

Old's Seed Company donated bentgrass seed, and x) soil plugs with annual bluegrass seed were donated by Blackhawk Country Club, Madison. This example of teamwork and shared vision is one of the reasons that I've enjoyed my time spent with the turfgrass industry. This has become the green for dollar spot and anthracnose fungicide trials, and many other studies. But Jeff didn't stop here; another 5,000 ft. sq. green was established in 1999, a colonial bentgrass fairway for brown patch studies was established a couple of times, and then the "killer plastic greenhouse" was constructed for evaluation of chemicals for management of pythium blight. Also a long-term sod trial was established in the summer of 1997 and necrotic ring spot showed up this summer, right on schedule. This expanded effort by the TDDL has greatly added to the information available for Field Day, the winter Turfgrass Expo, articles for the Grass Roots, and most importantly to help you as superintendents to make better decisions. A special thanks to all who have made this possible.

Then there was the phone call from Mike Lee to Jeff during the USGA Women's Open at Blackwolf Run in 1998. Jeff, Martha and I took a trip to Blackwolf Run and Jeff did an on the spot diagnosis. We had brought the microscopes with us, so he searched for signs of

the fungal pathogen, while Martha and I got our first look at a golf tournament. What an exciting day. We were glued to the TV for the next few days until the exciting finish on Monday. Mike, all of us in Wisconsin are proud of what you and your crew did preparing the course for tournament play. The summer of 1998 also saw University Ridge Golf Course on national TV as Jeff Parks and his crew hosted the women's collegiate golf tournament. Congratulations! I'm looking forward to having a Wisconsin golf course get national TV coverage again.

The homeowners field day was started in 1996 when about 400 eager homeowners attended; the next year was a bust, but in the summer of 1999 the attendance was up again. My tasks were always minor, but I did enjoy the opportunity last summer to host the prairie demonstration. It's always fun to meet the public.

Computers have gained a foothold in many parts of our lives. The TDDL hosted two half-day workshops on the Internet and E-mail in association with the winter Turfgrass Expo. Attendance and participation was excellent, and again, this gave me a chance to meet some more turfgrass professionals. Subsequently, Tom Schwab started the NOERNET, which gives me the chance to "eavesdrop" on a "chat room" for superintendents. The TDDL staff started a web site but it has not been very successful, though a few inquiries from overseas have surprised me. I believe this communication mechanism has great potential and I expect it to continue.

For me, the two TDDL summer workshops were enjoyable. I guess this is the teacher in me. We all learned that it is not always easy to diagnose turfgrass health problems. This fall, Jeff and I are teaching the turfgrass special interest area for turf students in Introductory Plant Pathology. An internet take-home exam has been created (<http://www.plantpath.wisc.edu/pp300/cgc/course.htm>). Take a look and see how well you do. Some of you might even recognize an image from your course.

Along with teaching UW faculty have research responsibilities; and for me, this has involved two areas: i) exploration of the use of molecular DNA techniques for the rapid detection of fungal pathogens and ii) serving as the major professor for Steve Millett, who is just finishing the final corrections on his Ph. D. thesis. Steve has become a world expert on the application of molecular DNA approaches for studying the species of the Typhula snow mold fungi. Besides assisting with the initiation of the TDDL, Steve wrote the first successful grant by a Wisconsin Turfgrass team member for funding by the USGA.

As many of you know, I've worn several other hats during this past five years. My international research



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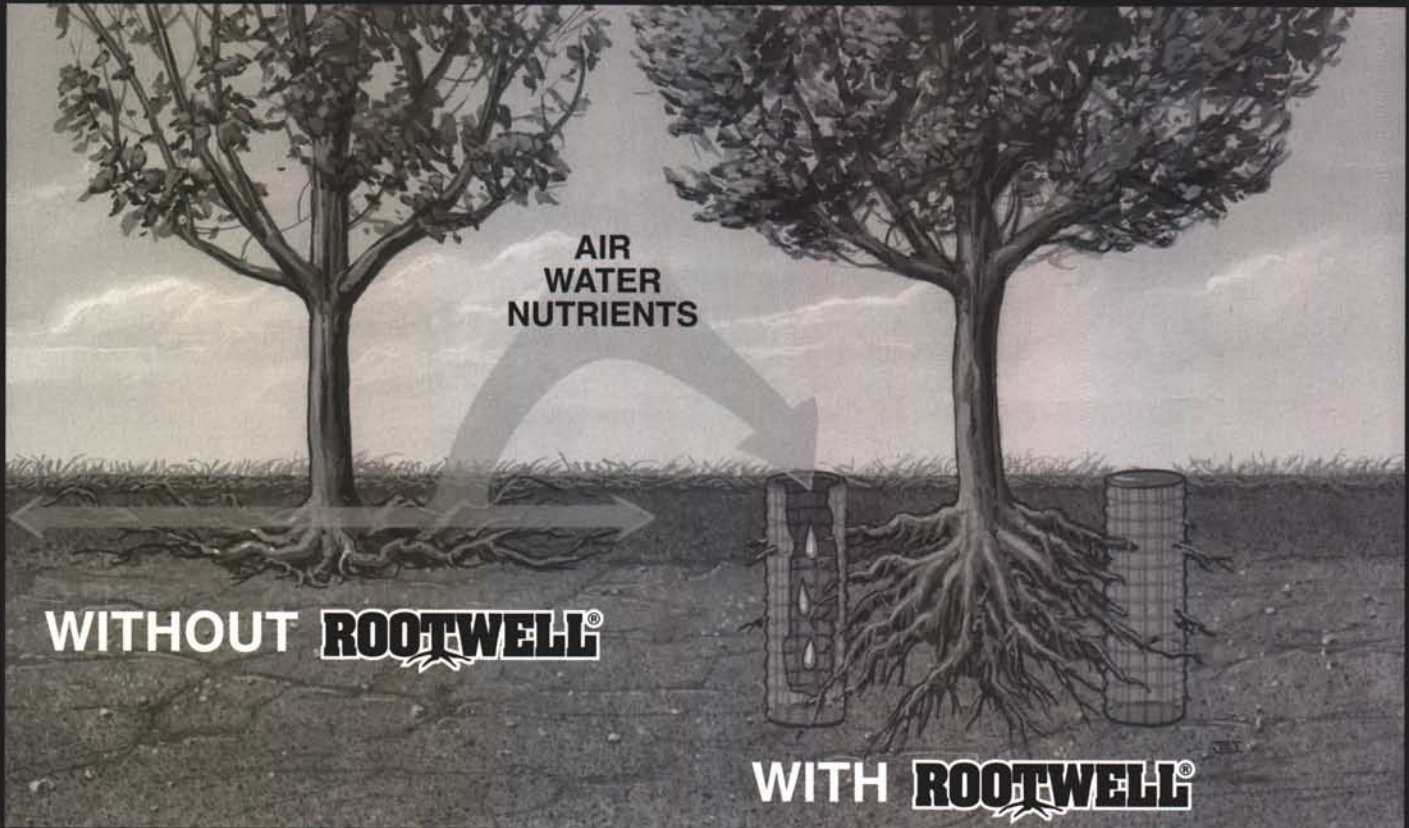
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program continued, but I always added the dimension of golf courses to my trips. I'm writing this article in Brazil and have been unsuccessful in finding a course in any of the three cities I have visited including Brasilia the capital. Professional soccer dominates the TV and the sports conversations, here. I was surprised that my colleagues don't even know about golf. Great potential for expansion for the game of golf. I've also served as the Interim Executive Associate Dean for our College and had a chance to help get the turfgrass pathology position opened.

The turfgrass team has changed since 1995. Frank Rossi left for Cornell University and John Stier arrived. Julie Meyer resigned and Geunhwa Jung will start in February. Mike Cassler from Agronomy initiated a breeding program. Chris Williamson started in Entomology. With these new faces around the table in the Gayle Worf Conference Room there is always something new happening.

Other programs associated with Gary Gaard of the TDDL staff are the revitalization of the ice age trail, which passes through the O.J. Noer Facility, and the Wild Life Enhancement program. Recently, Gary has been selected as a member of the board of the

National Bluebird Association, and CALS has featured Gary's efforts with bluebirds on this homepage for the last few months. Gary also handled all homeowner samples and started no-mow fescue plots, which have become part of our field days.

One does not know what the future will hold for me, but I count my associations with the turfgrass industry as a very special time to get to know some extremely hard-working and special people. To all of you, thanks for having faith in me and supporting the activities of the TDDL. It's that time of year to think about New Year's resolutions. I've made mine: I will play 15 different golf courses in 2000 and I wouldn't mind beating my son, once or maybe twice.

Well, it's time to board the plane to Sao Paulo, Brazil and then take a ten hour flight to Chicago and with luck, make it home by noon tomorrow, so that I can spend Thanksgiving with my family, which now includes three granddaughters (ages 2, 2, and 6 weeks).

Thanks to all of you who have made this last five years a special time for me, and best wishes for 2000 and the future growth of the golf industry in the State. ♣



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The Turfgrass Disease Diagnostic Lab: Report for 1999, a Record Year

By Jeffrey S. Gregos, TDDL, Department of Plant Pathology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Mission statement: The Turfgrass Disease Diagnostic Lab (TDDL) at UW-Madison was organized in the spring of 1995 as a separate part of the Plant Pathogen 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 turn-around-time, voice contact with professional turfgrass managers, information on the diagnosis procedures, and recommendations for disease management.

Activities for the TDDL for 1999:

Samples processed: From January 1 to November 30, 1999, 247 (new record) turf samples were processed.

Commercial turfgrass samples (paid) = 31

Commercial turfgrass samples (contracts) = 80

Subtotals of commercial samples

Golf Course samples = 90

Sod grower samples = 6

Lawn care samples = 16

Athletic field samples = 0

Homeowner samples = 135

Fund drive: This past year was once again a record year for fund raising. The TDDL has increased its contract base to 87 partici-

pants. The resulting contribution was \$26,000 which, helps support the activities of the lab and a majority of Jeff Gregos' salary. In order for the lab to maintain its current presence in the turf industry, this upward climb must continue into the next century. This next year the lab hopes to increase the participation to over 100 contracts and an annual contribution of \$30,000. This will ensure that the lab will be here to serve the industry for many years into the future.

Snow mold trials: The snow mold fungicide trials were established at two golf courses (Sentryworld and Gateway Golf Club) and the O. J. Noer Facility. At each site there were four studies, totaling 12 for all sites. These

Table 1. Breakdown of Samples by Problem

Problem	Homeowner	Golf Course	Sod Grower	Lawn Care	Total
Cultural	22	17	2	3	44
Leaf Spot	21	10	1	3	35
Necrotic Ring Spot	28	2	0	3	33
Summer Patch	23	6	0	1	30
Brown Patch	3	12	2	1	18
Dollar Spot	10	5	0	1	16
Weeds	15	0	0	1	16
Anthraxnose	0	15	0	0	15
Pythium	0	8	0	0	8
Insect	7	0	0	1	8
Take-all Patch	0	7	0	0	7
Fairy Ring	2	3	0	0	5
Snow Mold	1	2	0	0	3
Rust	1	0	1	1	3
Red Thread	1	0	0	1	2
Bacterial Wilt	0	2	0	0	2
Chemical	1	1	0	0	2
Total	135	90	6	16	247

included: Fungicide evaluation for snow mold control, the effect of carrier volume on chemical controls, the sensitivity of snow molds to various chemicals, and the tolerance of creeping bentgrass, colonial bentgrass, and fine fescue cultivars to snow molds. This past season an additional 5 studies were established at these sites, which include the expansion of the tolerance of creeping bentgrass, colonial bentgrass, and fine fescue cultivars to snow molds and a study which investigates the persistence of snow mold chemicals under winter conditions.

Basal rot anthracnose trial: Thirty-six chemicals were evaluated to determine their effectiveness of control. Results from this study can be found in the Wisconsin Turfgrass Research Reports (WTRR) or several publications handled through the TDDL.

Dollar spot fungicide evaluation trial: Two studies were established at the O. J. Noer Facility to both investigate the control and the effect of carrier volume on control under a golf green management regime. Results are available for both studies in the WTRR.

Take all patch trials: Two studies were conducted this past year to look at both spring and fall fungicide application timings. Results are available in the WTRR.

Brown patch: A 20 treatment trial was conducted this past season to investigate if there were any differences in controlling *Rhizoctonia solani* or *R. zeae*. Results are available in the WTRR.

Sod plots: Thirteen sod growers from across the State have participated in this trial. This long-term evaluation was established this spring and will continue for 4 - 6 years. This year resulted in the first signs of patch diseases. Also, more valuable data has been obtained on the benefits of proper establishment and annual aerification. These results can be found in

the WTRR.

Pythium blight: The second year of this study has proven to be a hit with many chemical companies, and several of them were turned away because of limited space. The UW is one of two facilities in the United States that can provide

such results in pythium blight research. The results may be found in the WTRR, or the Summer Field Day Book.

Summer stress of annual bluegrass: Once again the value of having a bentgrass/annual bluegrass green has been instrumental in

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providing excellent data on this phenomena. The current trend in green management has led to some conditions that managers in the past did not have to contend with. But, some combinations of chemicals are proving to be very beneficial to the health of annual bluegrass maintained under 0.125 inch. The information on this study may be found in the WTRR.

Grass Roots Articles: In total the members of the Turfgrass Pathology Team have written over 12 articles for the Grass Roots this past year. Major authors included Gregos, Millett and Gaard.

WTA Newsletter reports: Several articles were written for the WTA newsletter this year by Gregos and Gaard.

Future Plans:

Starting in February, Dr. Geunhwa Jung will fill the long vacant position of turfgrass pathologist. He is committed to the continued activities of the Turfgrass Disease Diagnostic Lab and its current staffing. This will be vital to ensure the success of Dr. Jung as he has a 60%/40%-research/extension appointment. Geunhwa is already active, even before his start date. He has attended several meetings, been on a research trip to establish snow mold plots, and is actively working with members of the turfgrass team to develop future research programs. With such a heavy research appointment (60%), Geunhwa will be directing much of his attention towards basic research to support

his tenure document, and is currently interested in projects in molecular-assisted breeding and investigating variability of pathogens within a species, e.g., speckled snow mold fungus. The addition of Geunhwa to the Turfgrass Team will prove to vital in the next century as more emphasis is placed on understanding plant genomics - development of disease resistant cultivars.

The lab intends to continue on the same path that has been established over the past 5 years. The applied research program will increase in turfgrass pathology. We hope to become more of a presence in the turf industry now that we are fully staffed in turfgrass pathology. ♣

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Couples Enjoy Mascoutin Golf Club

By **Dave Brandenburg** Golfcourse Superintendent, Rolling Meadows Golf Course

The 1999 edition of the couples of the Dinner Dance was a great success with 32 couples meeting at Mascoutin Golf Club. Hosts Sue and Glenn Gerth, who have been participants at all 16 events, treated us to an excellent weekend.

The event started Friday night at the Heidel House in Green Lake. The hospitality room was hosted by Lynn and Greg Kallenberg of Horst Distributing. Be sure to thank the vendors who sponsored the hospitality room.

The annual Mr. and Mrs. Mow competition was held on the new 9 holes at Mascoutin. The alternate shot format was won by Mary and Bruce Worzella with a 42. Tied for second place with 44 were Mary and Randy Witt and Carol and Gary Huenerberg. The Worzellas have the honor of displaying the Mr. and Mrs. Mow trophy in their home for the year. Mascoutin's new layout was a treat to play, and the course was in excellent condition.

After a wonderful dinner the group hit the dance floor to the music of AJA. Overall the weekend provided a time to relax and enjoy the fall season. Flag event winners included:

Hole 3 Long Drive - Jeff Millies

Hole 4 Closest to the Pin - Women - Nicole Millies

Hole 4 Closest to the Pin - Men - Gary Huenerberg

Hole 6 Closest to the Pin - Women - Cheryl Schmidt

Hole 6 Closest to the Pin - Men - Scott Sann

Hole 7 Long Drive - Women - Pat Weiterman

Hole 8 Longest Pole Putt - Dan Quast

Hole 9 Closest from off Green - Kris Pinkerton

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