resistance to fungicides

Study sterol inhibitors, their best use in disease control, resistance to them, their effect on turf growth

Determine most effective snow mold fungicides for use in northern Wisconsin, especially new materials

Comprehensive studies dealing with disease control on *Poa annua*

Pestcasting for use in turfgrass management

Active role in development of a more broad spectrum fungicide with extended or season-long control

Develop a research program for extensive evaluation and rates of all fungicides

Develop management practices that will reduce need for fungicides

Evaluate synergism of fungicides

WATER USE

Evaluate various turfs for use in low irrigation situations

Duplicate runoff study done at Penn State, only do so for situations found in Wisconsin

Use of effluent water for irrigation of turf in Wisconsin

Determine if pesticides used on turf can affect water supplies (wells) or adjacent bodies of surface water (lakes and rivers)

FERTILITY

Study influence of fertility on drought resistance

Organic fertilizers, their value in turf management and their limitations

Function of organic fertilizers in disease control

Determine how use of growth regulators affects nutrient requirements

Fertilizer loss from turf

Extensive testing areas for controlled evaluation of specific fertilizer materials

Develop low fertility programs

Potash thresholds—can you actually have too much?

Develop a fertility program for use in new USGA greens—from construction through maturity

MISCELLANEOUS

Root pruning effects of pre-emergence herbicides used on golf turf (bentgrass and Kentucky bluegrass)

Spring vs. fall applications of turf regulators

Green cover testing

Determine exact causes of winter injury of turf in Wisconsin, especially *Poa annua*

Develop a management program to minimize winter damage

Finally, three other suggestions were made that aren't actually research studies. A number of people questioned mentioned these items for incorporation into the NOER facility and its work:

1. Do not give up statewide research;
2. Build a rhizotron, and;
3. Incorporate soils broadly representative of the rest of Wisconsin at the NOER facility.

In remembrance of FRANKLIN J. RANNEY

Franklin J. Ranney, 88, of West Salem, passed away on January 29, 1992 in La Crosse.

Mr. Ranney began construction of a golf course on the family farm outside of West Salem in 1928. This golf course became known as the Maple Grove Country Club. He was the owner and operator of Maple Grove until it was sold in 1977.

He was a member of both the WGCSA and the Golf Course Superintendent Association of America.

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.

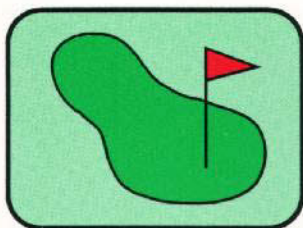
World's largest marketer of turfgrass seed
Bound Brook, NJ 08805
(201) 356-8700 • (800) 526-3890
(800) 624-1474 (NJ)

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



THE OFFENSIVE LINEMEN OF GOLF

By Chad Eberhardt

Have you ever felt that the only time you ever get noticed, as a golf course superintendent, is when something goes wrong on the golf course?

It kind of makes you feel like an offensive lineman in football. After all, when they're executing correctly, offensive linemen go unnoticed by the average fan. In fact, the only time you will hear an offensive lineman singled out in the NFL is after he has committed a penalty and the referee announces his number.

Recognition and fame on offense usually starts with the quarterback, then goes to the running backs, wide receivers, and tight ends. Then come the offensive linemen.

But the truth of the matter is that the others would have little success if the offensive linemen weren't doing their job.

This anonymity is one of the reasons that good offensive linemen must have an enormous amount of self-esteem and self-confidence. They must believe they are good performers, capable of blocking anyone they may face.

Without this inner confidence, an offensive lineman always will be thinking about being defeated and not focusing on what he must do on each and every play.

Go ask the golf pro at your club which football position he thinks he can relate to. The answer will undoubtedly be the quarterback. After all, it's the most glamorous big money position on the team.

When the offense is successful, the praise is directed toward the quarterback. When the offense fails, offensive linemen are usually at fault for lack of blocking.

Can you still relate? You bet!

Offensive linemen are the foundation for the whole team. They have to be solid. And they are. And we are!

In order to be successful, every position on a football team, from the QB to the OL, must work together to form a cohesive unit. Likewise, a partnership of mutual respect and understanding

between the golf pro and the superintendent is invaluable to both. A true partnership is one in which the best interests of the club are promoted and maintained.

Have you ever wondered why we don't have a "Superintendent of the Year" Award?

It's because of the same reason an offensive lineman doesn't win the NFL MVP Award. There's nothing to base recognition upon. The only stats kept on an OL is his number of penalties.

Should the most valuable golf course superintendent be the one who has the fewest things go wrong in a year? Forget it! Recognition has to be a personal thing.

Use our friend, the good old offensive

lineman, as an example. Mental toughness allows him to take the field on series after series, year after year. He knows each time that he is winning little battles that ultimately will be rewarded with a team victory.

With mental toughness comes a willingness and stubbornness to keep on trying, plus an enormous pride in individual performance on each and every down.

A good offensive lineman hangs in there and takes the shot, then lines up and does it again. His durability is impressive.

They never miss a game or practice during the season. They can't! There cannot be any surprises!

Sounds very familiar, doesn't it?!

YOUR MEMBERS WILL KNOW HOW WELL YOU DID BY HOW WELL YOUR GREENS PERFORM

- topdressing blends
- construction blends
- straight topdressing sand
- bunker sand



SOIL BLENDERS

715-258-8566

Where soil blending is a science