

"HACKER PACKER"

WHAT AN EXPERIENCE!

by **MIKE LIGDAY**
Manitou Ridge Golf Club

This years regional GCSAA seminar, Disease Identification and Control, was a double barreled, rapid fire educational experience. Dr. Phil Larson of the University of Minnesota and Dr. Houston B. Couch of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute had an excellent curriculum laid out for those attending. It included discussion on terminology, nature and control, diagnostic procedures and chemical control of turfgrass diseases.

The first portion of the seminar, nature and control, consisted of examining the pathogen, environmental factors, affected plant species, cultural practices and their interrelations. As each disease was discussed we identified the name and description of the pathogen involved. The soil fertility level, soil moisture level and weather conditions conducive to disease development were then discussed. Susceptible turf species and cultivars, pathogen survival sites and disease cycles were explained. Finally, the best types of control were covered.

The topic of chemical application was a highly informative and fitting end to the seminar. Through research, Dr. Couch has determined the optimal factors for the application of a variety of fungicides. These factors include nozzle size and type, delivery pressure at the nozzle and fungicide dilution rates. I highly recommend obtaining a copy of the pamphlet Maximizing the Effectiveness of Fungicides written by Houston B. Couch and sponsored by Milliken Chemical. This pamphlet contains a lot of the information covered in the seminar concerning chemical application. Check with your local chemical distributor for availability.

Other interesting items presented at the seminar were new and exciting information on the synergistic effects of certain chemicals, disease forecasting stations and specific disease diagnostic kits.

In conclusion, this seminar was an excellent two day learning experience, one well worth attending. Without GCSAA sponsored seminars, this information would not be as readily available to us. We left at the end of the second day with the immortal words of Dr. Couch echoing in our ears, "TOOTALOO CARIBOU".

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