



Ireland's Valley

By **Randy DuPont**, Golf Course Superintendent, North Hills Country Club

The Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association's July meeting was held at Glen Erin Golf Club in Janesville. Glen Erin literally means "Ireland's Valley", and the golf course is a true reflection of its name, with its rolling terrain and prominent valley that runs through it.

Opened in 2003, Glen Erin provides an Irish flavor with wide undulating fairways, large greens, pot bunkers, sandy waste areas, and native fescues in the outer rough. Two other characteristics of the golf course which I found quite interesting and unique were its short flagsticks and its "low mow" bluegrass fairways.

I'm not sure of the story behind the short flagsticks. Perhaps, it is an Irish folklore involving leprechauns playing golf!

The bluegrass fairways are exceptional. The golf ball sits up beautifully resulting in player friendly lies. I think most high handicap players (the majority of golfers) would agree that it is much easier to hit a ball off of this surface rather than a "tight" bentgrass fairway. Perhaps more golf courses constructed in the future will consider "low mow" bluegrass fairways as a viable option.

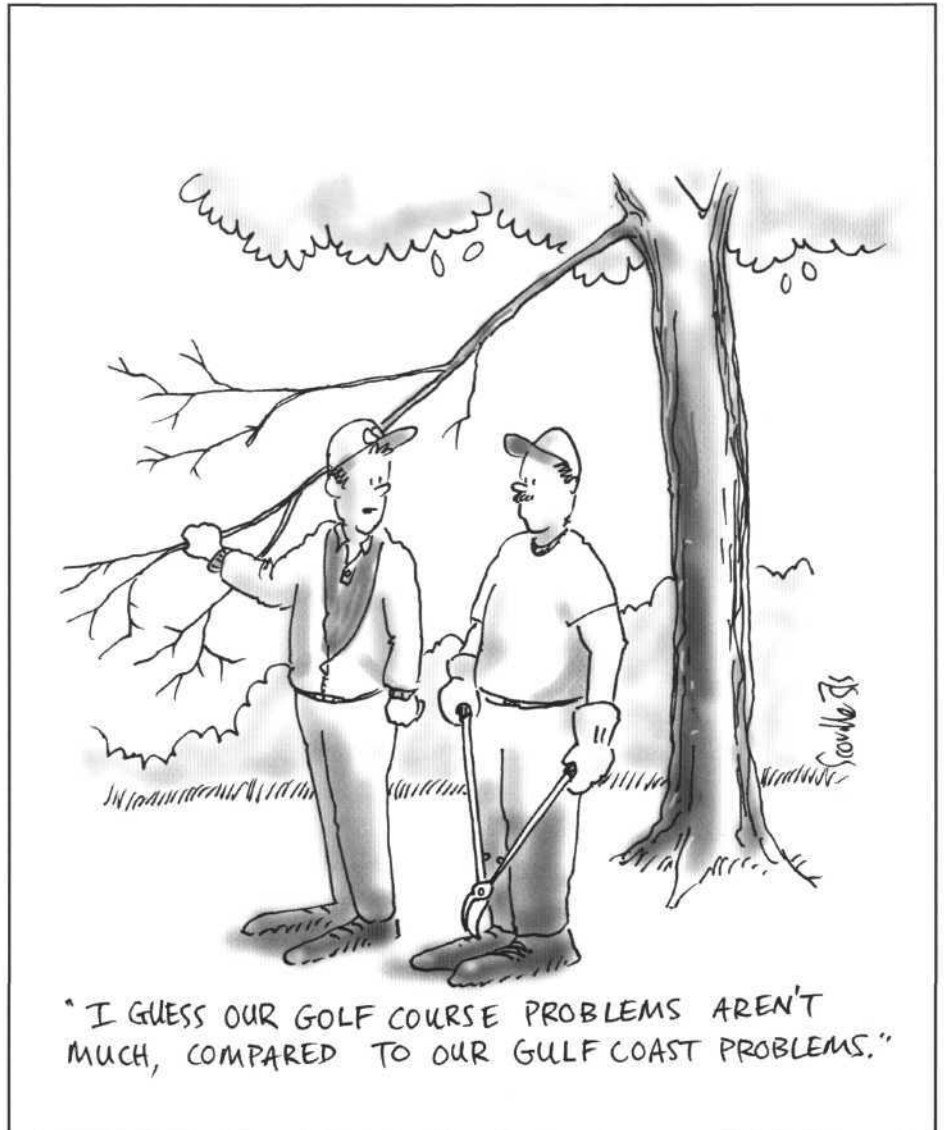
Warm and breezy conditions awaited some 66 participants, not your typical Irish weather. The event for the day was a two-man best ball gross score.

Winning the event with a score of 69 were our friends "south of the border", Chad Ball and Paul Bastron. Prizes were also awarded to the 4th place team of Mike Skenandore and Todd Fregien (73) and the 8th place team of Joel Peterson and Brian Bergner (78).

Six flag events were also awarded. Long drive on #10 went to Ed "Boom-boom" Witkowski with a drive reportedly well over 300 yards. Since this is Ed's second long drive award of the year, we will automatically be checking the trampoline effect of his driver before the next meeting. Winning the long drive on #18 was Jeff Townley. Closest to the pin winners

were Mike Bremmer #2, our host Dave Braasch #7, Mike Skenandore #14, and Joe Knudtson #16. Congratulations to all!

I would like to thank our host superintendent Dave Braasch for the outstanding job he and his staff did. We all know how hot and dry it has been, but you sure wouldn't know it by the excellent condition of the golf course. 🌱





2004-05 Results of Snow Mold Control Trials Conducted in Wisconsin and Minnesota

By Dr. Geunhwa Jung, Steve Abler, and Mark Manemann, Department of Plant Pathology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

INTRODUCTION

This report is a summary of snow mold fungicide trials conducted in 2004-2005 on fairways of three golf courses, Sentryworld Golf Course in Stevens Point, WI, Gateway Golf Club in Land O' Lakes, WI and The Legend at Giants Ridge Golf Resort at Biwabik, MN. Disease pressure at the sites except the Sentryworld GC was very high this season, with untreated control plots averaging 96-98% disease damage. We noted phytotoxicity on the turfgrasses in response to the chemical applications. The objective of the experiments was to evaluate experimental and commercial fungicides for the control of Typhula blight (caused by *Typhula ishikariensis* and *T. incarnata*) and pink snow mold (caused by *Microdochium nivale*).

EXPERIMENTAL METHODS

These evaluations were conducted at Sentryworld GC in Stevens Point, WI, Gateway GC in Land O' Lakes, WI, and Giants Ridge GR in Biwabik, MN on creeping bentgrass (*Agrostis stolonifera*) maintained at fairway cutting heights. Individual plots measured 3 ft x 10 ft (30 ft²), and were arranged in a randomized complete block design with three replications. Individual treatments were applied at a nozzle pressure of 40 p.s.i using a CO₂ pressurized boom sprayer equipped with two XR Teejet 8005 VS nozzles. All fungicides were agitated by hand and applied in the equivalent of 2 gallons of water per 1000ft². Granular applications were applied using a shaker jar. Early applications were applied on October 14, 2004, and late applications were applied on November 11, 2004 at Sentryworld and different dates of other locations listed in Table 1. The experimental plot area was not inoculated. There was continuous snow cover on the plots from January 1, 2005 to March 25, 2005 (84 days) at Sentryworld GC, from November 27, 2004 to April 7, 2005 (132 days) at Gateway GC, and from November 27, 2004 to April 3, 2005 (128 days) at Giants Ridge GR. Percent Typhula blight and phytotoxicity ratings were recorded on April 6, 2005 at Sentryworld but only Typhula blight rating was recorded on April 12 and April 11 at Gateway and Giants Ridge, respectively. Data obtained was subjected to an analysis of variance to determine significant differences between treatments. The mean percent Typhula blight and mean phytotoxicity for each individual treatment are located in the table shown on page 23.

RESULTS and DISCUSSION

Disease pressure at Sentryworld was low to moderate this year with untreated checks averaging 18% disease. The dominant pathogens causing damage were *Typhula ishikariensis*, and to a lesser degree, *Typhula incarnata*. Multiple treatments listed in the table provided 100% control of the Typhula blight. There were very noticeable differences in the color of treated plots. Because of this, phytotoxicity of each treatment was recorded as well. On the other hand, disease pressure, mainly caused by *T. ishikariensis*, was extremely high at Gateway and at Giants Ridge. The untreated control plots had more than 96% disease damage. Moderate disease pressure of *Microdochium nivale* was also observed at Giant Ridge. In addition, localized symptoms of *Microdochium* patch were noticed at the time of late fungicide application treatment (November 4, 2004). This early disease incidence was observed mostly in the third replication of the plots and may have confound the statistical interpretation somewhat.

At Gateway, eight treatments (#25, 26, 30, 37, 61, 64, 65, and 70), mixtures of either two or three fungicides, had an average of 5% disease or less in this severe season (see Table). Some of the treatments (#30, 64, and 70) also provided excellent control (an average of 10% or less damage) over snow molds at Giants Ridge. However, the treatments, #37, 61, and 65 had 19%, 16.3%, and 13.3% damage, respectively. Also, two experimentals (treatments #25 and 26) had more than 16% damage at the Giants Ridge. These variations in the efficacy between the two sites might be due to the early disease occurrence seen before the late application or the variability caused by visual disease estimates. In addition, the application dates were different for each trial. Hope that some of treatments will give you more options to choose for this coming winter. For more information, please check our website, www.plantpath.wisc.edu/tddl where a copy of 2004-05 snow mold field day book and treatment pictures are stored. ♡

Table 1. Application dates, snow cover days, and rating dates for snow mold control trials at Sentryworld Golf Course in Stevens Point, WI, Gateway Golf Club in Land O' Lakes, WI, and Giants Ridge Golf Resort in Biwabik, MN.

City/State	Application date in 2004		Snow cover days	Rating date In 2005
	Early	Late		
Stevens Point, WI	Oct. 14	Nov. 11	84	April 6
Land O' Lakes, WI	Oct. 12	Nov. 3	132	April 12
Biwabik, MN	Oct. 11	Nov. 4	128	April 11


WISCONSIN PATHOLOGY REPORT

Table 2. Snow mold and phytotoxicity ratings recorded on April 6, 2005 at Stevens Point, WI and snow mold rating on April 12, 2005 at Land O' Lakes, WI and on April 11, 2005 at Biwabik, MN.

Treatment	Rate	Timing ^a	% Typhula blight ^b			Phytotoxicity ^c
			Stevens Point	Land O' Lakes	Biwabik	
1 Untreated Control			18.3 abc	98.3 ab	96.3 ab	6.0a-e
2 CL-EXP-2	4.00 FL OZ/M	Late	7.7 c-h	88.3 a-d	-	5.7b-f
3 CL-EXP-2	4.00 FL OZ/M	Late	1.0 gh	63.3 c-i	-	6.3a-d
Daconil Ultrex	5.00 OZ/M	Late				
4 CL-EXP-2	4.00 FL OZ/M	Late	6.7 c-h	68.3 a-g	-	6.3a-d
Daconil Ultrex	5.00 OZ/M	Late				
Magnum	3.50 FL OZ/M	Late				
5 CL-EXP-2	4.00 FL OZ/M	Late	11.3 a-h	70.0 a-g	-	6.0a-e
Spotrele	8.00 OZ/M	Late				
6 CL-EXP-2	4.00 FL OZ/M	Late	7.7 c-h	73.3 a-e	-	5.7b-f
Spotrele	8.00 OZ/M	Late				
Magnum	3.50 FL OZ/M	Late				
7 Endorse	4.00 OZ/M	Late	6.7 c-h	71.7 a-f	60 a-k	6.3a-d
Spectro	5.75 OZ/M	Late				
8 Endorse	4.00 OZ/M	Late	6.0 d-h	80.0 a-d	-	5.0d-g
Spotrele	8.00 OZ/M	Late				
9 Spectro	4.00 OZ/M	Early	5.0 d-h	58.3 d-j	60 a-k	6.3a-d
Endorse	4.00 OZ/M	Late				
Spectro	4.00 OZ/M	Late				
10 CL-EXP-4	1.00 OZ/M	Late	0.0 h	86.7 a-d	38.3 g-q	6.0a-e
11 CL-EXP-4	1.00 OZ/M	Late	1.0 gh	7.3 m-p	24 j-q	6.3a-d
Spectro	5.75 OZ/M	Late				
12 CL-EXP-4	1.00 OZ/M	Late	0.3 h	66.7 a-h	-	6.0a-e
Spotrele	8.00 OZ/M	Late				
13 Spectro	4.00 OZ/M	Early	0.0 h	6.0 nop	7 opq	6.0a-e
CL-EXP-4	1.00 OZ/M	Late				
Spectro	4.00 OZ/M	Late				
14 Daconil Weather Stik	5.50 FL OZ/M	Late	10.0 a-h	71.7 a-f	86.7 a-f	5.7b-f
15 Spotrele	8.00 OZ/M	Late	5.7 d-h	88.3 a-d	90.7 a-e	6.0a-e
16 Endorse	4.00 OZ/M	Late	11.7 a-h	91.7 a-d	65.0 a-j	6.0a-e
17 Spectro	5.75 OZ/M	Late	4.0 e-h	75.0 a-e	90.7 a-e	6.0a-e
18 Spectro	4.00 OZ/M	Late	5.0 d-h	78.7 a-e	50.0 c-o	6.0a-e
19 Magnum	3.50 FL OZ/M	Late	16.7 a-d	100.0 a	-	6.0a-e
20 AND3224	6.36 LB/M	Late	3.0 e-h	73.3 a-e	66.7 a-j	7.3a
21 AND4333	9.00 LB/M	Late	0.0 h	26.7 j-p	48.3 c-p	5.3c-f
22 AND4334	9.00 LB/M	Late	0.0 h	15.0 k-p	78.7 a-f	5.3c-f
23 AND4335	9.00 LB/M	Late	6.7 c-h	12.0 m-p	36.7 g-q	5.3c-f
24 A14036	4.70 FL OZ/M	Late	0.0 h	21.7 k-p	35.0 h-q	5.7b-f
25 A14036	9.20 FL OZ/M	Late	0.0 h	4.0 op	25.0 j-q	5.3c-f
26 A14036	18.60 FL OZ/M	Late	0.0 h	1.7 p	16.7 k-q	4.7e-h
27 Medallion	0.14 OZ/M	Late	5.0 d-h	38.3 g-q	41.7 f-q	6.0a-e
Daconil WeatherStik	2.40 FL OZ/M	Late				
Banner MAXX	1.70 FL OZ/M	Late				
28 Signature	4.00 OZ/M	Early/Late	3.3 e-h	13.3 j-p	45.0 e-q	6.3a-d
Chipco 26GT	4.00 FL OZ/M	Early/Late				
Daconil WeatherStik	5.50 FL OZ/M	Early/Late				
29 Signature	4.00 OZ/M	Early/Late	0.0 h	19.0 k-p	10.3 n-q	6.3a-d
Armada	1.50 OZ/M	Early/Late				
30 Armada	1.50 OZ/M	Early/Late	0.0 h	4.0 op	1.0 q	4.3fgh
Turficide 400	6.00 FL OZ/M	Early/Late				
31 Armada	1.50 OZ/M	Early/Late	0.7 h	45.0 e-l	17.7 k-q	4.3fgh
32 Signature	4.00 OZ/M	Early/Late	9.0 b-h	91.7 a-d	96.7 ab	6.7abc
33 Chipco 26GT	4.00 FL OZ/M	Early/Late	8.3 b-h	88.3 a-d	80.0 a-h	5.7b-f
34 Daconil WeatherStik	5.50 FL OZ/M	Early/Late	2.3 fgh	71.7 a-f	73.3 a-l	5.3c-f
35 Turficide 400	6.00 FL OZ/M	Early/Late	0.0 h	85.0 a-d	53.3 a-n	4.7e-h
36 LESCO 18 Plus	4.00 FL OZ/M	Early	0.0 h	33.3 j-p	40.7 g-q	4.3fgh
LESCO Manicare Ultrex	5.00 OZ/M	Early				
LESCO Revere 4000	8.00 FL OZ/M	Late				
37 LESCO 18 Plus	4.00 FL OZ/M	Late	0.0 h	3.0 op	19.0 k-q	5.3c-f
LESCO Manicare Ultrex	5.00 OZ/M	Late				
LESCO Revere 4000	8.00 FL OZ/M	Late				
38 LESCO Spectator	1.25 FL OZ/M	Early	0.0 h	40.0 f-m	40.0 g-q	4.3fgh
LESCO Revere 4000	8.00 FL OZ/M	Late				
39 LESCO Spectator	1.25 FL OZ/M	Late	0.0 h	7.0 m-p	13.3 l-q	5.3c-f
Medallion	0.50 OZ/M	Late				
40 LESCO Revere 4000	12.00 FL OZ/M	Late	0.0 h	76.7 a-e	51.7 b-o	2.3j
41 Insignia	0.70 OZ/M	Early	4.3 d-h	28.3 j-p	40.0 g-q	6.3a-d
LESCO 18 Plus	4.00 FL OZ/M	Late				
LESCO Manicare Ultrex	5.00 OZ/M	Late				
42 LESCO Spectator	1.00 FL OZ/M	Early	0.3 h	18.7 k-p	55.0 a-n	5.7b-f
Insignia	0.70 OZ/M	Late				
LESCO Manicare Ultrex	5.00 OZ/M	Late				
43 Insignia	0.70 OZ/M	Early	0.0 h	10.0 m-p	45.0 e-q	3.7ghi
LESCO Manicare Ultrex	5.00 OZ/M	Early				
LESCO Revere 4000	8.00 FL OZ/M	Late				
44 Compass	0.50 OZ/M	Late	0.3 h	16.7 k-p	24.3 j-q	5.0d-g
LESCO Revere 4000	8.00 FL OZ/M	Late				
45 Insignia	0.90 OZ/M	Late	0.0 h	16.7 k-p	23.3 j-q	3.7ghi
Iprodione Pro	4.00 FL OZ/M	Late				
LESCO Revere 4000	8.00 FL OZ/M	Late				
46 Insignia	0.90 OZ/M	Late	0.7 h	12.3 m-p	32.3 i-q	5.0d-g
Iprodione Pro	4.00 FL OZ/M	Late				
LESCO Manicare Ultrex	3.20 OZ/M	Late				
47 LESCO 18 Plus	4.00 FL OZ/M	Late	20.0 ab	86.7 a-d	68.3 a-j	5.7b-f
48 LESCO Manicare Ultrex	5.00 OZ/M	Late	13.3 a-g	76.7 a-e	97.7 a	6.3a-d
49 LESCO Revere 4000	8.00 FL OZ/M	Late	4.3 d-h	81.7 a-d	60.0 a-k	3.3hij
50 LESCO Spectator	1.25 FL OZ/M	Late	0.0 h	10.0 m-p	56.7 a-m	5.0d-g
51 LESCO Spectator	1.00 FL OZ/M	Early	4.7 d-h	62.0 c-l	91.7 a-d	6.3a-d
52 Insignia	0.70 OZ/M	Late	21.7 a	93.3 abc	87.3 a-f	6.0a-e
53 Compass	0.50 OZ/M	Late	2.7 e-h	88.3 a-d	65.0 a-j	5.7b-f
54 Iprodione Pro	4.00 FL OZ/M	Late	15.0 a-e	90.0 a-d	75.0 a-l	6.0a-e
55 EXP01	0.47 FL OZ/M	Early/Late	5.0 d-h	58.3 d-j	-	6.3a-d

56 EXP01	0.63 FL OZ/M	Early/Late	5.0 d-h	65.0 b-l	-	6.0a-e
57 EXP01	0.79 FL OZ/M	Early/Late	1.0 gh	61.7 c-l	-	6.0a-e
58 EXP02	0.55 OZ/M	Early/Late	11.7 a-h	81.7 a-d	-	6.3a-d
59 EXP02	0.83 OZ/M	Early/Late	3.3 e-h	71.7 a-f	-	5.7b-f
60 EXP02	1.10 OZ/M	Early/Late	4.3 d-h	70.0 a-g	-	5.7b-f
61 Chipco 26GT	4.00 FL OZ/M	Late	1.7 fgh	5.0 nop	16.3 k-q	3.0ij
Daconil Ultrex	5.00 OZ/M	Late				
LESCO Revere 4000	8.00 FL OZ/M	Late				
62 Chipco 26GT	4.00 FL OZ/M	Late	15.0 a-e	91.7 a-d	87.7 a-e	5.3c-f
63 Daconil Ultrex	5.00 OZ/M	Late	6.7 c-h	91.7 a-d	93.3 abc	6.0a-e
64 Chipco 26GT	4.00 FL OZ/M	Late	0.0 h	4.0 op	3.7 pq	3.3hij
Bayleton	1.00 OZ/M	Late				
Turficide 400	6.00 FL OZ/M	Late				
65 Bayleton	2.00 OZ/M	Late	0.0 h	5.0 nop	13.3 i-q	4.3fgh
Turficide 400	6.00 FL OZ/M	Late				
66 Bayleton	1.00 OZ/M	Late	1.7 fgh	81.7 a-d	81.3 a-g	6.0a-e
67 Bayleton	2.00 OZ/M	Late	0.3 h	73.3 a-e	81.7 a-g	5.0d-g
68 Turficide 400	6.00 FL OZ/M	Late	2.3 fgh	85.0 a-d	51.7 b-o	5.0d-g
69 Banner MAXX	3.00 FL OZ/M	Late	1.7 fgh	6.7 nop	7.3 opq	4.7e-h
Medallion	0.50 OZ/M	Late				
70 Banner MAXX	4.00 FL OZ/M	Late	0.7 h	1.7 p	10.0 n-q	6.3a-d
Medallion	0.50 OZ/M	Late				
71 Banner MAXX	3.00 FL OZ/M	Late	2.7 e-h	45.0 e-l	58.3 a-l	5.0d-g
72 Banner MAXX	4.00 FL OZ/M	Late	3.3 e-h	26.7 j-p	46.7 d-q	5.0d-g
73 Medallion	0.50 OZ/M	Late	10.0 a-h	73.3 a-e	16.7 k-q	5.7b-f
74 Daconil Weather Stik	5.50 FL OZ/M	Late	5.7 d-h	11.7 m-p	36.0 g-q	6.0a-e
Medallion	0.50 OZ/M	Late				
75 Prostar	4.50 OZ/M	Late	0.0 h	35.7 h-o	12.0 m-q	5.0d-g
Turficide 400	6.00 FL OZ/M	Late				
76 Prostar	3.00 OZ/M	Late	0.0 h	7.0 m-p	12.3 m-q	4.7e-h
Turficide 400	6.00 FL OZ/M	Late				
77 Prostar	4.50 OZ/M	Late	0.0 h	83.3 a-d	55.0 a-n	6.0a-e
78 Prostar	3.00 OZ/M	Late	0.7 h	86.7 a-d	68.0 a-j	6.3a-d
79 Heritage	0.70 OZ/M	Late	0.7 h	46.7 e-k	31.0 l-q	5.7b-f
Turficide 400	6.00 FL OZ/M	Late				
80 Heritage	0.70 OZ/M	Late	20.0 ab	93.3 abc	86.7 a-f	5.3c-f
81 Ecoguard	20.00 FL OZ/M	Late	13.7 a-f	100.0 a	93.0 abc	7.0ab

^a Early and late fungicide treatments were applied on Oct. 14 and Nov. 11, 2004, respectively at Stevens Point, WI; Oct. 12 and Nov. 3, 2004 at Land O' Lakes, WI; and Oct. 11 and Nov. 4, 2004 at Biwabik, MN.
^b Means (percent diseased area) followed by same letter do not significantly differ (P=0.05, Duncan's New MRT).
^c "-" means that those treatments were not evaluated at Biwabik site.
^d Phytotoxicity was rated on a scale of 1-9 where 1 = straw colored, 6 = acceptable, 9 = dark green.




With methylene urea and sulfate of ammonia combined in each tiny granule, MESA works immediately to provide a rich green color. And by slowly releasing its nitrogen, MESA lasts considerably longer than sulfur-coated urea without causing unwanted flush growth.

How can something that lasts so long...work so fast?

Extended-release MESA greens faster and lasts longer than SCU.

So protect your turf with fast acting, long lasting MESA. Look for Lebanon Pro 25-2-5 with 51% MESA. For more information, see your LebanonTurf Distributor, or call 1-800-233-0628. Or, visit www.LebanonTurf.com.





BOB F.

BRETT

CHRISTINE

JEREMY

KARI

BOB M.

SHARON

**SAME GREAT
PEOPLE.
SAME GREAT
SERVICE.
MORE
EXCELLENT
PRODUCTS
THAN EVER.**

FINES FREE
TOPDRESSING®

NORTH FACE
BUNKER SAND®

7:2:1® BLEND

WAUPACA SAND AND SOLUTIONS

CART PATH GRANITE

NITROGREEN SAND®

BEST BUNKER SAND

CUSTOM MIXES

info@waupacasand.com

(715) 258-8566

Waupaca | Oconomowoc | Black River Falls | Antioch | Rockford | Morris



Assorted Short Essays of Golf

By **Pat Norton**, Golf Course Superintendent, Nettle Creek Country Club

The following short essays are based on the truth...true short essays of golf and golf management as seen through the eyes of one observer who happens to be very close to the scene.

These essays are comments on that which did actually happen during the very intense golf season of '05...a season in which we all saw severe drought, severe financial pressure, and severe employee/staff/management meltdown.

Not to worry...everybody is fine as of this writing...and still working here at Corn Country CC. These are all normal happenings at any golf facility...with the problem being that if the pressure and meltdown occurs too frequently...people tend to leave and look for less seasonally stressful means of supporting themselves and their loved ones.

The Fight for F&B Sanity. It's as if there are three or four separate orbital worlds spinning away like so many merry-go-rounds here at CCCC.

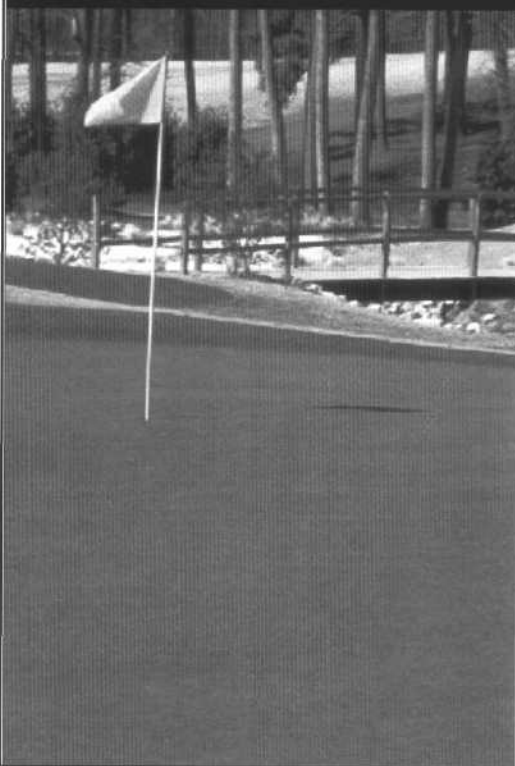
The F&B orbit is always moving at a faster rate than any of the other orbits...and tends to generate a bit of

insanity that builds as the weeks fly by. It is a much more intense orbit...with seemingly much more stress and pressure. The pressure is a result of having to deal with the public golfer on a constant basis in a retail situation. The purchasing of food and drink that is to be consumed into the body seems to generate interaction that is much more personal in nature...and results in pressure and stress. Anybody involved at a private club can simply insert the word *member* for the phrase *public golfer* in this paragraph to understand the concept...

The F&B orbit is also almost totally female in character...so when things go slightly out of orbit there are tears, anger, and the cold shoulder, and a sense of it all being a sisterhood thing in which males are good only for errands, assistance, and repairs.

Also, male advice from a fellow manager is usually not appreciated. The only male advice that is tolerated by the F&B females...out of necessity...is that of the elderly male who happens to own the golf course.

Interestingly, it is that elderly male advice, also known as micromanagement, that oftentimes gener-



Consider Primo MAXX® the turf's personal trainer.

Get your turf in top shape. Primo MAXX PGR makes turf thicker and stronger. Preparing it for summer's toughest challenges, like heat, drought, and disease. Not to mention everyday wear and tear. So it can be in prime condition all season long.



Contact Jim Shone at 1-708-217-8509 to learn more
about Syngenta products.

Important: Always read and follow label instructions before buying or using this product.
©2002 Syngenta. Syngenta Professional Products, Greensboro, NC 27419. MAXX®, Primo®, and the Syngenta logo
are trademarks of a Syngenta Group Company.

www.syngentaprofessionalproducts.com



MTI Distributing proudly represents the finest products in the turf industry to Western Wisconsin.



TORO
Count on it.

ates the tears, the anger, and the cold shoulder to the rest of us who are simply trying to co-exist with those in the F&B orbit.

August and September have developed into big outing months for us here at Corn Country CC. As of this writing at the end of August, the insanity is really starting to build up. Summer female college help has left our employ...leaving a skeleton crew of F&B veterans to finish off the season. With a full six weeks left of intense outings, there is a strong sense of enduring the daily load...of getting through the next outing...and of finishing the season through until Thanksgiving.

The question then becomes... what about next year? Will everybody be willing to gear up again in '06? Our F&B manager is unquestionably great in all facets of her position...and is finishing her third season here. It is not a matter of wanting her to continue here...it's a matter of her keeping sane and wanting to continue here.

The Boys in the Shop. As opposed to the sisterhood thing next door...the boys in the pro shop have their own little brotherhood with an orbit that moves in fits and starts.

Their orbit sometimes operates very smoothly...and sometimes almost grinds to a halt. Stepping onto their merry-go-round is much easier. When I walk into the golf shop...I can usually find the person or answer that I seek...but sometimes not.

Our golf pro is 24 years old...and is enduring his second season at the helm of the golf operation. He now understands completely that his position requires a huge time commitment and much personal sacrifice. He has to worry about outings, public play, membership issues, expense control, merchandise sales, and staffing.

Needless to say...his lack of experience creates stress for himself. He has trouble delegating to those below him...which is so typical of a young manager. He is also very sensitive to criticism...which has led to some further problems.

Earlier this summer it looked certain that he was going to jump off of the public golf merry-go-round and get out of the golf business...during the golf season. After checking into the alternative employment field of insurance and financial products...which always sounds good...but rarely is...he decided to stick it out for the remainder of the '05 season. Will he return next year...and be better able to withstand the rigors of his position?

Raise your hand here while reading this if you can identify with the above paragraphs...aren't golf facilities everywhere just filled with these soap operas? The interesting part of coming to work is not the golf course or the golfers...it's the human interest side of things...it's the employees!

Our assistant pro is also 24 years old...and also a grad of the Ferris State golf management program. A month ago this young man was totally sure of his own depar-

ture from their brotherhood. If his mentor were to depart...so definitely would he also. Myrtle Beach was beckoning...as do all of the Sun Belt golf meccas...singing their song of greener pastures for the young golf bucks who aren't satisfied working seasonally at Upper Midwestern golf facilities.

So, for a while there during the summer...it looked like both of these young, fairly able golf professionals were to be leaving us...*in the middle of the golf season!!*

It was clear to us older managers that quite a bit of immaturity was showing itself in these two self-centered young men...as was the fact imparted to them collectively by us that finishing the season was mandatory for us, for them, and for their professional futures!

The situation has cooled off appreciably since then...and both guys will finish the season and probably return for next year. It's somewhat a marriage of convenience between an elderly owner who doesn't want to start up yet again with new golf professionals...and young guys who now seem to realize that 3-4 years service at a golf course looks much better on a resume than 1.5 years...

The Drought of Summer'05. Looking out over a beautiful, green golf course in early September makes it difficult to even remember how bad conditions were in

northern Illinois for 2/3 of the summer of 2005.

By now, the prairie grasses that we have all across this golf course are five feet tall, changing color nicely as the seed heads mature, and provide excellent beauty and backdrop for many areas of this goat ranch.

By now, almost all drought damaged areas have recovered or are recovering nicely. Bentgrass fairways that looked very stressed now look beautiful. Mother Nature has decided to be kind to us...and is blessing us with warm, sunny days and crisp, cool nights.

The drought that we experienced...and the severe damage to the corn and soybean crop...pales into insignificance compared to all of the problems with Hurricane Katrina.

The drought was insignificant also when compared to the Wisconsin August tornados. So, what the drought really boiled down to was simply 60-90 days of tough weather, long days, and additional irrigation repair expense. Big deal. We have all been through tough summers...which, like this one, are usually finished off by a late summer break in the weather...and an autumn that soon lets us forget the difficult days and the heat of summer.

The Fight for Rounds & Revenue. For the second year running...our little corner of the golf world is expe-

**FIDELITY GOLF SERVICES LLC
DOING BUSINESS AS
CHAMPION GREENS!**



**CHAMPION GREENS
WIEDENMANN
AERIFICATION**

lifts and fractures soil to decompact even the hardest ground with results you can feel!

CHAMPION GREENS AERIFICATION SERVICES

• **Greens and Tees**

Deep tine with hollow or solid tines
18 greens \$1000.00 plus tines used
Approx time 5 hrs.

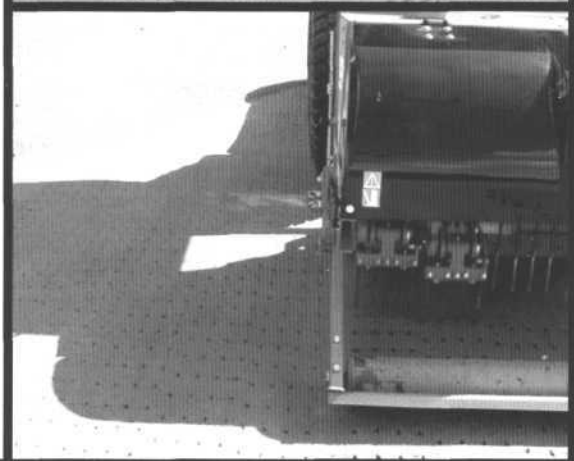
• **Fairways**

Hollow tine for cores or solid tine up to 8" depth
\$100.00 per Acre plus tines used

References available
Travel charge may apply

For information and schedule call

Keith Kaat (920) 894-4857, Fidelity Golf Services, LLC
dealers for
Wiedenmann & SISIS





IR Ingersoll-Rand Milwaukee

Meeting the Needs of Wisconsin's Construction Industries



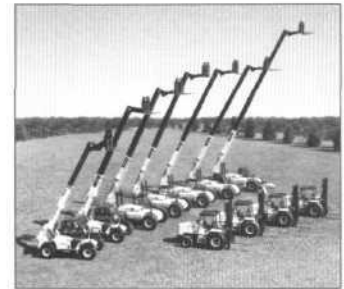
Light Tower



Message & Arrow Boards



Soil & Asphalt Compactor



Forklifts:
Complete Inventory



Club Car Utility Vehicle with plow & cab



Generators from
G20 to G575



Air Compressors
up to 1600 CFM

Rentals • Sales • Parts • Service

- Soil and Asphalt Compactors
- Air Tools
- Hoist
- Generators
- Message & Arrow Boards
- Compressors
- Light Towers
- Rock Drills
- Fork Lifts
- Utility Vehicles



DIRECTTM

On-Site Construction Equipment Service

Ingersoll Rand Equipment Service Company

1-800-338-5436

12311 W. Silver Spring Dr. • Milwaukee, WI 53225

www.irmil.com

riencing stagnation in rounds and revenue. We managed only 24,500 rounds in 2004...and if we have an exceptional fall 2005...we might equal or slightly surpass that mediocre level of play. What exactly is happening here? Is Corn Country CC alone in its fight to somewhat achieve our budgeted revenue numbers? Or, is it a case by case situation in which some golf courses, whether public or private, are doing well and others fighting it out? We are located only 1.5 hours outside of downtown Chicago and there are some seven million people in ChicagoLand...yet we struggle. We are directly in the path of major population, residential, and commercial growth.

There is one private club here and one public facility, namely CCCC. Neither club is doing well financially...but both are managing to survive. The small town, private country club is very typical...short of members...money very tight...staff very dedicated...everybody hoping for better days and a full membership.

We, likewise, are experiencing much the same thing. Every week...every month...we are open for the business of public golf. We operate an excellent public golf facility in all areas...but yet, do not bring in the revenue \$\$\$ that we need to hit budget...which, needless to say... affects our cash flow severely.

Blackberry Oaks Golf Course is located only 35 minutes NE of us towards the Chicago suburbs. The growth wave has hit Yorkville full force...wherein new residential developments are literally all over the Yorkville and Oswego areas. This translates into lots of new golfers for Blackberry...so much so that they are generating about \$200,000 in golf revenue per month this summer. That doesn't include any F&B revenue...as they lease that out and net another \$6,000 monthly from their lessee. That is what public golf should be all about.

We...on the other hand...are working hard to produce \$120,000-\$140,000 in golf revenue each month. Our golf courses are very comparable...as are our owners and staff. Blackberry does have a really experienced general manager...who has been there since the course opened in 1994. He knows the golf business really well...and has developed their business, especially over the last couple of years, to a very high level.

So, the combination of the population factor and an experienced golf business manager has led at least one golf course to a very high level of success.

In view of all of the struggles of so many golf courses...new and old...it's nice to know that financial success in golf is possible. It is an elusive formula...and requires the coming together of many factors. Unfortunately, many courses have never found it and never will find it.

Others, such as ours and maybe yours, will continue the annual fight...and strive to meet the annual budget. Our future is certain. We will continue on...and hope that we can better assemble that elusive formula for financial success in public golf.

One could say that, through it all, 2005 has been a very interesting...yet normal... golf season. ♣



Midwest Curb
The Modern Way to Install Curbs


Specializing in:
Parking Lots - Cart Paths - Green Protection

262-363-2281
midwestcurb.com

PENN G-2 Creeping Bentgrass

What makes it so different is what makes it so good

The list of what makes PENN G-2 so different and so good goes on and on. Moderate fertility, heat tolerance, disease resistance and reduced *Poa annua* invasion are just a few of the highlights. What it all comes down to is simple. Whether you are building, renovating or interseeding, PENN G-2 is your grass. Why? Because it's as good as it is different.



Putting Green Quality
Creeping Bentgrass

The same Bentgrass used at the 1999 U.S. Open at Pinhurst No. 2

LESCO®

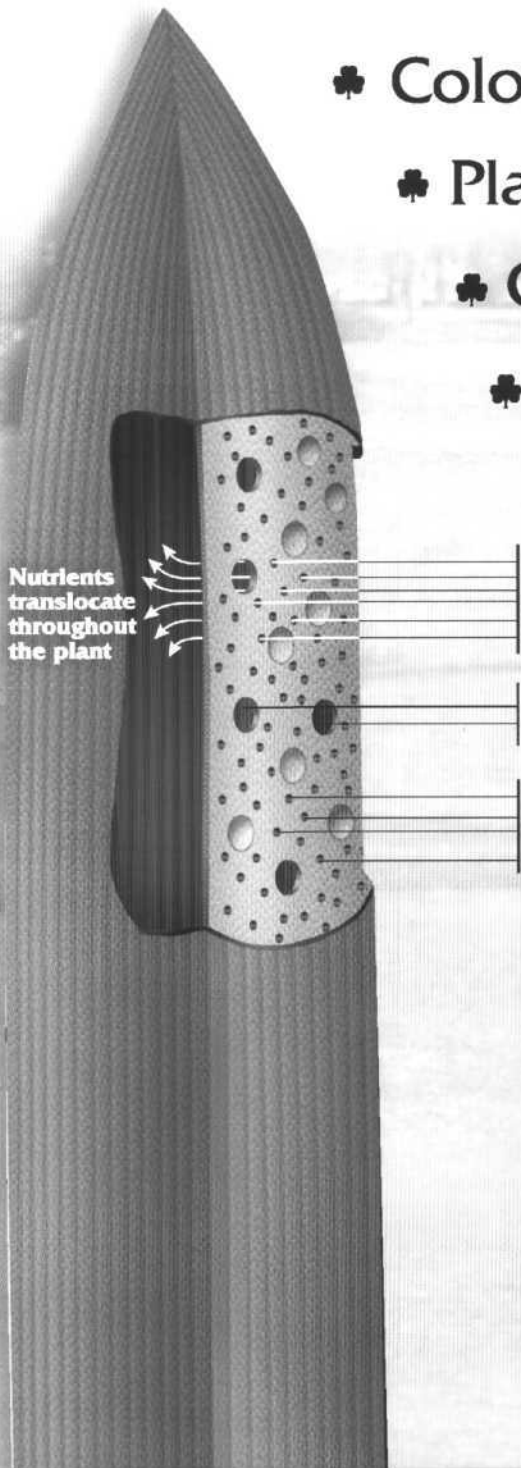
800-321-5325

LESCO is a registered trademark of LESCO Technologies, LLC. The PENN G-2 logo is a trademark of LESCO Technologies, LLC. PENN G-2 is a registered trademark of Tec-2-Green, Corp.



Emerald Isle True Foliar® Nutrition

- ♣ Color
- ♣ Plant Health
- ♣ Controlled Growth
- ♣ Consistency



Nutrients
translocate
throughout
the plant

Emerald Isle NutriRational True Foliar®

Stomatal openings

Historically the entryway into foliage for liquid fertilizers. Large openings, but more often closed than open.

Transcuticular pore spaces

These are always open, more numerous, but smaller. **NutriRational True Foliar®** is formulated so the molecular structures are small enough to pass through these pore spaces and penetrate into the turfgrass plant.

Root uptake of fertilizer uses plant energy, leading to greater stress.

Roots in decline or under stress are limited in their ability to take up nutrients.

**Call Dan Quast at DHD Tree Products
Toll free 866-DHD-TREE (343-8733)**