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plots, i.e. a Recovery Schedule.

In 1985 no disease developed on the plots. The Standard Preventative Schedule treatments began, 7/9 following several days of high 80 degrees and first 90 degree day. Re-treatment occurred in 14 days, however, the average temperature then was seldom over 70 degrees. The Predictive Disease Schedule did not call for any treatments and none were applied. No Recovery Treatments were made on the 3rd schedule. A final turf quality evaluation revealed no difference in plots treated or untreated with regard to Pythium damage. A few plots did have active Dollar Spot but damage was slight.

The R-S Disease Predictor, a unique monitoring system performed very well. The information record was clear and useful. A print out is nice and may not be necessary, however, in todays data oriented society, a permanent record will be wanted by most superintendents. The equipment was easy to set up, directions were clear and understandable. The loss of data, twice will not be a problem as the electronics will be rewired to accommodate the rain guage.

Disease development was not predicted by the RSS-412 in 1985 and no disease was seen. This is a positive for R-S Predictor. Some may say test results were inconclusive but in fact the results are positive. The unit successfully predicted no disease and no disease occurred. That half of the system works and additional field testing is needed to prove the other half of the system. In economic terms negative disease predictions that are correct will result in substantial savings. This is the major economic benefit of a disease predictive system. The benefit of an early disease treatment resulting in no or reduced disease damage will be measured less in economic terms and more in "quality control" and "job security". Although another year of testing is required to complete the evaluation of the Disease Predictive system it may already have shown its greatest economic benefit-prevention of unneeded fungicide applications.

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RESEARCH COMMITTEE SPRING UPDATE

by DOUG MAHAL

Research Committee Co-Chairman

The MGCSA Research Program has taken a strong and positive direction in the past two years. The current projects we are funding illustrate that direction. It is only through the donations of our associate member companies and the golf and country clubs that this progressive direction can be maintained. Our program has become a model for golf turf research among superintendent associations in the country. Through your continued support, MGCSA research will continue its trend toward focused technical answers to Minnesota's technical turf research questions. A written request for funds applicable to research will be forthcoming very soon. Thank you all in advance for your monetary support of our program.

The following is a list of pre-committed research funding for 1986:

- *Summer Patch Study (Dr. J. Vargas)
2nd year of 3-year program
- *Poa annua - Bentgrass Competition Study
(Dr. A. Douglas Brede)
2nd year of 3-year project
- *Pythium Blight Microprocessor Evaluation
(Dr. W. C. Stienstra)
2nd year of 3-year project
- *Biological Snow Mold Control Study
(Dr. W. C. Stienstra)
2nd year of 3-year project
- *GCSAA Research Program
(Tissue Culture Work)
- *USGA Research Program
(Tolerance Breeding Studies)
(Establishment of Turfgrass
Information Center)

The MGCSA Research Committee has also recently contacted 29 noted turf researchers in an effort to obtain research project proposals which we may be further interested in funding for 1986.

As further funding decisions are made or other pertinent research information becomes available, additional updates will be published.