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The basic benefits of turf cultivation are presented in Table 1. As can be seen from the above example, a particular method of cultivation may not provide all of these benefits.

Table 1. Basic benefits from turf cultivation

1. Alleviates soil compaction at least temporarily
  - better air and water drainage
  - better rooting media
2. Beneficial for overseeding and renovation
3. May reduce thatch accumulation
4. Corrects layering
5. Helps correct localized dry spots
6. Improves fertilizer, lime, and pesticide penetration
7. May improve new shoot growth from cut rhizomes and stolons
8. Improves soil resiliency

Problems can arise from the use of an improper cultivation method or timing of cultivation. Common problems often cited are: (a) Any cultivation practice causes at least some injury in the turf. Thus, the timing of cultivation and choice of procedure are important. Cultivation should only be done if a problem warrants it. (b) Cultivation may leave openings for weed encroachment. This is especially a problem on sites where *Poa annua* seed are present. Early spring and fall coring can provide an excellent environment for *Poa annua* germination. (c) On close cut turf some procedures can leave the soil surface uneven. Top-dressing can help smooth the area. (d) Many growers are concerned about disturbing the preemergence, annual grass, herbicide zone when cultivating. Recent research at several locations indicate that this is not likely to occur unless the cultivation procedure is very severe — such as grooving or coring several times over an area. (e) Desiccation of the turf may be enhanced by late fall or summer cultivation, especially on close cut turf or one with excessive thatch. Irrigation immediately after the cultivation operation often reduces this problem.

Credit: Proc. 33rd Ann. Florida Turfgrass Conf.

## PRESIDENT'S DESK from Page 2

non-golf sector. Please send your tags to: Turf Seed, Inc., P.O. Box 250, Hubbard, OR 97032, in care of the Musser Foundation.

Our October outing will be at Wedgewood Valley Golf Club in Woodbury on October 6. Host superintendent, Dennis Hendrickson, CGCS, looks forward to showing off his new facility. See you on the course!



# MINNESOTA'S GOLFING HERITAGE **NEW ULM COUNTRY CLUB**

by JOHNNY L. HELGET  
Head Superintendent  
New Ulm Country Club

The first meeting to buy 200 acres of land on which the New Ulm Country Club was built was held on March 22, 1929. The land was purchased for \$14,000.

Mr. J. A. Hunter, at that time Secretary of the U.S.G.A. Greens Committee, Twin Cities section, was hired to design the course lay-out. Mr. Hunter laid out such courses as Minneapolis Country Club and Hilltop Country Club.

Originally the New Ulm course consisted entirely of sand greens. Hole No. 1 had its tee on a point above the valley south of the present club house with about 130 yards down to the green. There were two greens down in the valley, then you had to climb such a steep hill to No. 3 tee that many people had someone pick them up in a car and drive them to the tee.

The land not used in building the course was sold to the city of New Ulm and used to build New Ulm's first airport.

The first club house was built in 1932. A fire in 1956 caused extensive damage to the structure. It was rebuilt and in 1974 it was remodeled to its present structure. At this time the hill in front of the 18th green was lowered approximately 10 feet to allow better vision from the fairway to the green.

In September of 1936 four grass greens were authorized at an estimated cost of \$500. They were then moved to their present location.

In 1966 the extra land sold to the city was bought back to construct a second 9 holes which was completed in 1967.

After opening the new nine we redid our watering system to quick couplers on the greens and tees, quite a change from the

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old galvanized 1 inch pipes we had to water with. In the fall of 1975 we began the switch from a quick coupler system to automatic tee and green watering and a quick coupler fairway watering system. A reservoir was formed by damming a ravine next to our 12th and 13th holes. This supplies our Rainbird watering system with the use of 2-40 horsepower motors.

Most of our greens on the old nine are under 4000 sq. ft. We areate and reseed our greens twice a year in an attempt to stay ahead of the poanna.

Course improvements have been a major focus in the past five years. In 1981 we reseeded the old nine with blue and rye grass. We have increased our original number of trees on the front nine from 12 to over 250. In 1984 and 85 we added 11 new sandbunkers. We also enlarged most of our old bunkers. We used sand from Northstar Sand in Mankato. It has worked out good so far. We also added three grass bunkers which were originally sand bunkers. This was done because they were

on a slope which always washed out when it rained. We also added four grass mounds where Dutch Elm disease claimed many of the trees. We also rebuilt No. 16 tee to make it a longer hole. We rebuilt the 9th tee to three tiers.

In 1975 we started using a F-10 fairway mower, we had 50 acres of fairway. In the spring of this year we got an HF-5 as we have cut our fairways to 28 acres. We mow our fairways at 7/8" three times weekly.

I have been with the New Ulm Country Club for 25 years. I served 9 years under the supervision of Henry Toupel and 16 years as superintendent. My present crew consists of three men and three women.

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*Ideals are like stars. You will not succeed in touching them with your hands; but, like the seafaring man, you choose them as your guides, and, following them, you will reach your destiny.*

-Carl Schurz

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*He who hesitates is interrupted.*

-Franklin P. Jones

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