

RESULTS 1980 MINNESOTA TURF SURVEY

COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

In September 1980 a survey was sent to over 1,000 turf growers in Minnesota to assess their problems, needs and interests. The purpose of the survey was to determine the most important concerns of turf growers in Minnesota. The results were needed in order to develop an extension program in turfgrass management which addressed the major problems of those involved in growing turf. A secondary purpose of the survey was to bring to the attention of turf managers throughout the state the fact that the university had employed an extension specialist with major responsibility in turfgrass.

GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS' SURVEY

The interest in different turfgrass topics is shown in Figures 2-A and 2-B on Page 10 for the 71 golf course superintendents who responded to the survey. Interest was very high for any topics related to maintenance practices or green construction. Disease control received the highest rating of all topics. It was also the most frequently mentioned problem in survey question #2.

Over 50% of the golf course superintendents felt disease was one of their three biggest problems. Compaction and traffic problems were also listed by many
continued on Page 9



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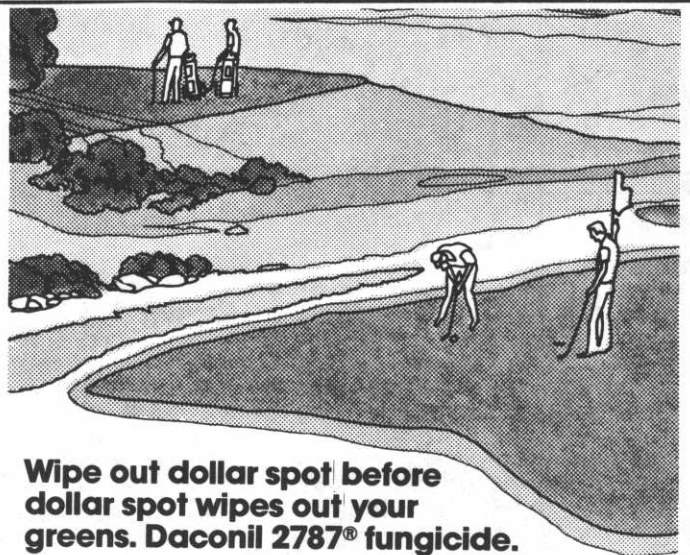
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continued from Page 8

superintendents (44%). Generally this was listed as compaction on the greens, but some superintendents also mentioned compaction and traffic of tees and cart paths. Irrigation and watering were listed as problems by a greater percentage of golf course superintendents (37%) than by any other group of turf managers, but weed control was not considered as big a problem for golf course superintendents (35%) as it was for other groups of turf managers. When weed control was mentioned by golf course superintendents, it was often a problem with annual bluegrass.

Turf renovation in the form of rebuilding greens, tees or starting a sand top-dressing program was the most popular expectation for the coming five years (Figure 2-D). A significant number (21%) of the superintendents felt they were going to have increasing budget problems while 14% were anticipating expansion.

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GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

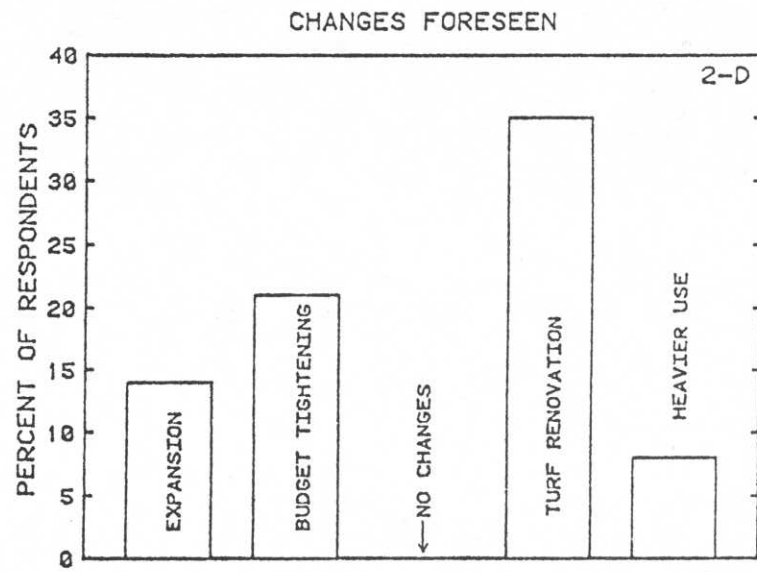
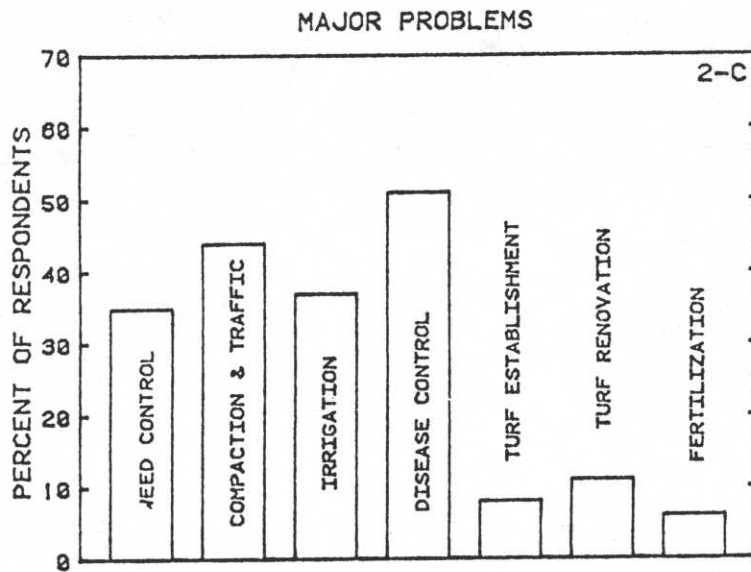
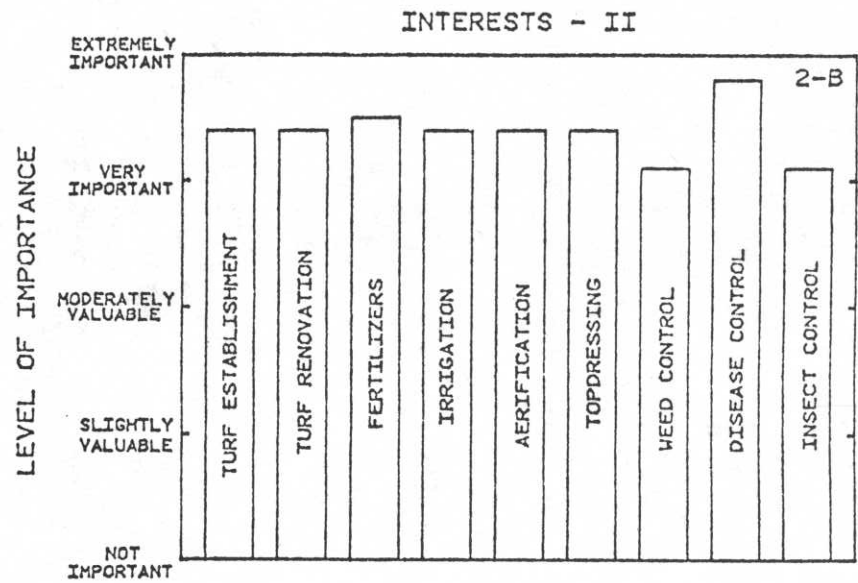
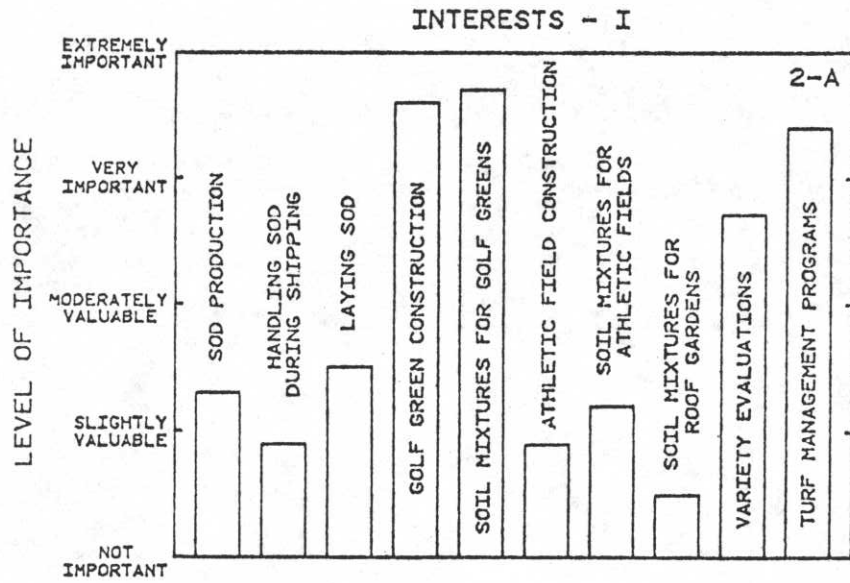


Figure 2. Responses to survey from 71 golf course superintendents.