SOYLENT GREEN



Oyind Jüül Noer inspecting grass roots. UW Soil Science Department.

many contributions to the diagnosis of turf problems, and wrote and spoke about turf at conferences almost continuously throughout that period. Before and after his death on July 12, 1966, O. J. Noer has been considered a true pioneer in the turfgrass industry." Another web site, (http://www.milorganite.org/history.html#history) tells O.J.'s Milorganite story.

One great mystery that remains unsolved is why the O. J. Noer library collection is at Michigan State University and not at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. I imagine some iniquitious administrator or uninformed lawyer somehow let this "Juul" slip through the cracks. As the Michigan State site tells it, "During his career, O.J. Noer accumulated many books, journals, and conference proceedings related to the science, culture, and maintenance of turfgrass." After his death, "It was soon voted to place this valuable collection into the hands of an accredited institution of higher learning so it would be universally available to turfgrass students. Michigan State University was selected" as the new home of the O. J. Collection. Oops! I guess we dropped the ball on that one. The bottom line is that it really doesn't matter where Noer's books are housed because he still is and always will be a Badger.

These three turf heroes have helped shape our turfworld. Badgers all over the world should be very proud of their contributions to the turfgrass revolution. There are many others who have also contributed greatly to the Wisconsin turfgrass effort, including Gayle Worf, Bob Newman and J. R. Love. I am very grateful to have been a small part of the Badger turfgrass effort. Also, I am grateful to the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the Department of Plant Pathology for providing me with an opportunity to excel in the face of opposition and in the footsteps of my turf heroes. I have excelled with the help of everyone involved in the turfgrass effort, including Monteith, Dahl and Noer. These three have been my imaginary mentors throughout my last six years at the UW. I have their pictures hanging above my cubicle for inspiration. Frank Rossi gave me the picture of Noer and the ones of Monteith and Dahl were hidden in departmental files in a dusty old scrap book locked away in a safe at Russell Labs. Recently, when Jim Latham and Michael Kenna from the USGA visited for a progress report of my Typhula snow mold research, they noticed these pictures and were very excited about them. I thought I was the only one who would have such an appreciation for these valuable pictures. Later, I sent copies to the USGA for their archives so others may know how much these turf heroes mean to present and future turfgrass scientists and managers. Thank you Monteith, Dahl and Noer for having paved the way. Your legacy continues to grow.

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Anthracnose¹ (Colletotrichum graminicola) on 80% Annual Bluegrass, 20% Perennial Ryegrass



Dr. Don Scott, Purdue University, 1995 ¹ Also isolated from plots: 2 species Rhizoctonia; 3 species Pythium; and several species Curvularia.

Brown Patch (Rhizoctonia solani) on Colonial Bentgrass



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Dr. John Watkins, University of Nebraska, 1996 USNP-96-P030

Summer Patch (Magnaporthe poae) on Kentucky Bluegrass

	100 80	100%	100%			Sentinel 40WG	
Percent Control	60 40 20 0	HERITAGE 50WG	HERITAGE 50WG	Banner 1.1 EC 22	Bayleton 25DF 👷	Sentir	Rubigan 50W
0z./1,000 sq. ft.		0.4	0.2	4.0	4.0	0.33	0.75
Number of Applications		3	4	3	3	3	3
Application Interval (days)		28	14	28	28	28	28
Final Reading		19 DAA 3	33 DAA 4	19 DAA 3	19 DAA 3	19 DAA 3	19 DAA 3
Dr. Bruce Clarke, Cook	e Co	llege, Ruta	ers Universi	ry 1994		US	5 66-94-P362

Dr. Bruce Clarke, Cooke College, Rutgers University, 1994



CHANGING THE COURSE OF DISEASE CONTROL



Bluebirds, University Ridge GC 1998

By Gary Gaard, TDDL Staff Member Department of Plant Pathology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Introduction.

This study was initiated to evaluate the ease of establishing bluebirds on a golf course. University Ridge, Verona, WI was chosen.

Summary.

University Ridge is a 225 acre, 18 - hole public golf course opened in 1991. Part of the course is wooded, and is not bluebird habitat. Part of the course is built on farm land with remnants of field, fence rows, specimen trees and wood lot edges - excellent bluebird habitat. Establishment and management of a public golf course bluebird trail is reviewed. Success of attracting bluebirds in areas off the golf course, wrens, and a new design nest box is also discussed.

In 1997, there was only one bluebird nest in nest boxes placed at University Ridge. Houses were placed as would be done by most first-time trail establishers. An "easy to build" nest box pattern was selected. Forty-two nest boxes were placed in late May on random fence posts and trees with little consideration of habitat needs. Boxes were often less than 100 yards apart, and of a design that discourages bluebird nesting but encourages tree swallow nesting. Nesting activity was not monitored.

In 1998, by adapting guidelines of bluebird re-establishment societies, the number of bluebird nests at the Ridge increased to twelve. Houses were rebuilt (Hill Lake to Herman Olson pattern), put out earlier in the year, and moved to better bluebird habitat. Nesting activity was monitored seven times during the summer.

Bluebird societies.

There are two in Wisconsin. A North national group, the American Bluebird Society is in Darlington. Vice president Carol McDaniel et. al. spoke at the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents April meeting at Abbey Springs. For more information on this organization write to Carol at 14593 State Highway 23, Darlington, WI 53530-9503.

The Wisconsin society is The Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin, PO Box 207, Phillips,

WI 54555-0207.

Individual annual membership in either group is less than \$10. Members receive information, and golf courses can gain introduction to local bluebirders (folks with time and interest, but no bluebird habitat) to establish and monitor a trail on their golf course. A carpenter, Tim Morgan, 304 St. Rose Road, Cuba City WI, 53807 builds Peterson nest boxes available to golf course superintendents for \$12.50.

Nest boxes.

In 1997 lumber was salvaged from shipping crates to build 42 Hill Lake nest boxes. Bluebird society nest monitoring has shown these boxes are too deep for bluebirds preferred nesting and, in fact, this nest box preferentially selects tree swallows who prefer deep nest boxes. In 1998 all nest boxes were converted to the Herman Olson plan by cutting six inches from the bottom of each. One nest of bluebirds was lost to high temperature because ventilation holes were inadvertently not drilled when the nest box was rebuilt.





Bluebirds prefer a nest box that is not as deep as the Hill Lake. The wooden fence post does not exclude predators.



All houses were mounted on steel fence posts. Snakes can climb steel fence posts and two bluebird nests were lost to predatory snakes. Before next nesting season, a pipe PVC sleeve will be placed over all posts.

Nest box placement.

Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin, Inc., Information Packet has Guidelines for box



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placement. At University Ridge key points followed are: at least 300' between nest boxes, avoid wren habitat such as dense brush, have nearby trees that provide perches for hunting adults, and face the nest box toward cover that will hide young birds when they leave the nest.

Additional guidelines applicable to golf courses: University Ridge Superintendent Jeff Parks says, "Don't drive a post through an irriFour species of native birds nested: bluebirds (12), chickadee (4), tree swallow (10), and wren (22). Two English sparrow nests were destroyed.

For forty-two boxes nine had no nests, 14 had one nest, and 19 had two nests during the season. Boxes that attracted two nests of wrens or had no nests will be moved before March 15, 1999.

The pesticide issue.

date	bluebird	chickadee	wren	tree swallow
4/28	4	2		
5/14	1	1	2	7
5/28	2	1	5	3
6/17	1		3	
7/1	3		2	
7/15			8	
7/30	1		2	

gation line, and we are not going to mow around a bird house." For ease of maintenance/monitoring and for golfer probability of seeing bluebirds, most boxes are within a few yards of cart paths; do not place nest boxes close to greens and tees (5% of the area of a golf course and 90% of pesticide use). Nest boxes should be in place and cleaned by March 15, and remove early season nests to encourage a second nest in the same nest box. Keep a house in the maintenance shed to put up if you mow a new area or if tree swallows evict bluebirds when an early season bluebird nest fledges.

Nesting data, recorded when a nest was built and eggs laid.

Forty-two nest boxes were opened every 14 days through the nesting season. The time required to monitor all houses when traveling by cart was 1 1/2 hours. There is an anecdotal view that bluebirds exist only in the purest of environments, and that they are more susceptible to pesticide bioaccumulation than other wildlife. At the Ridge, most observed bluebird insect feeding was in the no pesticide roughs, and occasionally on fairways when insects ventured in from the rough. Swallows that feed on insects disturbed by mowers should be better indicators of bioaccumulation.

Bluebird nesting biology.

Adult male bluebirds return to southern Wisconsin the middle of March. George Gladden wrote, "To be sure, the bluebird's migratory instinct occasionally gets the better of his meteorological discretion, so that his greeting to his northern breeding grounds is sometimes a howling north-easter, bringing snow and freezing temperatures which drive him back to the south-



Herman Olson nest boxes that had bluebird nests at University Ridge in 1998. Even with activity on the cart path and at the club house these two boxes fledged three nests of bluebirds.

land, or not infrequently cost him his life. In 1875 thousands of bluebirds perished in storms and bitter cold which lasted a week or more; their frozen bodies in barns and other outhouses where the poor things had vainly sought shelter; in woods and even along roadsides. In the localities affected, they were almost exterminated."

The first brood of young will leave the nest around the end of April. Then the adult pair, with the assistance of the first brood, will nest again and raise a second brood. Younger adults nest later in the year and raise one brood. Wrens and tree swallows compete for nest sites at this time, and bluebirds can be evicted by these more aggressive species.

After nesting, family units stay together, or they may group together with other family units to form small flocks. These groups can be seen through November.

Gilbertson house, probability of attracting nesting bluebirds, and wrens.

Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin, Inc. Information Packet has Gilbertson nest box plans, made from four inch PVC and mounted on 1/2" electrical conduit. Advantages are a comparatively low cost of \$8.00 mounted, easy to move, predator proof, and attractive to nesting birds.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service's Breeding Bird Surveys, conducted since 1966, estimate that the population of eastern bluebirds has increased 103 percent over the past 31 years. To see if some of this increase could be enticed to nest, Gilbertson houses were placed at four locations in Dane and Iowa Counties. Vern's horse pasture. Two boxes were placed March 15. A pair of bluebirds nested in April and again in June. Jim's deer hunting farm. Four boxes were placed March 15. One pair of bluebirds nested in June - presumably this was an adult pair raising a second brood because juveniles were bringing food to the nest. Archery club. One box was put up in May. Two weeks later bluebirds had built a nest and laid eggs. Presumably this was an adult pair raising a second brood because juveniles were bringing food to the nest. Emmett's vegetable garden. Three houses were placed on March 15. Two pair of bluebirds nested in April. Tree swallows moved into both boxes as soon as the first bluebirds fledged. One pair of bluebirds raised a second brood in a house moved into the area, and since the second pair did not have a nest site they left the area.

Wrens are abundant at University Ridge. Gilbertson houses were placed in wren habitat 1). to create decibels from bird song (the song of this bird always enters the debate when noise ordinances are considered) and, 2). so wrens will nest in the brush and not in nearby bluebird houses. Three houses were placed in dense cover at the maintenance facility. Each house raised two broods of wrens, but song frequency or decibel level was not measured.

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TDDL



By Jeffrey Gregos, Douglas Maxwell, and Gary Gaard, Department of Plant Pathology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Background: The Turfgrass Disease Diagnostic Lab (TDDL) at UW-Madison was organized in the spring of 1995 as a separate part of the Plant Pathology. Detection Clinic in the Department of Plant Pathology. The TDDL was created to provide more extensive turfgrass disease diagnosis to the commercial turf industry of the State, to provide an evaluation of management strategies for turfgrass diseases, and to initiate a research program on turfgrass disease diagnosis. Some immediate goals were to provide a rapid turnaround-time, voice contact with professional turfgrass managers, information on the diagnosis procedures, and recommendations for disease management.

Activities for the TDDL for 1998:

1998 Funding Drive

In 1998 around \$23,000 dollars were obtained from 85 contracts to help support the TDDL. This funding is used for the daily operations, mailings, supplies, equipment, and about 45% of Jeff Gregos's salary. The required funding for 1999 will be similar to that raised in 1998.

<u>Samples processed</u>: From April to Nov. 23, 1998, 200 turf samples were processed.

Commercial turfgrass samples (paid) = 43 Commercial turfgrass samples (contracts) = 76 Subtotals of commercial samples Golf Course samples = 94 Sod grower samples = 6 Lawn care samples = 15 Athletic field samples = 4 Homeowner samples = 81 Of the commercial samples, 5 were from out-of-state.

Research

Snow Mold Trials

In the fall of 1997 Snow Mold Control Plots (75 treatments) were established in six locations across the State (Hudson, Superior, Sayner, Land O' Lakes, Stevens Point, and Verona). Data was obtained in the spring and field days were hosted at five of the locations, with about 100 people participating in the field days.

For the fall of 1998 the Snow Mold Research Program was established at 3 sites (Land O' Lakes, Stevens Point, and Verona). Each site has three experiments, chemical control evaluation, snow mold sensitivity, and carrier volume experiments. The chemical control evaluation has 50 entries this year and three different timings. This snow mold management trial is funded by the Northern Great Lakes Golf Course Superintendents Association (NGLGCSA) and several chemical companies.

The Snow Mold Sensitivity Experiment is in the first year of a two-year study. This study is investigating the effectiveness of 14 different chemicals in controlling the snow mold pathogens. This study also has a laboratory experiment, which will be conducted this winter. This study is possible thanks to support from the NGLGCSA and Wisconsin Turfgrass Association (WTA).

The third study is evaluating the importance of carrier volume on the efficacy of fungicides for snow mold control. Three volumes (1 gal/1000ft2, 2 gal/1000ft2, and 4 gal/1000ft2) and 10 treatments are being evaluated. This study will be conducted for two years with financial support from the WTA

Dollar Spot Trials

Three studies were conducted this past year for the evaluation of dollar spot control. One study included 39 chemical treatments applied on a preventative basis. Several of these treatments were reduced-rate mixtures and an ongoing study from the summer of 1997. This study was funded from support from agricultural chemical companies.

The second study was evaluating the role that carrier volume plays on the length of efficacy on the chemical applications. Nine single chemical treatments at three carrier volume rates were evaluated. This is the first of a two-year study that is being funded by the WTA.

The final study is being conducted to evaluate the reduced-rate mixtures on the control of resistant populations of dollar spot. The site chosen is known to contain both DMI and benzamidizole resistant strains of Sclerotinia homoeocarpa, as determined by loss of effectiveness of these class of fungicides. This was the first year of a two-year study that is currently not funded.

Pythium Blight Trial

In 1998 the TDDL became one of two Universities with the capability of providing reliable field data on Pythium blight control. Two gothic arch greenhouses were built at the Noer Facility for this research. Both

TDDL

greenhouses contain overhead mist systems, and thus, the temperatures and humidity can be maintained even when the outside weather is not favorable for Pythium blight development. The initial investment has already been regained after only one year of operation, and over 1/3 of the trial is sold out for next year. Chemical companies are providing all of the funding for this experiment.

Brown Patch Trial

This past year a 30 treatment trial was conducted at the O. J. Noer Facility. The area for the brown patch trial was also re-establish due to the requirement of additional space for snow mold experiments. Included in this year's trial were the reduced-rate mixtures that have been very effective in controlling dollar spot. Funding was obtained from agricultural chemical companies.

Basal Rot Anthracnose Trial

In the summer of 1997 the TDDL and WTA split the cost of the construction of a 20,000 sq. ft. research green, of which 5,000 sq. ft. was established with plugs from Blackhawk, C. C. This area has a mixed stand of poa/bentgrass (70/30). Early in the summer the *Poa annua* developed symptoms of basal rot anthracnose, at which time a 15 treatment curative control evaluation was initiated. No funding was obtained in this first year, but several chemical companies have shown interest in being involved in this research next year.

Take-all Patch Trial

The trial from 1997 was completed with the rating of fall applied treatments. Additionally, a new area was established this fall and treatments will be evaluated next summer. Agricultural chemical companies are providing funding for this work.

Wisconsin Sod Trial

The summer of 1998 marked the second growing season for this trial. This trial is a long-term study evaluating the effects that establishment method and annual aerifiction have on the development of disease. This year there was data on the development of leaf spot, but no patch diseases have been observed to date. This trial will continue for another three years with support from the WTA.

Molecular Methods for Detection of Turfgrass Pathogens

Continued efforts to develop molecular (DNA)based methods for characterizing the major turfgrass pathogens. These methods are now being used in the Introductory Plant Pathology class this fall. The sequence data for several turfgrass fungi were submitted to the National Data Base for Genetic Information at the National Institute of Health, Washington, DC. Initially funded by WTA and continued funding from gift support and Maxwell's salary savings.

Grants and Proposals

Interdisciplinary Hatch Grant

The Interdisciplinary Hatch Grant has been prepared by members of the Horticulture, Agronomy, and Plant Pathology Departments. This grant is for the selection and production of turfgrass germplasm for resistance to snow mold. This will be the direction of Mr. Gregos' master program. The funding was approved and the research was initiated in the summer of 1998. Plots have been established at three sites around the state (Verona, Stevens Point, and Land O' Lakes). Additional work will be conducted this winter in growth cambers. The initial funding for this project will go until 2000.

GCSAA National Grant Proposal

A collaborative grant proposal has been submitted to the GCSAA by John Stier, Department of Horticulture and Jeff Gregos to evaluate the persistence of snow mold control chemicals under winter conditions. The funding for this project will start in 1999, if it is approved.

Audubon Sanctuary/Ice Age Trail

Gary Gaard continues his work with the establishment of the O. J. Noer Facility as an Audubon Sanctuary and the section of the Ice Age National Trail that passes through the facility. He has established patches of Care-Free fescues and two new prairies along the trail as part of the wild life enhancement program.

Future Plans

It is proposed that the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association and the UW-Madison continue the partnerships to fund a full-time turfgrass Specialist. This person would have the following responsibilities: diagnosis of the turfgrass diseases (nearly full-time from May to Oct.), provide expanded educational and outreach programs, and assist in applied research. The Plant Pathology Department has made a commitment for the near future and Mr. Jeff Gregos was hired in October 1996 to fill this position. Additional student helpers (partially paid by gift funds) will be hired to assist Mr. Gregos in plot maintenance. Mr. Gary Gaard is hired by the Dept. of Plant Pathology at 40% time for the turfgrass program. A new faculty member will hopefully arrive by May 1999 and Douglas P. Maxwell will return to the Department about February 1999 after nearly 2 years in the Dean's office. \checkmark

MISCELLANY

1998 Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium -"What You Seed Is What You Get"

By Monroe S. Miller

The 1998 Symposium was the second of a three part series on putting greens - construction, grow-in, and management. Like last year's meeting, it was excellent.

A worthwhile educational session always has great speakers and we really had them last November. Dr. John Stier accepted keynote speaker responsibilities and handled them superbly, as well as anyone ever has (and that includes some powerful company from past meetings). John touched on his views of successful putting green establishment and covered the material from site selection through early mowings. "In the end," John remarked, "there is as much art as science involved in establishment. In fact, the science specific to establishment is scarce. and grow-in rates soon converge despite disparate inputs."

Bob Shearman returned to Wisconsin to again assume the podium at the Symposium. The University of Nebraska professor talked about bentgrass cultivar selection and seed testing. His experience with NTEP trials came through in his lecture and the advice he gave.

Thank goodness for Jim Moore. And thank goodness Jim Moore is willing to travel to Wisconsin as frequently as he has to address the Symposium. His USGA responsibilities and his vast experience were evident as he covered the phases of putting green grow-in. I was especially pleased to have Jim credit golf course superintendent skills as key to a successful grow-in.

Rick Elyea discussed seeding rates, techniques and timing. As an employee of Tee-2-Green, he had an excellent perspective on the subject matters and had a lot of advice to offer.



Dr. John Stier handled the keynote address as well as anyone in memory.

It is not often you'll get to hear from a guy who has experienced 50 - 60 individual grow-ins, but we had that chance when Terry Buchen gave his remarks. Highlights from Terry's field experience for me included:

- grow-in greens as fast as possible,
- eliminate erosion opportunities,
- first three weeks after seeding are critical,
- pesticide use at reduced intervals will be required,
- NEVER sod a green,
- seed a green in two directions and dimple it in,
- check root zone mix every 500 - 1000 tons before it arrives at the
- site, and - use tracer wire at green perime-
- ter and at tile lines.

Buchen was followed by a panel discussion among experienced grow-in superintendents - veteran Oscar Miles, Marc Davison and Gordy Waddington. They were joined by Bob Vavrek and took questions from the audience. They concluded a very interesting first day.



Dr. Bob Shearman, visiting from the University of Nebraska, spoke twice on the program.

Bob Shearman led the second day of lectures, this time exploring pre-plant soil testing and fertility programs during the grow-in period. He was followed at the podium by Louie Miller, a golf course superintendent who has also previously spoken at our Symposium. Louis, superintendent at Louisville (KY) Country Club, also is a partner in a golf course construction firm and has build around 150 putting greens. He shared his experiences with the audience, especially the issue of opening a new green for play.

As the tradition continued, Bob Vavrek summarized the Symposium, made some observations of his own, and did both with exceptional skill. He gave himself a tough act to follow next year.

The event is always really wonderful, but a few others things added to the experience this year. Specifically,

1. I appreciated Tony Rzadzki's prayer, offered at the start of the

MISCELLANY



Mike Bavier presented Mike Lee with recognition from GCSAA for outstanding work at the U.S. Women's Open last summer.

afternoon session. It was refreshing and sincere.

2. I buttonholed Bob Shearman to get a report on the new CALS dean, Dr. Elton Aberle. Abe and Bob were colleagues at Nebraska and both were department chairs. Bob knew him well and gave him a 100% positive review. "Abe was a great choice for Wisconsin."

3. Mike Lee was recognized by GCSAA for his outstanding work at Blackwolf Run for the US Women's Open last summer. The recognition was given by Mike Bavier of Chicago; Mike is a GCSAA past president (and a new book author).

4. Al Nees is back with Milorganite.

5. The second day attendance was one of the largest in memory. Some years the return crowd is so small it is embarrassing. Not this year.

6. We need a good luncheon speaker. We have gone without any speaker for a few years now, and I for one would love to see a return to that feature.

All in all, the 1998 Symposium was a beneficial meeting that was well planned by the Symposium Committee. We will all be back this fall. \checkmark

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