

Figure 1

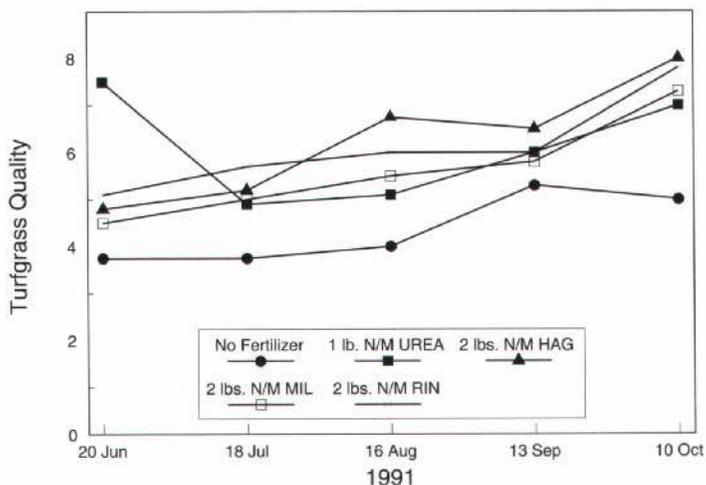
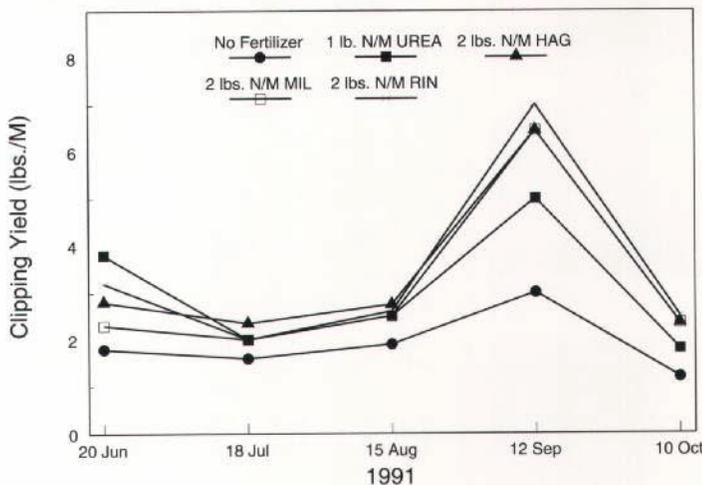


Figure 2



(Continued from page 9)

application, pelletized sludge applications in our studies did not threaten groundwater quality.

An additional concern associated with sludge application to plants is that elevated levels of heavy metals might accumulate in leaf tissue and ultimately be consumed by animals or humans. Although this concern is not as important for turfgrass as for food or forage crops, clippings were nonetheless analyzed to monitor heavy-metal uptake from sludge applications.

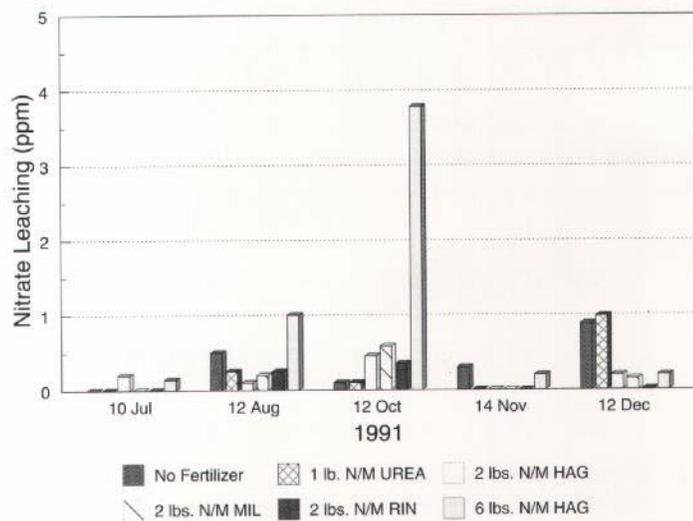
Concentrations of aluminum, cadmium, chromium, iron, lead, molybdenum, nickel and zinc in the leaf tissue of sludge-fertilized plots were similar to nonfertilized plots. Only boron and copper (essential micronutrients) were present in concentrations greater than in nonfertilized turf. However, the concentrations of boron and copper found were within concentrations typically reported for healthy turfgrass.

One of the greatest barriers to widespread acceptance of sludge as a fertilizer is the stigma associated with the use of waste product. Although the sludge-based fertilizers may have a slight odor, they are safe materials rendered free of pathogens by microbial digestion and heat treatment during the pelletizing process. They bear little relation to the materials from which they came except for chemical content.

Unfortunately, it is difficult to shed the negative perception associated with a product called "sewage sludge." Because of this, a more contemporary term, bio-solids, is gaining increased usage and acceptance within the industry. After all, wouldn't you rather apply bio-solids to your turf than sewage sludge?

Our work to date, as well as work by other researchers,

Figure 3



indicates that pelletized sewage sludge can serve as a beneficial turfgrass fertilizer without resulting in adverse environmental impact. These materials can be used alone or as a component of a blended fertilizer product to provide a longer nitrogen response than quick-release, water-soluble fertilizers.

In addition to the many environmental benefits provided by golf courses and other turfgrass areas, the potential for beneficial reuse of sewage sludge as a fertilizer is yet another positive attribute. Intelligent incorporation of sludge-based materials into a fertilization program can help reduce the nation's waste stream and relieve some of the existing burden on landfills and incinerator facilities. ♣

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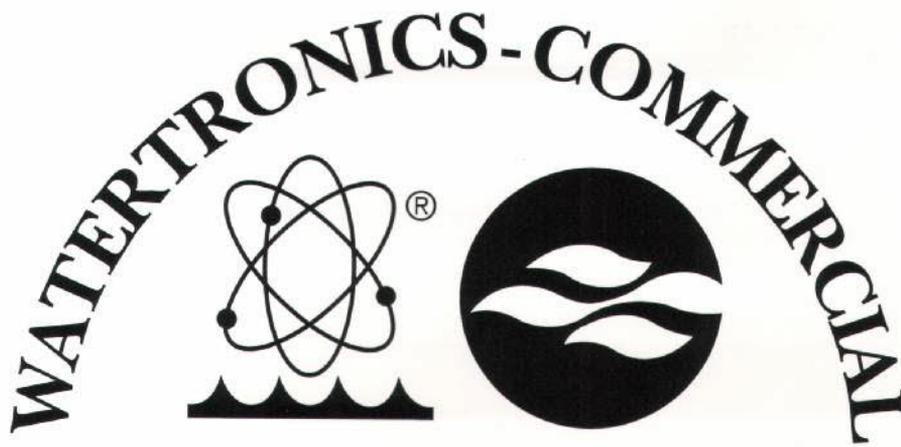
The golf course superintendent will be assisting in the completion of the course construction and will be responsible for the grow-in period of the course. This person will also be responsible for golf course maintenance, budgets, purchasing and general landscape care.

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A SUPER GIRL

By Monroe S. Miller

Well, here we are, Cheryl Lehmann and Monroe Miller, celebrating our 25th wedding anniversary. I can hardly believe that many years have passed.

I'd like to say I've been filled with anticipation for a long time, anxiously waiting the arrival of this enormous—by society's standards today—milestone in the lives of two people.

While some may have wondered if they'd make it as far as we have, I never had any doubt.

Fact is, I've never thought of our marriage that way. I never assumed it, and I never doubted it. How's that for typically presumptuous male thinking?

So, here it is. Twenty-five years together. Despite my lack of preparation for this splendid day, I am nevertheless proud as a peacock that it happened.

We are, it seems, a diminishing commodity these days. We are living in times when few things last, least of all marriages. Few spend their lives in the same career anymore, unlike me. Fewer still stay with the same employer, unlike me.

Life's necessities don't last long anymore. My mother's Electrolux vacuum lasted three decades; we now buy a new vacuum every few years. Furnaces, blue jeans and Ford tractors all lack the staying power of their predecessors.

For years we listened to our music from records. They lasted forever. But in the last while we have had, let's see—8-track, cassettes and CDs. Even the CDs are destined for the scrap pile from what I've read.

Nothing lasts. Not even the Cold War or the Berlin Wall.

But my relationship with the sweetheart I married has. And there is no doubt it will continue on, " 'til death do us part." Just like we promised 25 years ago.

As the golf season ended and my mind was clear for the first time in a while, I started thinking about how and why we've made it this far. The thought, the question would cross my

mind at odd times. I might think about it in the middle of the night or in traffic on the way home.

What's the secret? I never read any books or even an article on "How To Make A Marriage Last". We have never had counselling or even talked about that. No reason to.

Never have we had an esoteric discussion about the viability of our future together. When we took the marriage vows, the "always" meant just that—always.

Most credit for the longevity of our partnership goes to Cheryl Ann, however.

She has had the patience to live with a guy whose job consumes him. She understands and tolerates a spouse who has his hands in 15 different projects at once.

While the lawn is uncut. While the washer isn't working. When he should have been at a school concert or in church or just plain home.

It takes a special gal to put up with a man who has a job that takes too many hours a day, seven days a week for far too many weeks in a row. She has to put up with offseason vacations (or none at all) and midnight phone calls. Simply put, she has to appreciate what we appreciate about our work. And that isn't always clear to anyone.

Tolerance is what Cheryl has. She also has been the independent, take charge, make-a-decision woman who could see the bright side of a tough career her husband loved.

I know it hasn't been easy. No marriage is smooth sailing at all times, and the pressure of life itself makes the going less than fun at times. But we stumbled through those times when so many around us have thrown in the towel.

Some luck hasn't hurt, either. Talk about two hearts beating in one line! We both, miraculously, love Badger football and Garrison Keillor, Packer football and the Metropolitan Opera,

vacations in New England and reading by the fireplace at home. Cheryl as acquired a taste for genealogy and still generously helps me with *THE GRASS ROOTS*. She has worked at understanding why anyone would collect farm toys.

And when it comes to the UW, we are kindred hearts again as only two alums could be.

I respect her intelligence, envy her work ethic, appreciate her devotion to our kids and love her company.

She's a super girl. My girl. My pal. Yup—my best friend. Even after 25 years.

And how does one say this in a public place with good taste? She still catches my eye. There she is—nearing her late forties yet trim and fit and wonderfully good looking. Wish I could say the same as I look over my generous stomach at the bathroom scale and look into the mirror at my receding (but only slightly!) hairline.

Boy, am I lucky. Every night we pull the covers up together. It's still a thrill for me.

So, next month we'll do a little celebrating by ourselves, looking back over a pretty prosperous time together. I'll say a prayer of thanks for the good times I have spent with her.

And we will visit about our dreams for the next 25 years, maybe even plan a big party for our golden anniversary.

Presumptuous? Not a bit. Not any more. We have proven that the old song is right—"our love is here to stay."

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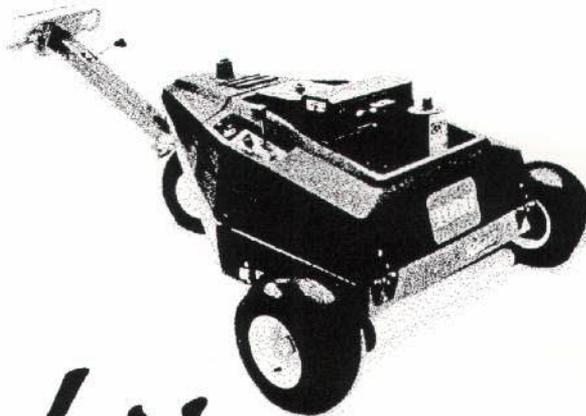
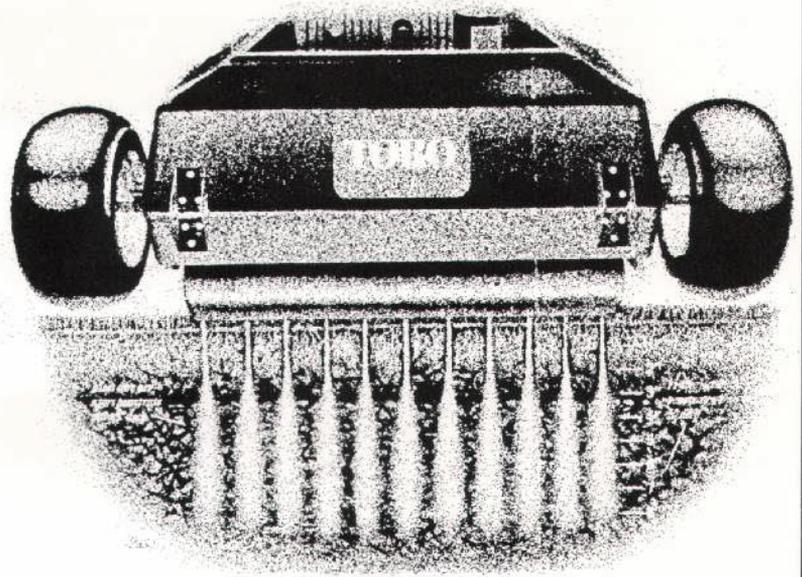
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A Few Observations and A Few Awards

By Monroe S. Miller

For as poorly as 1993 began, it sure ended up nicely. The excellent last half balanced the lousy first half, and resulted in a season that was average at worst and pretty darn good in some places.

Regardless of how the year was for any individual golf course and golf course superintendent, few weren't pleased with the awesome season the Wisconsin Badgers football team had. What fun! It looks as though the basketball team is moving up fast, too. Both programs might be establishing the kind of tradition hockey has had for decades. Factor in success in golf, volleyball, soccer, crew, and volleyball, and you've got the best overall athletic department in the whole U.S.A. What a difference Athletic Director (and Maple Bluff CC green committee member) Pat Richter has made. He is the same guy who was kind enough to visit the WTA Field Day as a noontime speaker a few years ago. And let's fondly remember that Barry Alvarez visited the WTA Winter Conference as a speaker a couple of years ago.

Before 1993 fades completely into our memory, whether it was good or bad, here are a few awards to help remember it a bit:

Best Advice: "Quit complaining. If you are going to complain, go complain to your mother. Complaining here will not get the job done." C.D. Eberhardt, to golf course staff members.

Best Selective Herbicide for 1993: Ol' Man Winter of '92/'93. Selectively removed least winter hardy grasses from a lot of Wisconsin golf courses. Free.

Best Golf Story: I personally loved reading the report about the one-armed man in Sweden who scored a hole-in-one, despite his handicap.

Best Annual Flower: 'Red Hot Sally' Salvia had a great season. Any flower, salvia or otherwise, with a name like that is destined for success.

Worst Tree: Sorry, but the Skyline Honeylocust wins here. Weak wooded,

susceptible to insect damage and some disease, this ornamental was overplanted by many, including yours truly.

Best Tool: If you haven't seen Joe Check's invention, a turf Prism, take a look at it. You can use it and never wonder again if your reel mowers are giving a clean cut or if all three units on a triplex greensmower are cutting at the same height.

Best Editorial (Non-GRASS ROOTS): 1st place goes to John Hughes for his editorial in the June 1993 (Vol. 5, No. 3) issue of *WISCONSIN GOLF* entitled "In Praise of Our Superintendents".

2nd place goes to Terry McIver's editorial in the March 1993 (Vol.32, No. 3) issue of *LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT* entitled "A Lesson From the President—Always Keep Your Promises."

Best Event in the WGCSA Year: Rod Johnson's selection to receive the DSA. Deserving recipient.

The new year brought a new Executive Director/CEO to the GCSAA. We'll likely get a chance to meet him at the conference in Dallas. He is Steve Mona.

We certainly wish him well. He, no doubt, has a big job ahead of him.

Frankly, given the size, complexity and recent problems of the GCSAA, his experience looks a little thin. I would have thought the task at hand would have dictated someone with more experience and with more time in a larger organization than the Georgia Golf Association.

We have to trust the directors and officers in their judgment. Let's hope Mona was selected on WHAT he knows and not on WHO he knows.

That this question has been asked so often by so many shows how strained the GCSAA's credibility is these days.

I never want to jinx any of us operating a golf course, but realities are all around us.

And one winter reality is the threat of ice storms, one of the reasons Pat Norton—don't miss his column in this issue—doesn't like winter.

I'll never forget the ice storm of March 4, 1976. We were cleaning up tree damage from that disaster for a full year.

Some information that may be helpful in species selection has come from the University of Illinois.

Based on previous studies and on an analysis of urban tree damage from a February 1990 storm in Urbana, university and city foresters have classified a number of commonly planted landscape trees with respect to their susceptibility to ice storm damage.

I edited out those species not commonly or normally planted or found in our state.

SUSCEPTIBLE: Siberian elm, American elm, Honeylocust, Bradford pear, American linden, Black cherry, Black locust, Silver maple, Pin oak and Green ash.

INTERMEDIATE: White ash, Northern red oak, Eastern white pine, Bur oak and Sugar maple.

RESISTANT: Eastern hemlock, Arborvitae, Norway maple, Catalpas, Ginkgo, White oak, Swamp white oak, Littleleaf linden, Silver, Kentucky coffee-tree, Black walnut and Ironwood.

The study reiterated that in general trees with conical form and low branch surface area tend to suffer the least damage from ice storms. There appears to be no obvious correlations between the densities, elastic properties or failure loadings of a particular tree species and the amount of damage likely to be sustained in an ice storm.

When the final weekly growing report was issued by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service last year, it showed what an oddball weather year it was.

The south central part of Wisconsin received 38.7 inches of rain during the "growing season" (which starts April 1) compared to a normal five year average of 25.6 inches. Southwestern Wisconsin averaged 39.5 inches vs. 27.3 inches and southwest Wisconsin averaged 32.4 inches compared to a normal 25.2.

Central Wisconsin was closest to normal with 35.3 inches. That area usually gets 28.6 inches.

One factor really puts a twist on the numbers: we received practically NO rain this fall. The obvious conclusion is what we all know—the rain came in a few short months.

Rainfall may have been out of whack, but temperatures were not. Measured in growing-degree days, it

was 2,690 this year and 2,704 in that elusive normal year. Those with good memories will remember a cold spring, brief hot spells in the summer and a warm autumn.

There is no correlation between a dry fall and winter (or spring) moisture. So relax for a couple more months.

For those of you (or your staff) who harvest golf balls from water hazards or pick up abandoned balls in rough areas, there is news from Vancouver, British Columbia that might interest you.

A Canadian judge has ruled that "lost" golf balls aren't lost forever; they still belong to the owner, even when you find them.

The B.C. provincial court judge recently acquitted a teenager of stealing golf balls from a Vancouver area golf course, even though police caught him at night near the course's man-made lakes, wearing a wet suit and carrying a bucket of golf balls.

The judge ruled that the kid wasn't stealing from the golf course because

only one of the recovered golf balls actually belonged to the course! The rest still were the property of the players who had hit them into the pond.

The ruling obviously could affect what is a significant source of revenue for some golf shops and some golf courses. And what about the lonely golf ball one of our employees finds in a deep rough, way out of play—is it his?

The defendant in the case will get around the ruling by attaching a rider to its greens fees which would require golfers to transfer ownership of lost balls to the golf course.

The only positive from the judge's ruling was that he gave the golf course back its one ball—a red striped range ball!

By the time this issue gets to you we will be on the verge of the Rose Bowl and the WTA EXPO. Here's hoping we toast a victory for both. ♣

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Common Sense Prevails: GOVERNOR SIGNS PREEMPTION BILL

By Monroe S. Miller

Governor Tommy Thompson initiated a sigh of relief among Wisconsin golf course superintendents when he signed into law a bill on December 14, 1993 that gives the power to regulate pesticides to state government. The legislation bans local units of government from enacting stricter regulations.

There had been indications in the weeks leading up to the signing that Thompson was unsure of what he was going to do. Strong efforts by groups like F/RoW/T, the Wisconsin Agri-Business Council, cranberry growers and similar groups helped convince the governor that the law was a good one for Wisconsin. Individual communications from many like the members of the WGCSA also helped.

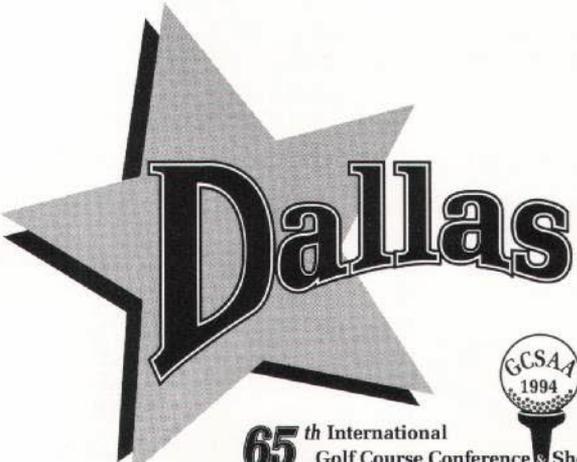
Thompson signed the measure during a swing through the state that included stops in LaCrosse, Green Bay and the village of Augusta near Eau Claire. He admitted to reporters that it was a "tough call" for him because of the heavy lobbying by environmental groups.

"Generally the bill is in the right direction in helping agriculture in Wisconsin," Thompson said during the signing ceremony.

The bill, which was backed by manufacturers of agricultural chemicals and other agricultural interests, puts the regulation of pesticides in the hands of the state Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection rather than local units of government. The legislation was essential for the uniformity necessary across the state.

Current laws give local governments the power to pass control measures. The legislation, which has been passed in nearly all of the states surrounding us, effectively overturns that principle and returns power back to the state.

Thompson said he signed the bill to "establish a state-wide system of strong, uniform pesticide regulation." 🏌️



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The Aftermath of 1993

By Dr. Wayne R. Kussow
Department of Soil Science
University of Wisconsin-Madison

In some respects, 1993 was kind to Wisconsin golf course superintendents. The need for irrigation was at a minimum. Here in Madison, even after a dry October, annual precipitation for the year was still more than 15 inches above average. The wet weather kept down temperatures and pressures of diseases such as pythium were light. For those of you that experienced extensive and repeated flooding, 1993 was not a pleasant year. But even if you were fortunate enough not to have to suffer through flooding, you need to be aware that some insidious things may have been going on that could pose problems for you in 1994.

Perhaps at the top of the list is algae encroachment on putting greens and tees. Why this year in particular? The basic requirement for algae invasion is a soil surface that remains moist for prolonged periods of time. This relates to the fact that algae are photosynthetic and can only survive where they have access to light and moisture. Once they've become established, algae can tolerate periods of drying because they produce mucilaginous material that acts like a sponge and provides a reservoir of water for their survival. This complicates control of the algae because surface drying alone, either through reduced irrigation, or better air flow and more sunlight, is often insufficient for eradication. Thus, what may have appeared to be a minor algae problem for you this year may turn into a major problem next season even if rainfall is less than normal.

If algae became a problem for you in 1993, you need to think in terms of a vigorous program of frequent cultivation (spiking or slicing is often very effective), overseeding and sand top-dressing to build up and maintain a good bentgrass population. But these practices alone will likely not be enough. You need to consider knock-

ing back the algae population first. The situation is analogous to increasing mowing height to aid in weed control. The practice is effective, but you have to start with a nearly weed-free turf. I've heard reports that the algicides that some people tried this year didn't appear to be very effective. A recent report out of Texas A&M showed Consan 20 to be notably more effective than 14 other materials tested for controlling algae mat formation on putting greens.

There have been some indications this year that in at least some putting greens and tees, the moist soil surface prerequisite for algae invasion was a result of soil compaction. With the rainfall of 1993, near saturated conditions were fairly common for extended periods of time. Water is the lubricant that allows soil particles to reorient under pressure and the soil to become more compact. Compact soils not only have less total pore volume, but the loss in pore volume comes primarily at the expense of non-capillary pore space.

In essence, non-capillary pores become capillary pores, soil moisture holding capacities increase, water infiltration rates decrease and the soil surface becomes a more hospitable environment for algae. Even if you survived 1993 without the appearance of algae on some of you more heavily shaded greens and tees, it is wise to check for compaction. The best way to do this is to pull soil cores, take them into the shop, let them air-dry for a couple of hours, and then do some probing with a pencil or knife blade. Compaction is much more evident in partially dried than moist soil cores.

I've taken a lot of flack for a recent article on core cultivation of turf. The point I tried to make but which escaped many people is that core cultivation is not a cure-all and is difficult to justify without a good reason. The excess rainfall in 1993, having created

ideal conditions for compaction, may indirectly be one such reason.

Something else that concerns me is the shallowness of rooting I've seen in September and October on putting greens. With all the moisture of 1993 and limited heat stress, one might anticipate root growth not to have been a problem. My personal opinion is that what we're seeing is a manifestation of the fact that with all the rain came a lot of cloudy weather and a marked reduction in solar radiation. The net result is bentgrass that is not as vigorous as we like to see it at the onset of the winter months. Let's hope for a kindly winter.

Finally, let's realize that the excess precipitation of 1993 was a vehicle for heavy nutrient losses via leaching. Compensatory fertilization may be necessary in 1994. A good candidate is potassium on sand-based greens and tees. Soil testing is highly advised for them. On new greens and tees, phosphorus levels may have declined much more than normally expected.

Research we've done in the greenhouse has shown phosphorus to be remarkably mobile in an 80:20 root-zone mix. In the field, we found that in a couple of the rootzone mixes being tested, application of starter fertilizer and 1.5 lb/M of phosphate during the grow-in season resulted in bentgrass clippings collected in September that were low in phosphorus.

Another nutritional problem that I recently encountered may likewise reflect extensive nutrient leaching. What I found is an as yet unconfirmed boron deficiency in a majority of the clippings collected from the greens of a golf course in October. Please note the emphasis on "as yet unconfirmed". I find this very hard to believe myself. Nonetheless, 1993 was an unusual year in many respects and, as I've tried to point out here, not as kindly as some may believe. 🌱



A PROTEST



November 30, 1993

Thomas Finian
Publisher, Club Management Magazine
8730 Big Bend Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63119

Dear Tom;

I am writing at the request of the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Badger Chapter of C.M.A.A. to strongly object to the lack of sensitivity and the inaccuracy contained in the article "The Greening of the Greens," published in the July-August issue of Club Management.

Perhaps you are unaware as to how distasteful to golf course superintendents was the illustration greenskeeper in a drum, or being alternately referred to as course supervisors, or incorrectly naming their association as the Golf Club Superintendents Association. They are a group of dedicated, hard working, extremely well-educated professionals who have been struggling for years against an incorrect public image. We as a group that has battled the same type of perceptions must be especially careful not to add to the problem or to be perceived as unsympathetic. These gentlemen are the backbone of our clubs, and must be given the same degree of respect we expect for ourselves.

Tom, we know you run an excellent operation and that this was an oversight. Knowing you, you may have already made efforts to correct the problem. If not, we would hope you would contact the GCSAA and arrange for the printing of an apology on our behalf. Your magazine represents all of us, and as such we share in the blame. I am personally embarrassed to admit I too failed to realized the potential impact of the article.

We will look forward to your reaction to our comments. Please feel free to contact me directly if you would care to discuss the issue further.

Sincerely,

Paul Anthony, CCM
President, Wisconsin Badger Chapter
CMAA

cc: Michael Semler, President WGCSA

Meet Mike Semler, Our New WGCSA President

By Monroe S. Miller

Michael Semler was elected 32nd president of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association on November 2, 1993 at the end of the first day of the Wisconsin Golf Course Symposium.

Mike is in the eleventh year of his career in golf turf management. After completing the requirements for a B.S. degree in Turfgrass Management at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1983, he was hired as assistant golf course superintendent at Blackhawk Country Club in Madison.

After two years at Blackhawk he assumed the golf course superintendent reins at South Hills Country Club in Fond du Lac. When the opportunity to return to Madison came up at Cherokee Country Club, Mike accepted. That was in 1987.

Although he is still in Madison, his career took another turn last year. After six years at Cherokee, he moved to a new private course under construction in Madison, Bishops Bay Country Club.

Mike is married and his wife, Kris, is a CPA with a Madison accounting firm, Kiesling Associates. She is a graduate of the UW-Oshkosh. They are the parents of a son, Matthew. The Semler family resides in Waunakee.

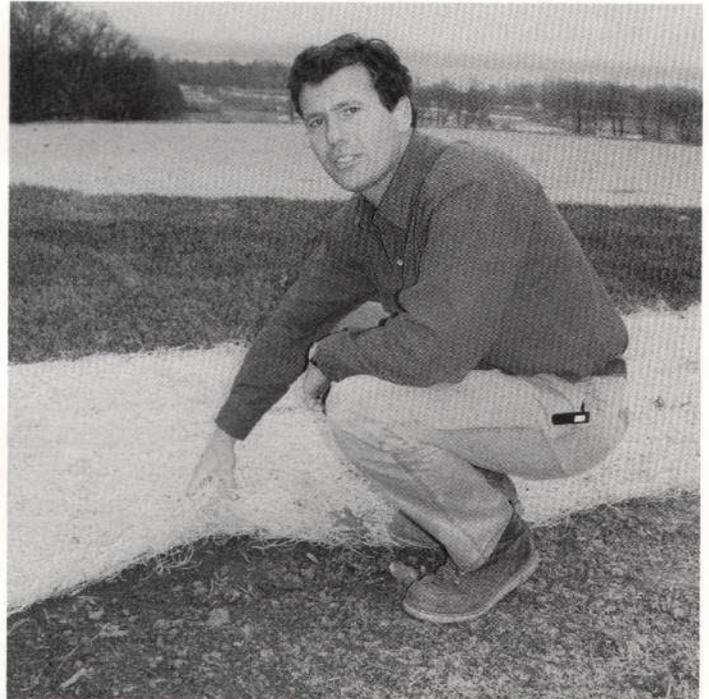
The new president and the editor sat together a few days ago to visit about Semler's views and philosophies about most things in Wisconsin golf turf management. The results of that chat are presented here.

1. How did you first become interested in a career in golf course management?

I started working on Hartford Country Club at the age of 16. This summer position was for earning enough money to attend college, and at that time I had no idea I would make a career out of golf course management. It wasn't until I met Dr. Jim Love at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, and talked with him about opportunities in golf course management that I chose to make a career in it.

2. Are you prepared for the WGCSA presidency?

I believe that I am. Even though I may be one of the youngest WGCSA Presidents, I have been serving on the Board of Directors since 1987. I think the length of time I have served the WGCSA is one of the things which will help me as President. In addition, I have been involved with a



WGCSA president Mike Semler on a newly seeded and sodded area of Bishops Bay Country Club.

number of different WGCSA Presidents and their respective Board of Directors and I believe that this exposure has helped prepare me for the presidency.

3. What, in your opinion, are the most pressing problems for a 1990's golf course superintendent in Wisconsin?

Trying to maintain quality golf turf with more limited resources to choose from. The 1990s Superintendent will be using more IPM strategies with less pesticide availability. We will be putting less stress on the turf by concentrating more on agronomic management rather than concentrating on how low we can cut and how fast we can make the grass. We will be more scrutinized and watched than ever before by outside organizations, and thus, we will be challenged to become better all around managers of golf turf.



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