

are behind the houses and there is an alley dividing back to back homes. Funny, that new concept describes a lot of the Latrobe neighborhoods I drove through looking for Arnie's club. A gal in one of the neighborhoods gave me directions to the course although she confessed "I've never been by it myself."

She was obviously not a golf fan!

I backtracked, crossed Highway 30 and turned left at the big Kennemental buildings across from the Latrobe airport. It was named "Old Highway 30." The airport reminded me that Palmer is a pilot and for years has flown his own small jet around the country. The location of the airport made a lot of sense to me.

Old 30 takes you past the Latrobe High School. Down the hill from there you catch a glimpse of what you think is a golf course. I slowed down, turned my head to read the sign at what appeared to be the club entrance and read the three words I hoped for—Latrobe Country Club.

Old Highway 30 runs parallel to a golf hole and just past that was the shop area. I kept going, hoping to drive around the entire golf course before coming back to the shop to see the superintendent, as our GCSAA code of ethics dictates.

LCC is actually in the small village of Youngstown. I turned right off Old 30, drove past the Methodist Church and navigated around the beautiful landscape that contained Arnold's club. I stopped here and there to drink in the view, take a picture and to get my bearings. I completed the trip around and drove back to the shop area. I'd seen lots of employees around the golf course and hoped to find one of them in the shop. Deep down I was admittedly anxious to see the old Toro tractor that appeared in the Pennzoil ads with Arnie. No one was there and I resisted the temptation to nose around. I backtracked and headed up the entry road to the club parking lot.

There are some similarities between LCC and my club. The most obvious was the clubhouse location—on a promontory for both. Latrobe has some severe grade changes, just like we do. But ours are strictly amateur hour compared to those on that Pennsylvania property. Whereas we look off to the rolling landscape of Wisconsin, over and past Lake Mendota, Latrobe is facing some impressing old and weathered mountains. Both views are beautiful. The clubhouse area is fairly expansive, but shaded. There are lots of mature oak trees and just as many evergreens. It really is very beautiful and pleasant.

The clubhouse is stark and pure white with some black trim. I parked, feeling a little self-conscious. But I was buoyed by my past experiences with golf players and club members—mostly they are friendly and civil people. I went into the clubhouse and stopped at the office to ask if it was appropriate for me to be there to look around the place where Arnold Palmer started his career. The woman I asked smiled and said "we get lots of visitors like you. Feel free to look around."

So I did. At length. By myself. It was late enough in the year that no players were present. No one was on the course and there were only a few cars in the lot. That told me there weren't many people in the clubhouse either.

I made an obligatory stop in the pro shop since I wasn't able to find anyone in the golf course shop. The pro was very pleasant, offering me some scorecards and answering questions about Arnie.

Palmer has a home close by—I didn't bother to find out



Welcome to Latrobe Country Club!



The clubhouse occupies the highest spot on the golf course. The golf shop is to the left.



A view through the woods gives only a glimpse of the course.

where—and spends the summers in Latrobe. He is, as I understood it, around the club a lot of the time. He has a workshop where he relaxes by repairing and modifying golf clubs.

Arnold's GCSAA membership plaque which many of us saw him receive when he received the Old Tom Morris award in 1983, hangs on the wall behind the shop counter for all to see. Also on the wall was his dad's and his brother Jerome's GCSAA member plaques. Jerry Palmer is now the general manager of LCC.

Two pictures are also on the wall. One is of Deke Palmer and one is of Arnold. They were taken at about the same age of each man. The similarity was striking—same

(Continued on page 13)

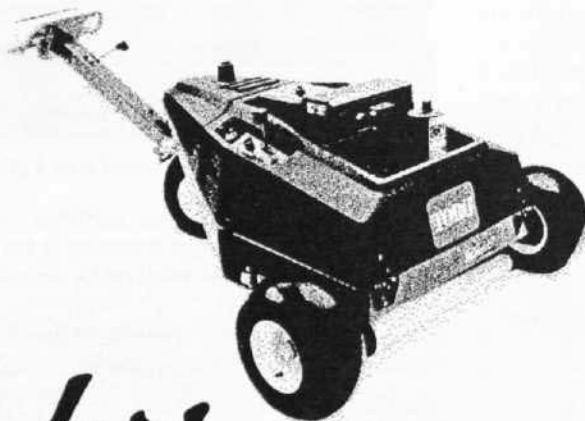
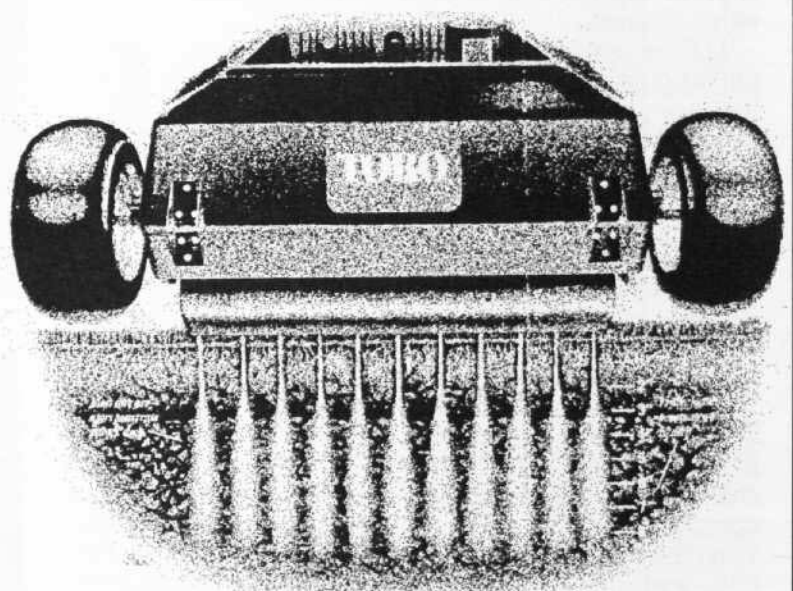
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A freshly aerified fairway leads strongly uphill to the clubhouse. This picture gives you a sense of the many evergreens there.



This view is from the east side of the golf course, away from the clubhouse area.

(Continued from page 11)

hairline and color, same rugged and leathery skin, same nose. There is no mistaking that they are father and son.

There are only tasteful references in the clubhouse to Arnold's importance in the club history. All point to enormous pride, but it isn't overdone. My favorite was a picture of golf's greatest player of all time, holding a club when he was four years old. Someone had written on it something like "some of us knew you when..." It was great!

It was no wonder I couldn't find any staff people or the superintendent in the golf course shop. They were too busy with leaves and with aerifying. It isn't often any of us have so little player interference as they had this day. They were getting a lot of work done.

On one corner of the clubhouse lawn, adjacent to the cartpath where all players walk, are two small bronze markers, honoring Arnie's mother and father. Clearly his parents were highly regarded by the members.

I wandered freely around the clubhouse surrounds and the greens and tees near the clubhouse. I sat on a bench at one of the tees and thought how many times I had dreamed to come here. I wondered how many others have thought of travelling to Latrobe and how many had actually been able to make the visit.

And I wondered why. I haven't wanted to see where Ben Hogan or Jack Nicklaus or anybody else learned to play golf. If I had, I wouldn't have known where to go.

I finally concluded it wasn't any one thing but rather a lot of different reasons. Palmer is a singular person in the world of sports, always has been and always will be. His story and his life are interesting and intimately associated with Latrobe and the area around it. The influence of his father and the fact that his father did the same kind of work I do is no small factor. Arnold's interest in our GCSAA is especially appealing to those like me who have labored long on a golf course. He knows a lot about us and has done some of the work we do.

Palmer's prominent role in the history of golf drew me to Latrobe, as it has others I have seen him play several times, at Bay Hill and Rio Pinar in Orlando. I have had my picture taken with him. And I've gotten his autograph several times, including on a quart can of Pennzoil. I have read all the books about him, and many of the endless articles.

About all that was left for me was to see where his grand career began and continues yet today.

Now, finally, I somehow feel satisfied. It was quite a pilgrimage. 🏌️



The golf course shop is beyond this heavily shaded golf hole.



The LCC Women's Organization honored Deke and Doris Palmer with this memorial on the front lawn of the clubhouse.

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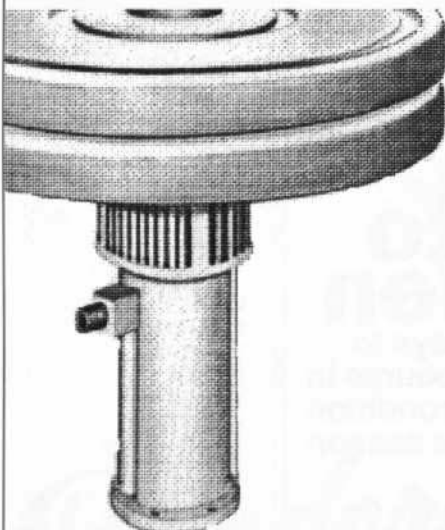
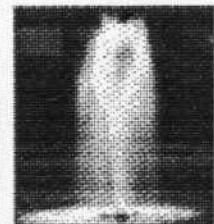
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“TOO MUCH WATER IS WORSE THAN TOO LITTLE”

By Robert C. Vavrek, Jr.
North Central Region, USGA Green Section

Jim Latham has been cleaning out his desk as the December retirement date draws near. As one might expect, notes, letters and articles that have been buried for years were discovered in the process. One gem found near the bottom of a drawer was an old article that was the source of the quote used for the title of this short review of the 1994 growing season. The article consisted of excerpts from a January 1938 issue of *The Greenkeepers' Reporter*, written by O.J. Noer. The excerpts were sent to all members of the Royal York Club in Toronto after a particularly difficult season during 1937.

The article emphasized careful use of irrigation, fertilizers and the importance of utilizing improved cultivars of turf for greens. It is surprising how little things have changed over a span of 50 or 60 years. During an “easy” season there is plenty of time to experiment with growth regulators, new fertilizers, rollers, biostimulants, and other practices to fine tune to maintenance program. In contrast, when the Milorganite hits the fan during an extended period of hot, humid weather it's the time to keep it simple and follow the basic principles of sound turf management. One of the most important, but most often overlooked, maintenance practices to consider is amount and frequency of irrigation.

It was a “sneaky bad” season for a number of superintendents in the Midwest this year, particularly in the Chicagoland and Detroit areas. If one would review the weather records for the summer, there would be little to suggest a period of severe turf stress, yet significant losses of turf on greens occurred during late July and August. The pattern for turf loss was surprisingly similar at many courses. Injury generally occurred on greens in problem sites, those usually affected by shade, poor air movement, tree root

competition, and inadequate surface drainage across the putting surface. It was not unusual to find 16 or 17 greens in excellent condition and one or two greens (those found in heavily wood sites) to be very thin and weak.

The golfers' unreasonable expectations for the ultra-fast green speed, regardless of the weather conditions, were also partially responsible for the injury to greens. The Midwest experienced a period of hot, humid weather just before the Fourth of July that caused a flush of turf growth. It became almost impossible to provide a fast, firm playing surface at many courses due to the vigorous growth of turf. The frequent rain and high humidity made the greens soft and, for lack of a more descriptive term, “puffy”, more so on greens that possessed a significant amount of organic matter or thatch near the surface. Golfers at a few courses found they were playing a temporary green by late summer because of the additional stress caused by a shaded site and/or their unwillingness to allow the superintendent to aerify, raise the height of cut, hand water, or initiate other practices to relieve stress on dying greens. A considerable amount of *Poa annua* and bentgrass turf was lost due to excessive rolling, double cutting, and ultra-low mowing heights during the peak stress period of mid-summer — not to mention the adverse effects of using plant growth regulators at that time. Unfortunately, these practices were sometimes mandated by the golfers.

It quickly became obvious that more turf was lost by too much automatic irrigation than by too little irrigation. More black layer related problems were seen this past summer than in any of my previous seasons with the Green Section. Superintendents who turned off the sprinklers early and switched to hand watering fared better than those who had nei-

ther the manpower nor experience to do so. To be fair, an unfavorable growing site was sometimes more to blame than any other factor, and the loss of turf was beyond the superintendent's control.

Fans increase air movement and fungicides can reduce the potential for disease but they cannot compensate for a lack of sunlight. To borrow a favorite saying of Jim Moore, the Director of the Mid-Continent Region: “The three most effective fungicides for use on a number of stressed greens this summer would have been Stihl, McCullough, and Homelite.” Unfortunately, many golfers still believe the trees on the course are more important than the quality of playing surfaces.

Careful management of irrigation is always important but even more so on shaded putting surfaces. Five minute cycles might still provide excess irrigation to low lying portions of shaded greens during humid weather. I was surprised to find plenty of soil moisture in poorly drained areas of shaded greens even after 5 or 6 days without irrigation or rainfall.

Hand watering is often necessary in spite of a modern, sophisticated irrigation system. More importantly, hand irrigation only to the portions of the green and the collar that need irrigation. Too much hand watering is just as detrimental as too much automatic irrigation. A comment I have heard (and agree with) from more than one superintendent who has been successful in keeping the greens dry is that “few superintendents have a feel for how much moisture stress greens can tolerate without causing permanent injury to the turf.” Perhaps a point to ponder before firing up the irrigation system on greens during the firing up the irrigation system on the first dry day next spring? O.J. Noer was right over fifty years ago and he is still right today. 🍷



QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

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

Q: We're set to build a new USGA Green Section specification green next year. What fertilizer addition recommendations would you make for incorporation at final grading just prior to seeding and during establishment for the first year? Lacrosse County.

A: Apply and rake in 1.0 to 1.5 lb N/M as starter fertilizer prior to seeding. If your budget is tight, use agricultural grade monoammonium phosphate, a typical grade being 11-48-0. Do not use diammonium phosphate, particularly if your sand has a high pH. For insurance purposes, you might also incorporate a micronutrient package. If not, use a fertilizer with micronutrients later on. After the first or second mowing apply 1.0 lb N as a high K fertilizer such as 20-0-20 or 15-0-30. Within 2 to 3 weeks you'll want to begin a program in which you're applying 0.5 to 0.75 lb N every 2 to 3 weeks. My understanding is that the Green Section recommends use of soluble N. I prefer alternating soluble N (most likely urea) with a complete fertilizer whose N:P₂O₅:K₂O ratio is approximately 3:1:2 and that contains some SRN. Using just soluble N puts

you in a feast and famine situation. Having some SRN present tends to even out the bentgrass growth. Use of the complete grade of fertilizer will help keep P and K levels optimum. Continue this program until early fall. If your sand is calcareous, in early fall re-apply about 1.0 lb N as starter fertilizer and follow this up in 2 to 3 weeks with your high K fertilizer. A late fall N application would then complete fertilization for the first year. In total, you want to shoot for 6 to 8 lb N/M the establishment year. Back this off to about 5 lb N the second year and then settle into what you feel is a good maintenance fertilization program for your golf greens.

Q: Can you answer this question once and for all—does use of Milorganite increase the earthworm population of my fairways (and the attending mess) or not? Dane County

A: If your soil is a suitable habitat for earthworms (answer "yes" if they're already present) and you fertilize with nothing but Milorganite, the answer is a definite "yes". The same answer applies if you exclusively use any of

the natural organic fertilizers on your fairways. If you use Milorganite only once or twice a year, perhaps as a dormant application, then chances are that the impact on earthworm populations is negligible. Please understand that this is my educated guess as opposed to a WAG. I'm not aware of any research wherein the effects of one or two applications of Milorganite per year on earthworm populations versus its exclusive use has been studied. Questions such as these are what make us research types realize that we're not always researching the real world.

Q: I'm trying to find a source of ammonium sulfate that offers a smaller prill than the farm grade I've been using. Can you help me? (I am using the material as a part of a cultural control program for fairway summer patch). Rock County

A: I've had the same problem. Some of the agricultural ammonium sulfate has particles the size and color of poultry droppings! To find an answer to this question, I placed a call to Tom Vlack (class of '91) at the Pine Tree

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Golf Course in Florida. As I suspected, he and his fellow superintendents in the south use a lot of soluble N. Tom informed me that Allied Chemical produces both regular and fine grades of ammonium sulfate for golf course use. Now all you have to do is find a fertilizer distributor that does or is willing to stock the Allied ammonium sulfate.

Q: I've heard colleagues talk about using "feed grade" urea. Not wanting to appear uninformed, I have been reluctant to ask. What is it anyway? Buffalo County

A: Feed grade urea, as the name implies, is manufactured as a feed additive. Animal researchers demonstrated years ago that adding the material to something like ensilage increases its nutritional value. To ensure uniform blending, the urea has to have a small particle size. It so happens that the feed grade urea particle size is very similar to that of a fine greens grade fertilizer. For example, a feed grade urea that I purchased locally has 85% of its particles in the size range of 0.5 to 1.0 mm, or the size of coarse sand particles. In contrast, a regular grade of urea purchased from a turf fertilizer vendor has nearly 75% of its particles larger than 2 mm. The obvious advantage of feed grade urea is that it produces no speckling in the closely mowed turf of greens and tees. If you do elect to apply granular feed grade urea, calibrate your spreader carefully. Because of its small particle size and the fact that it contains 45 or 46% N, I have to close my little drop spreader all the way down and still get an application rate of 0.8 lb N/M.

Q: How can I calculate from the pH of our very hard water how much acid to use to move the pH down in my spray tank? What should be the target pH for a spray tank? What kind of acid should I use? Where can I buy it? Waukesha County.

A: You can't calculate the amount of acid required based on the pH of the water. The water is hard because it contains high levels of dissolved calcium and magnesium carbonates. Carbon dioxide from air reacts with the water and carbonates to form bicarbonate in equilibrium with carbonic acid and carbonate ions. What this constitutes is a weak acid-weak base system in which the hydrogen ion concentration (measured as pH) represents only a small portion of the total amounts of acids and bases pre-

sent. The direct analogy is soil. The pH of soil represents only a miniscule portion of the acidity that must be neutralized in order to change its pH. If this were not the case and all we had to neutralize are the hydrogen ions actually in the soil solution, the amounts of liming material required would be in the range of pounds per acre rather than tons per acre. The other thing you have to be aware of is that the pH of hard water depends on the temperature of the water. The colder the water, the more CO₂ that dissolves in it. This shifts the equilibrium of the carbonic acid-bicarbonate system in favor of the carbonic acid. As the water warms up, CO₂ concentrations in the water decrease and the concentration of bicarbonate increases.

Therefore, cold water drawn directly from the well may have a pH of 7.5. Let that water stand until it reaches air temperature and the pH may be in the range of 8.5. If you don't believe this, take a bottle of your favorite brew from the refrigerator and measure its pH. Let the brew come to room temperature and measure the pH once again.

To determine how much acid you need to add to your water to drop the pH to the level that you want, you have to take a known volume of the water and determine how much acid of a known concentration is needed. Alternatively, you can send a water sample to a commercial lab and have it titrated for you. To save having to do some calculations yourself, be prepared to tell the lab what pH you want and the concentration (normality) of the acid you'll be using. I'd request a pH in the range of 6.0 to 7.0, which is what you want in your spray tank for the vast majority of the tank mixes you'll be preparing. As for the acid to use, I recommend what is known as technical or commercial grade sulfuric acid. This can be obtained from distributors of industrial chemicals.

Q: Do late season iron applications on turf have any effect on winter hardiness or survival? Green County

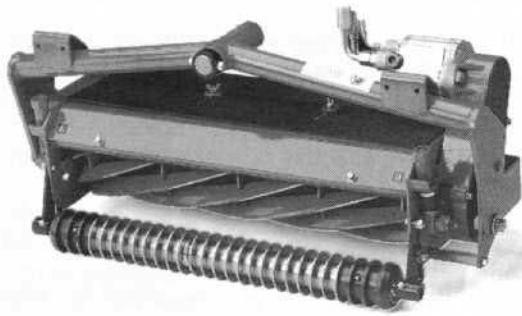
A: In responding to this question I'm assuming that you're referring to foliar application of Fe to the non-Fe deficient turf that we grow in Wisconsin. If iron were to influence winter hardiness and survival, the most likely mechanism would be increased production of so-called total non-structural carbohydrates (TNC). For this to happen as a result of iron application, the Fe would have to increase turfgrass chlorophyll content

and, in response, increase photosynthesis and carbohydrate production late in the season when shoot growth is slowed by low temperatures. The problem with this line of reasoning is that foliar Fe applications on non-deficient turf do not increase leaf chlorophyll content. Unless the turf is iron deficient, N supply, not Fe, is the controlling factor in chlorophyll production. What happens instead is that the foliar applied Fe forms a black coating the leaves, particularly on cut and damaged portions. This gives the appearance of a darker color. In a recent study of the effects of foliar iron on winter injury in bermudagrass, no greening response was noted, the leaves were observed to be "stained", and at rates above 1.5 oz Fe/M leaf levels of TNC actually declined. The authors surmised that the iron coatings may have actually blocked sunlight from reaching the leaf surface and reduced photosynthesis accordingly.

Q: Do you believe a fertility program can effectively or successfully move the bentgrass/Poa annua population ratios in a green or fairway one way or another? Ozaukee County

A: Let's start with the understanding that Poa is really a weak competitor with something like bentgrass. To move into bentgrass, it needs invasion gaps that greatly reduce or eliminate competition from the bentgrass. Thus, anything that creates invasion gaps is an invitation for Poa. On golf courses, these gaps are being created continuously in the form of ball marks, divots, patches of disease, traffic wear, aeration holes, earthworm casts, etc. This obviously limits what effect fertilization can have on Poa populations. Furthermore, any differences between bentgrass and Poa in terms of their nutrient requirements are slight to none. There is no truth to the idea that high P levels favor Poa over bentgrass. The two grasses do appear to differ in their tolerances to low soil pH. Applying sulfur to drop soil pH to around 5.5 has been found to adversely affect the Poa more than the bentgrass, but don't try this as a control measure unless you want to see some very sad looking bentgrass. All fertilization can accomplish is to impart to the bentgrass the capacity to recover quickly from any type of mechanical or disease injury that may occur. In most instances, this means keeping nitrogen levels up where the bentgrass has good color throughout the season and

(Continued on page 19)



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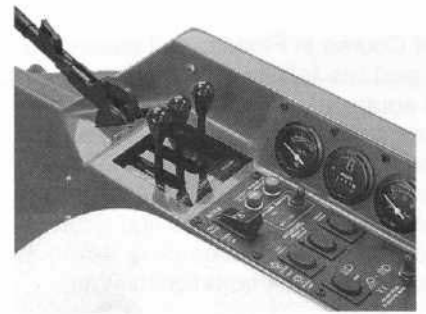


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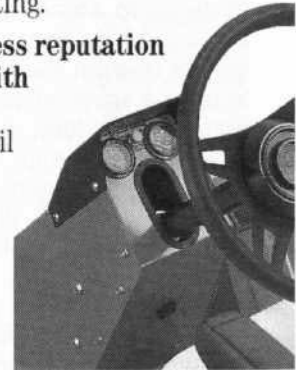


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(Continued from page 17)

applying late season N to ensure rapid spring recovery from winter injury and disease.

Q: Is K₂SO₄ really that much better as a source of K than KCl? Grant County

A: The issue of K₂SO₄ vs KCl boils down to concerns about foliar burn, soil salinity, and blacklayer formation. Soil salinity problems arise primarily from irrigation with low quality water high in soluble salts. Fortunately, we don't have this problem in Wisconsin. Thus, concerns about the relative contributions of the chloride and sulfate forms of potassium on salinity are misplaced. Sulfate, in and of itself, does not cause blacklayer. The culprit is impeded drainage that leads to development of anaerobic conditions within soil. Once these conditions develop, then microbial reduction of sulfate can occur, leading to formation of black metallic sulfides and phytotoxic hydrogen sulfide gas. In the absence of impeded drainage, blacklayer will not form and the source of potassium applied is of no consequence. This leaves us with

the issue of foliar burn. Three common sense practices will eliminate this potential problem; only apply the fertilizer to dry turfgrass, keep the rates below the recommended maximum of 2 lb K/M per application, and water the fertilizer in after application. If these practices are followed, there are no valid reasons for selecting K₂SO₄ over KCl as the material of choice for turf fertilization.

Q: My putting green soil tests consistently show low K levels despite ample K additions. Simply put, I'm not making any progress. Do Ca or Mg levels in these sandy greens (80/20) have anything to do with this? Oneida County

A: Yes, exchangeable Ca and Mg are involved, but there's more to it than that. In 80/20 mixes cation exchange capacity arises almost entirely in the organic matter. The negatively charged sites on the organic matter that attract cations have a strong preference for cations that can form chemical bonds through partial sharing of electrons. Potassium cannot do this, but Ca and Mg can. The result is that

Ca and Mg are more strongly held by the cation exchange sites and relatively large amounts of the potassium remains in the soil solution where it is subject to leaching loss. It is this feature of 80/20 mixes that prompts the recommendation that over the course of every season you apply as much K as you do N. Research has shown that in a typical 80/20 mix you cannot expect to hold the soil test K levels at much above 250 lb/A or 125 ppm. If you try for higher levels, the excess potassium leaches away. Recognition of this problem is what has prompted the recommendation that K be applied as many as four different times during the growing season. Alternatively, you can fertilize regularly with a fertilizer whose N:K ratio is near 1:1 or periodically apply a high K fertilizer. Decreasing the levels of Ca and Mg is not an answer to the problem. To decrease the amounts of Ca and Mg you would have to acidify the soil. When you do this the cation exchange capacity also decreases. Thus, the potential exists for reducing even further the amount of exchangeable K that can be held in the soil. ♣



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A Life-long Love Affair With Golf

By Lori Ward Bocher

Al Vrana's interest in golf courses was triggered years before he served as president of the WGCSA in 1975 and 1976. His association with Meadowbrook Country Club in Racine began long before he was hired as its assistant superintendent in 1961.

You have to go way back to the 1920's when Al's family moved to the outskirts of Racine where a new golf course, Meadowbrook, was being built. Al was 5 or 6 years old at the time. "Of course, I'd sneak on the golf course when I was little," he laughs. And so began his love affair with golf.

"I was always interested in golf. I love golf," Al relates. "And I had a brother who was five years older and he always wanted to be a golfer, too. I kind of followed him."

In 1936, when he was 14 years old, he worked at the neighboring Meadowbrook Country Club as a caddie. "After I was done caddying I worked on the golf course trying to earn some playing privileges," Al points out. "I remember cutting the greens with those real old mowers that we had to crank up to start."

After graduating from high school, Al went to work in a factory until he was called into the service. "I went into the Navy and spent my time overseas in the Pacific war theater," he recalls. "I had quite a time there."

When he left the service in 1946 he returned to Racine where he worked as a machinist at an engineering firm. "As the years passed (1961) they needed an assistant superintendent at Meadowbrook County Club," Al explains. "I always was interested in golf and growing things."

"And I wanted to get out of the factory and into the fresh air," he continues. "I love nature. There was no way I was going to be stopped from taking that job even if I had to take quite a bit of a cut in wages. It was well worth it." And so he returned "home" to Meadowbrook.

Al worked under superintendent Ray Mertens, who also served a term as WGCSA president (Mertens is now deceased). When Mertens retired from



Al Vrana

Meadowbrook in 1967, Al was named superintendent—a job he held until his own retirement in January of 1983.

And what has he been doing since retirement? "I've been playing a lot of golf," he answers. But this time it's not at Meadowbrook; it's on the seven courses that are part of the Bella Vista retirement community in Arkansas where Al lives next door to his best friend and another WGCSA past president, Woody Voigt.

"We play quite a bit of golf and enjoy life," Al says of his retirement. He plays about three times a week except in the winter when he drops back to once a week. "It's better for my joints in the summer," he adds. "But one January I did play 20 times."

Al and his wife, Marge, also travel quite a bit. "We come back to Wisconsin once or twice a year just to see how things are," he says. "We still have five children and 10 grandchildren in Wisconsin. We've really got something to come back to." Four of the children live in Racine and one lives in Kenosha.

The Vranas have traveled elsewhere in the U.S.—to Florida, South Carolina, the East coast and Yellowstone, to name a few places. "We go on an aver-

age of at least one good trip a year," he says.

Besides golf and travel, Al also keeps busy working around the house. "Mostly outside, of course," he says. "I did all my own landscaping and so I keep that up. And I have a little garden. It's kind of like a hobby."

His landscaping plan didn't include much turf—only a small lawn in the back yard. "Otherwise the rest of it is in stone because I didn't want too much sod," he points out. "Too much work."

Less time in the yard means more time for playing cards. "We have a lot of good friends around here who we do things with," Al says.

Al and Marge chose to retire in Arkansas for a number of reasons. "We still have the four seasons here, but winter isn't so long and harsh," he points out. "Spring is so beautiful down here. And the fall extends so late into the year. Up in Wisconsin the winter is so long.

"We still see snow around here, but it's not very much," Al continues. "I didn't even bring a snow shovel when we moved. I don't need it. When the snow comes, it's gone in three days at the most."

The Vranas chose Arkansas for lifestyle reasons, too. "The taxes are lower in Arkansas," Al points out. "Everything seems to be so different down here. They have a different way of living. It's a lot easier. A lot cheaper, too."

Golf is one thing that is cheaper — only \$7 to play 18 holes at the courses in his retirement community (if you're a member of the Bella Vista Property Owners Association). But cheaper isn't always better.

"Really, there's no comparison between Wisconsin golf courses and those down here," Al says. "You have better soils for growing turf in Wisconsin. And you have better practices, too. You're more concerned about the maintenance of the course. Down here they seem to have a little different attitude."