

## MORE COURSES TO BE BUILT AND REMODELED

from AMERICAN SOCIETY OF GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTS

"The remainder of this decade will see a much higher level of activity in both new golf course construction and remodeling," according to Dr. Michael Hurdzan, president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects.

Hurdzan points to the pent-up demand for quality real estate, resort, municipal and public courses throughout the country.

"The number of golfers continues to increase each year," he notes, "and these players travel to some of the great courses in the country. When they return home, they want to play on a course that presents a variety of challenges. They no longer are satisfied with the status quo."

Hurdzan points to the many first-rate courses that are being designed and built outside the metropolitan areas. He cites this

as an example of the universal demand for better golf courses.

"Also, Americans have become accustomed to relatively high interest rates--a fact of life that shelved golfing projects several years ago-- and we are finding that more developers and communities are deciding to push ahead now. Also, owners and operators are finding that golfers are willing to pay for quality facilities, even if the cost is higher than the prevailing rates in the area."

The president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects adds that the group provides information on how to build or remodel a golf course through its headquarters office at 221 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, Ill. 60601.

Another trend that Hurdzan believes will intensify in the next five years is remodeling.

"Players at older courses recognize that the hazards installed 30 to 40 years ago no longer come into play for the low-handicapper. Also, many of these courses have a single tee, small greens, few bunkers, and no ponds or lakes that add an aesthetic touch while functioning as water retention areas.

Some or all of these problem areas can be addressed in a master improvement plan, Hurdzan states, and hundreds of courses now are being remodeled.

"Many of our older courses were well-designed, but modern equipment and golf balls have made them obsolete," the ASGCA president says. "A golf course architect can bring such a course up to contemporary standards without destroying the original design philosophy."

An architect feels a sense of achievement, Hurdzan notes, when a player comments after a remodeling, "I really like the course now because I know it plays the way it should. And, I feel comfortable, not like I'm playing an entirely new course."

Hurdzan says that the increasing number of junior, women and senior players makes it imperative that a course have multiple tees so that the course can provide an equal and fair challenge to all golfers.



Best Wishes For  
A  
Happy Holiday Season

FROM

LANDSCAPE and TURF

Milt, Catherine and John Wiley

# The Unsung Hero of Golf

by Bert Yancey

On Hilton Head Island, we are extremely fortunate to have 18 of the most beautifully manicured golf courses found anywhere. Somewhere on the courses that we love and enjoy are a group of the most efficient, dynamic and unheralded men in the golfing world. Behind the scenes, the golf course superintendent quietly and effectively does his job.

He is versed in diplomacy and bridgebuilding; the rules of golf and county regulations on effluent water usage; horticulture and psychology. He is aware of the indomitable forces of nature and sensitive to the feelings of young men and women.

He can take a two-cylinder engine apart and put it back together, or diagnose an early illness in a giant loblolly pine. He must understand daily budget controls and accounting principles as well as what motivates an employee to do his best work.

This man takes swift action in any situation, from hydraulic leaks to dripping faucets. He may appear from the depths of a muddy hole, wherein lies a nest of colored wires, and look like a mountain man who just lost a fight with a grizzly; then two hours later walk into a high-level staff meeting immaculate and ready to face a Madison Avenue crowd.

He looks at a stand of overseeded winter grass that seems matted and sick and smiles within, secure in the knowledge that in two weeks it will look like an emerald carpet. Then later, when the carpet is cut with eight whirling blades at 7-32 of an inch, he knows if one blade is out of synchronization.

He accepts the burden of seeding winter grasses in the fall to cover the brown, almost dormant Bermuda; he has his own personal rye and knows exactly how to prepare the surface. Too much perennial rye, and the winter's glorious color will retard the spring bloom of Bermuda; too little rye will give a sickly spotted and striped effect. Reluctantly, he rolls the dice of winter overseeding and patiently hopes for a little luck with the unpredictable weather.

He spends many an afternoon playing a few holes trying to improve his own game while he evaluates the course. He knows that even the best of golfers play better on well-groomed courses, though most of them don't know exactly why.

This man rises before dawn to spend each morning with his crew, making sure the greens are cut and the traps raked before the first foursome tees off. He owns no

alarm clock, reads an architectural map with ease, and may have attended Penn State or the school of hard knocks. With the ease of a diplomat he can direct a Governor not to practice too close to a sprinkler head.

He commands the respect of his men like Robert E. Lee, and bleeds every time a player steps out of a sand trap and breaks its clean edge. He is a great man, the unsung hero of golf, the golf course superintendent.

There's a little superintendent in everyone who loves the game. They respect the course, they don't break branches or drag their feet across the greens. They step over the trap edges and fix two ballmarks on every green. They would never drive a cart on the bank of a tee or the slope of a green.

So be careful as you drive your cart, and if you see a mountain man climb out of a jeep while you're out playing, don't just smile or nod . . . raise your right hand and clench your fist; it will be sincerely appreciated.

CREDIT: THE GREENER SIDE, ED WALSH, CGCS, EDITOR

"Super  
course,  
eh, Jim"

"Yes, P.J. . . .  
and Super  
Superintendent,  
of course!"



GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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## Suppression of Poa Annua Seed Heads

by **Bill Gaydosh, Superintendent**

**Edgewood Country Club, River Vale, New Jersey**

During the fall of 1979, trial applications of Embark were made to try to suppress poa annua seed heads in the forthcoming spring. I have always been a user of growth retardants such as Maintain, and MH30 around trees, steep banks and stream banks, to help eliminate hand work on the golf course.

When Embark was introduced by the 3M Company, it was claimed that it would stop seed head production in any plant, so I became interested in attempting to suppress seed heads on poa annua with this product.

Applications were made at a rate of 16 ozs. per acre on different fairways on the golf course during the middle of November, 1979. The treated turf discolored badly, and in the spring of 1980 there were very little seed heads but also there was some turf loss in the treated areas, which was mostly poa annua.

During the middle of November 1980, application of 12 ozs. and 8 ozs. were applied. There was the same discoloration but in the spring of 1981 there were many seed heads in the treated areas. The loss of turf was not as great as with the 16 oz. rate. It was decided to switch to a spring application during the following season.

In early April, 1982, applications of 12 ozs., 8 ozs. and 4 ozs. of Embark per acre, were applied to different fairways on the golf course. The 12 oz. and 8 oz. rates looked extremely good. There was just slight discoloration in the beginning, but within two weeks these areas looked greener than the untreated areas and had no seed heads. The 4 oz. rate did have some seed heads and did not look as good as the areas treated with the higher rates.

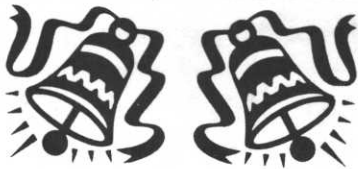
In early April, 1983, ten acres of fairways were treated with the 8 oz. per acre rate of Embark, along with two tees and the back of one green. The results were quite drastic. There were no seed heads in the treated areas, and the contrast between treated and untreated areas was like night and day! These treatments worked so well that all fifty acres of fairways and three acres of tees will be treated in 1984.

The following observations should be noted:

1. The application should be made early in April or when turf is first greening up. This is important since seed heads develop almost at the same time that the poa annua starts to grow.
2. It is necessary to make sure that the sprayer is calibrated correctly, with new nozzles on the boom. Make sure all screens are clean inasmuch as any misses will be extremely visible.
3. Spray when there is dew on the turf, or use some type of marking system so there will be no misses during application.
4. When the grass plant starts to come out of the chemical reaction around the end of May, the plant has excellent color and growth. No fertilizer should be applied at this time or any other time during the procedure.
5. If leaf spot is a problem or blue grass varieties are being treated, a fungicide must be applied. The treated turf is more susceptible to leaf spot at this time.
6. If low wet fairways are a problem an application of Embark at the 8 oz. rate will not only reduce seed heads, but will also eliminate 50 to 70% of mowing required in these areas.
7. The grass does seem healthier in June when there is no longer any reduction in growth.

In closing, the treatments to date have worked well, and our program will be expanded in 1984.

CREDIT: TEE TO GREEN, MAY 1984



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