

HOLE NOTES

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COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

DON LINDBLAD

First I want to thank Randy for hosting the fine meeting at Owatonna Country Club. Some of the people who attended commented on how good the educational portion was presented. Dr. John Ball of Waseca made an excellent and timely presentation. And what a great job Randy and his crew did to get ready for the Superintendents. No golf scores were reported since it was very windy!

Keith Scott and Mark Smith tell me that Minnesota Green Expo '84 which will be held June 13 will be one of the biggest turf shows to hit Minnesota. The boys tell me to expect 800 to 1,000 people there that day. There are at least ten groups of turf associations sponsoring this event. Our entire membership will receive information in the mail on the event.

In the early going we have had good response from our Associate Members to our request for money for research. I know Dale and Mark will publish a list in HOLE NOTES so we can thank all the right people.

Now is the time for all of us to keep our eyes out for prospective new members. If you hear of someone, give him a call and a personal invitation. That first friendly contact is the best way to get superintendents and assistants thinking about M.G.C.S.A.

With this kind of spring - cold nights and warm days - watch out for localized dry spot That's my little hint of the month.

Hope to see you all at the May meeting with big smiles on your faces!

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possibility of infection, especially when fine particles are used. The smaller particles create a more rapid rise in the pH, but the effects are often not seen for 1-3 years after liming.

The control of take-all patch can be difficult and frustrating. None of the commercially available fungicides have proven effective either in preventative or curative applications. The only proven effective control has been the application of some form of sulfur, predominantly ammonium sulfate. Studies in Washington state where GGA has been prevalent have shown suppression of take-all patch using 4 appl. of $(NH_4)_2SO_4$ at 6 lbs./M for home lawns. These rates must be modified for the area being managed, i.e. putting greens - 3 lbs./M in 6- 8 appl./season. Maintaining proper fertility levels and a balanced irrigation program will create the least favorable environment for GGA. Promising new systemics are currently being developed but as of yet none have been registered for use and, therefore, the best recourse is an attempt at control through acidifying fertilizers.

In light of this information, it seems the infections at Minneapolis Golf Club were the handiwork of GGA. As mentioned earlier the

infections stopped short of the greens, possibly due to the higher maintenance program they receive. This program includes increased fungicide applications, but more importantly the application of sulfur (granular) and sul-po-mag after aerification. Since the soil and irrigation water are slightly alkaline, this would create favorable conditions for GGA infection, and coupled with lower maintenance could explain why the disease was confined to the fairways. The infections occurred in low areas and on slopes (correlating to the moisture factor) but was not universal. More research is needed into this new dilemma and the conditions surrounding its incidence. Until effective chemical can be developed, the best recourse to prevent infection seems to be sound cultural practices and experimental applications of acidifying fertilizers. Otherwise dust off the Ouija board and practice, practice, practice.

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