

The Bluegrass Billbug

Outbreak in Minnesota

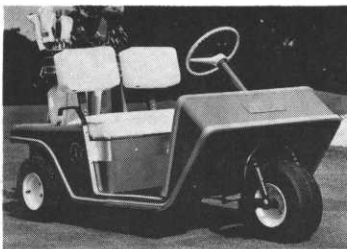
by Scott Sargent, Entomologist
Northrup, King and Company
Eden Prairie, Minnesota

If your turf has shown brown patchy areas this summer, it may be victim to the bluegrass billbug. The bluegrass billbug is an insect that has been present for at least 100 years in the Midwest and has been observed to be a serious pest of bluegrass in Nebraska since 1961. Yet, we know of no serious outbreaks of the pest in turfgrass in Minnesota before 1976.

The weather this summer has been abnormally hot and dry in central and southern Minnesota, the temperature and rainfall readings being more typical of a Nebraska summer. Thus, conditions have been good for an outbreak of a Nebraska pest, the bluegrass billbug.

The first billbug damage we noticed this year was in the southwestern Minneapolis suburb of Eden Prairie at the home of Northrup King turf agronomist, Howard Kaerwer. In early June, Kaerwer noticed that his relatively problem free Nugget bluegrass lawn was developing symptoms that from a distance appeared to be a mild case of "dollar spot". During the week of June 21, however, the symptoms changed from barely noticeable to severe, the turf showing many unisghtly brown spots. Examination of the turf revealed the small,

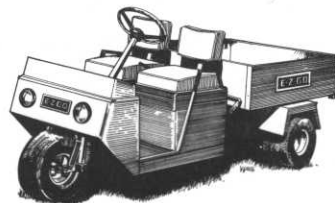
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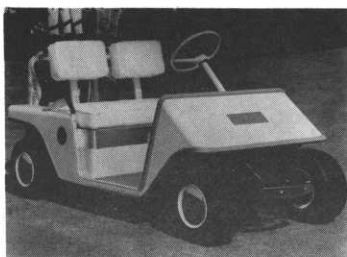
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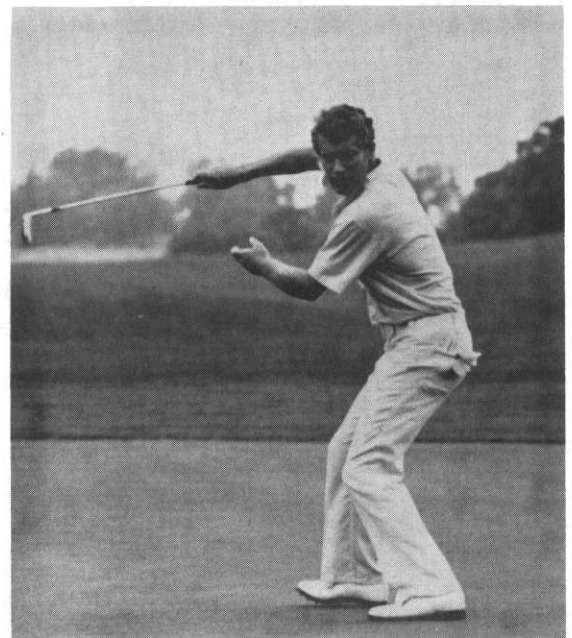
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FEATURED SPEAKER



Governor Wendell Anderson, an avid golfer as shown by the picture above, will be the featured speaker at the M.G.C.S.A. Annual Golf Tournament. It was also announced that genial Jim Kaufman of Minnesota Toro will be the master of ceremonies.