

Watering in the 80s –

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specially designed for golf course use began to appear and by 1947 a machine for "tubular time for king" and the "motorized caddie cart" had made the scene. The first was badly needed for improving root-zone aeration and the penetration of water and fertilizer and for relieving the surface compaction that was already a serious problem.

Today most courses have at least one aerifier. Roughs in the early 1920s roughs often grew up to three feet high in the spring and it was common for them to be cleaned of accumulated organic debris through controlled burning every couple of years. In order to ease maintenance and stem the complaints about lost golf balls, roughs began to be cut more often and shorter through World War II. Today most roughs are predominantly an "improved" turf species, usually receive some irrigation, occasionally are fertilized or limed, and are mowed regularly. Undoubtedly the changing nature of roughs has been greatly influenced by developments in various aspects of turf management, most especially in mowing equipment. The first tractor-drawn mowers replaced horse

power for fairway mowing in 1921 but were not, for a time, able to cope with the roughs. Today multiple gang units cut most turf areas. For higher heights of cut and improved maneuverability, heavy duty riding rotary mowers have come into use. Irrigation & Annual Bluegrass (*Poa annua*) subject areas are linked together here because, in reviewing the history of turfgrass management, the development of irrigation is strikingly paralleled by the development of annual bluegrass problems. The earliest fairway irrigation systems date from 1931, long after supplemental watering for greens was utilized. Discussions of annual bluegrass problems then begin to appear some 10 years later. In 1946, O. J. Noer is quoted as saying, "Lessons learned during the war indicate that fairway watering in the future will be less frequent to avoid excessive encouragement of clover and *Poa annua*." In 1948, Fred Grau observed, "It is obvious that the demands of golfers to have green turf have greatly encouraged *Poa annua* by virtue of the large quantities of water applied to turf. Once a water system is installed, the tendency is to use it to excess. Green Committee Chairmen have been known to say, 'Why do we have this \$30,000 water system if we don't use it?' This is the first step to a *Poa annua* turf

" The first Ph.D. program in turf management involved a study of irrigation and compaction. In discussing Dr. Watson's thesis results, Professor Musser in 1950 summarized, "We cannot escape the task of re-examining our watering programs in the light of the capacity of our soil and the rate at which it can take the water we apply. At least we will recognize that good watering practice must be based on something more than the capacity of our system and the size of the sprinkler heads."

Today irrigation systems are considerably more sophisticated and may easily cost 10 times more, but the more things change, the more they remain the same. The anonymous conclusion to a May 1946 treatment of this subject in the Green Section's Timely Turf Topics is probably still accurate: "There is no simple, direct answer at present to the problem as a whole." As Professor Lawrence Dickinson, of the University of Massachusetts, is reputed to have said many years ago, "When we do learn how to control *Poa annua*, we will have to learn how to grow grass." The Green Section has been helping people to do just this for 60 years and looks forward to continuing to play a vital role in the future.

Reinders Inc. Continues to Grow, Distributor Adds Sales Representatives

Reinders, Inc. is pleased to announce that four new sales representatives have joined the company to help serve the Minnesota market.

Dale Parske is the new Western Region Sales Manager. He brings more than 35 years of industry experience in sales and golf course management. Dale resides in Lakeville and can be reached at 952-250-8742.

Jeff Schmidt is a Territory Manager responsible for sales and product support for golf customers in the west metro and outlying areas of Minneapolis. Jeff has 18 years of industry experience, including 6 years as an assistant golf course superintendent. Jeff resides in Eden Prairie and can be reached at 952-237-0160.

Scott Gilbertson is a Territory Manager responsible for turf and aquatic sales and product support for customers in Minnesota and western Wisconsin. Scott has 19 years of industry experience, including 5 years as a golf course superintendent. Scott resides in Holmen, Wis. and can be reached at 608-790-7667.

Bill Gauwitz is a Territory Manager responsible for sales and product support for golf customers in east central and southeast Minnesota as well as west central Wisconsin. He has been a certified golf course superintendent for 20 years and a member of the GCSAA for the past 32 years. Bill can be reached at 507-269-0230.

Reinders is a full service distributor of products to the commercial green industry.

MGCSA Membership Report

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- Respectfully submitted by *Brian Brown*
MGCSA Membership Chair