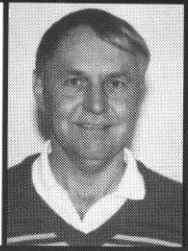


EDITOR'S CORNER

By Bill Johnson
Edina Country Club



"How did the course come through the winter?"

That is a question asked of Minnesota superintendents many times every spring. If your answer to that question is "Great! The greens, tees and fairways all survived in good shape, and we are going to open soon," you are very fortunate.

If, however, your answer is, "Not so good, we lost a large amount of poa annua on some greens, tees and fairways, and we may have to play some temporaries for a while," it is not much fun. I speak from experience, because we have had it both ways at Edina Country Club.

I believe Dr. Don White once said, "In Minnesota, we could expect to have weather conditions, leading to potential loss of a large percentage of poa annua, about once every five or six years.

With the exception of these past two years, I believe that estimate is fairly accurate. In the 25 years that I have been superintendent at Edina, we lost substantial amounts of poa annua in 1965, 1976, 1980, 1985, 1989 and again in 1990.

The weather conditions have varied from the open, mostly mild winter we just had, to a winter with large amounts of snow, along with an ice layer for a prolonged period in 1965.

The results are the same: poa annua lost mostly to direct low temperature kill. This potential situation occurs most often in late winter-early spring freezing and thawing period. When the soil is either covered with water, or is saturated, the grass plant may become full of water (hydrated) also.

This condition, followed by a rapid decrease in temperature, causes large ice crystals to form within the plant tissues, causing mechanical destruction of the frozen, brittle protoplasm. The higher the water content of the tissue, the larger the ice crystals, and the more severe the kill. The late winter-early spring period just happens to be the time when the turf is least hardy, and most susceptible to damage of any type.

Added to this is the fact that poa annua is much more susceptible to damage of this type than bentgrass, and it leaves those of us with a large amount of poa annua in a very precarious position.

At ECC we have been covering our greens since 1985, and, needless to say, I am less than pleased with the results we have had. Although there are covers that have provided excellent results, unfortunately, we have not been using them. I hope some conclusions regarding green covers will come out of the winter golf course preparation survey.

TREE TRANSPLANTING

OWNED AND OPERATED BY A GOLF
COURSE SUPERINTENDENT WHO CAN
RECOGNIZE THE GOLF COURSE
SUPERINTENDENTS' NEEDS.



OFFERING:

- * Experience in Transplanting & Assistance in Tree Placement.
- * The Capacity to move Large Trees.
- * FREE consultations and estimates.
- * Golf Course Budget Rates on jobs Big or Small.

Call: Kevin Shockman

Days: 612/448-1676 Evenings: 612/941-9038

GOLF COURSE TREE MOVERS

7300 Bristol Village Drive #338
Bloomington, MN 55438

LEITNER COMPANY

Soil mixing and processing specialists

Supplying the Golf Course Industry with soil and sand products for over 50 years.

From 10 yards to 10,000 yards - material to specification for topdressing and construction.

Quality - Reliability - Experience

Mike Leitner

Leitner Company

945 Randolph Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota 55102

(612) 291-2655