

RECORDS - ARE YOURS UP TO DATE?

As golf rolls into mid-season it may be necessary for many of us to take a good look and see if we are maintaining our office files as well as our golf courses. Although we are aware of the importance of records, some items may slip by while we give our full attention to the mainstay of our business - growing grass. So, here are a few items one might want to make sure are being included in your records.

First and most important are records of fertilizer and pesticide applications. These records should include the following: **when** the material was applied, **what** the material was, **where** it was applied, **how much** was used, and finally make a short notation as to **why** the application was made at this point in time. I would like to stress the point that this information should be recorded for every fertilizer, fungicide, herbicide, or insecticide application made anywhere on the grounds of your golf course. Do not neglect to keep track of the rough, the clubhouse lawn, or an open area that is not in play.

Secondly, review your equipment maintenance records. These records might include the following items: the date any maintenance was performed, what parts were replaced or repaired, who performed the maintenance, and how long it took to complete the repair. One last item that is not as important, but may prove valuable, is making a note of who the operator was at the time of the breakdown; especially if your machinery is driven by more than one operator.

Another important area is employee work records. The superintendent should know when his employees worked, how long they were there, and ideally what jobs they performed on a daily basis.

In addition to these categories one can expand into more detailed data to be used in streamlining costs or to justify expenditures. These records would contain more specific details of work operations, such as: job performed, man hours involved, equipment used, gasoline consumption, and material costs if any.

I have touched on some very basic ideas concerning record keeping. Obviously this can be expanded upon many times over, however, the value of records as a tool in our profession should never be overlooked. Evaluation of records can aid in solving or preventing recurring problems with your turf-grass. Records can indicate the need to replace old equipment or justify purchasing time saving new machinery. Employee records are valuable in giving proper recognition and compensation to quality employees or in verifying the need to reprimand or replace one that's performing poorly. And last but not least, records are a source for answers. Answers to your problems and to those endless questions posed by your owner or members whatever the case may be.

So, invest a little time and keep your records current. You will find the benefits are as unlimited as the records you can keep.

David Behrman
Deer Creek Golf Club

Credit: THE BULL SHEET

A very little boy came home dejected from his first day at school.

"Ain't goin' tomorrow," he said.

"Why not, dear?"

"Well, I can't read 'n' I can't write 'n' they won't let me talk — so what's the use?"

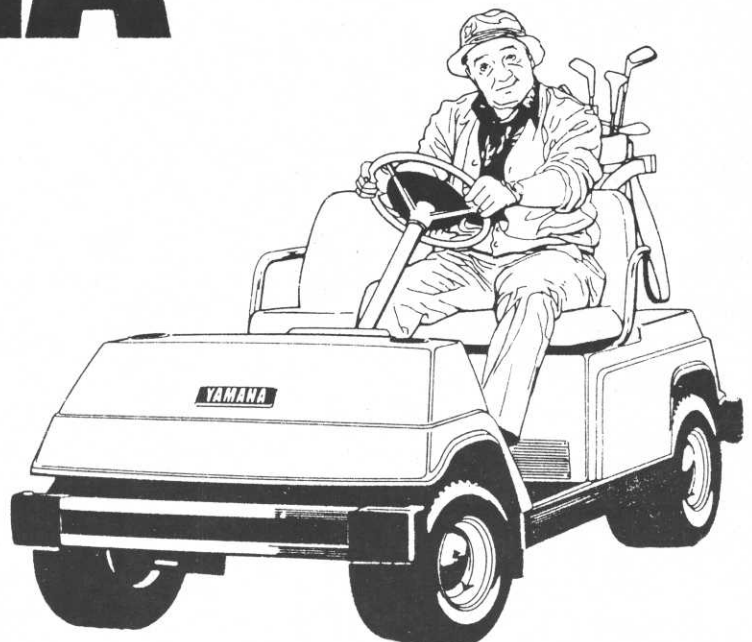
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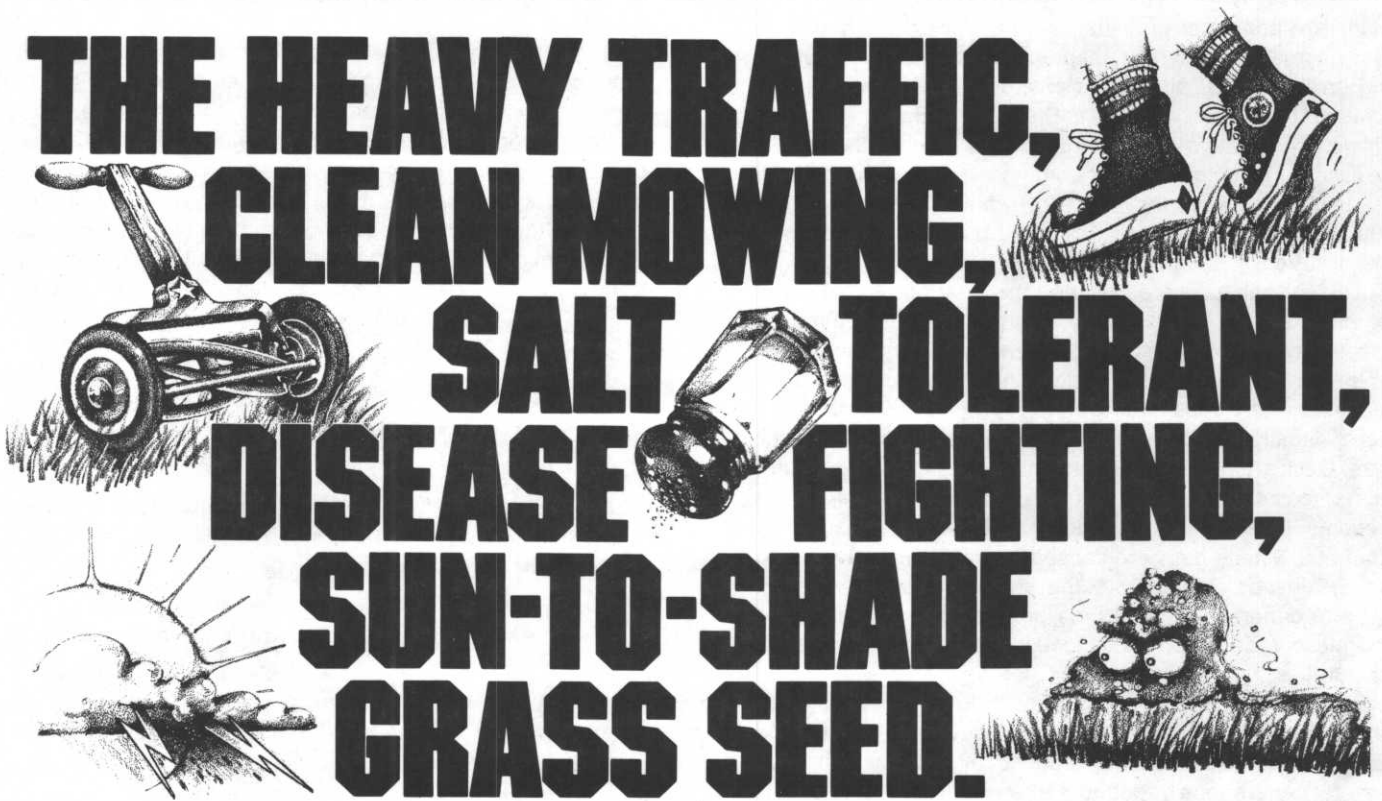
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LEAF GALLS ON SHADE TREES

Galls are abnormal growths which occur on many plants. Galls come in a variety of shapes, sizes and colors depending on the insect, disease or environmental condition that caused them. According to Stacy Lee Barden-Chavez, University of Illinois Horticulturist in Cook County, those galls caused by insects are most common. A chemical reaction takes place between the insect and plant thus forming a gall. Although insect galls are unsightly, they really don't hurt shade trees.

Succulent oak galls are common this year on pin oaks and other oaks. These galls appear as green growths at the base of the leaves. Tiny non-stinging wasps lay eggs on the leaves. In the spring when the eggs hatch, the larvae burrow into the leaves thereby causing leaves to form galls around the insect. Usually the oak leaves will continue to develop to full size. Galls are not produced again until the following spring. Honey locust pod galls are actually deformed leaflets. Leaflets become small green to reddish balls about 1/8 inch in diameter. These galls are caused by a fly which lays its egg on the leaves. Throughout the summer the fly will have several generations each time producing more galls. The thornless varieties of honey locust seem to be the favorite of the flies.

Maple bladder galls appear in the spring as green-pin head sized lumps on the upper surface of leaves on maples and box elders. These galls are caused by mites which have several generations throughout the summer. When the galls first appear they are green but shortly turn red.

Hackberry nipple galls are caused by psyllids a close relative of the aphid. In the spring the adult lays their eggs on hackberry leaves. The immature psyllid emerges from these

eggs causing a green nipple-like gall to form around them as the leaves develop. Only one generation is produced each summer.

Generally, says Mr. Chavez, control measures are not recommended for gall producing creatures, since galls on leaves usually cause no apparent harm to the tree. However, malathion spray may be applied in spring to control the gall producing insects on maples, hackberries and oaks. This spray reduces the amount of galls that may appear on the plants. Although the appearance of the leaves may be different from normal, seldom is the gall infestation large enough to be noticeable except by close inspection.

Credit: THE BULL SHEET

18th ANNUAL WISCONSIN GOLF TURF SYMPOSIUM

The 18th Annual Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium will be held at the Pfister Hotel, Milwaukee, on October 26 and 27, 1983. The subject will be, "Facts and Fallacies in Poa annua Management". Subject matter will range from protection of Poa annua through new methods of suppression to replacement with other species. The program is expected to give an update on all angles of Poa annua production or control (?). More information will be forthcoming as it is developed.

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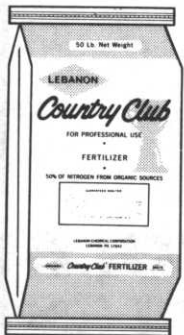


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