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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MINNESOTA GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

SCOTT HOFFMANN, CGCS

Spring has officially arrived, but unfortunately in Minnesota, Mother nature sometimes forgets to look at the calendar. With the golf season quickly approaching, most of us begin making predictions as to the extent of winter damage we may expect on our golf courses. Past experience shows us our predictions are right up there with the weather man, but if I may draw a consensus of opinion from superintendents I have talked with, there seems to be a guarded optimism that we will enjoy a minimum of winter injury this season.

There seems to be some confusion as to the new Minnesota Pesticide Control Law concerning posting of golf courses and certification of applicators. I hope the following will clear up any questions:

- 1) Golf course posting is NOT a state law, but the new law has left the door open for municipalities to require posting within their jurisdiction. Check your local ordinances.
- 2) Unless applying restricted use materials, certification beyond that of the superintendent is not required. However, the smart superintendent is requiring his applicators be certified as part of normal training procedures and as protection for the applicator, the superintendent and the club.

Thanks to Don Lindblad and Kim Sandvig of Majestic Oaks for once again hosting our March Mini-Seminar. After Don sharpens his pencil concerning meal and break expense, we are always treated to a very cost-effective educational experience. This year's "Mini" was a record breaker in the attendance department, with no small part of that due to the exceptional group of speakers brought in by our education committee consisting of Kerry Glader, Dan Hanson and Jim Nicol. Great Job!!

Bernard E. Wiley, one of our Life Members, recently passed away. I hadn't had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Wiley, but if one can judge a man by his legacy left to the Minnesota turf industry in the form of Milt and John Wiley, I can safely say his presence will be missed by all that knew him.

Our April meeting has again been arranged to be held in one of the more tropical regions of our state with Dale Wysocki promising golf to all who are up to the challenge so early in the season. See you at Faribault Golf and Country Club on the 11th.

LOOKING FOR POA ANNUA THIS SUMMER

by HOWARD E. KAERWER
DONALD B. WHITE

We are looking forward to continuing the *Poa annua* research project which is being partially funded by the MGCSA. During the past two summers we have identified *Poa annua* plants on the Oak Ridge Country Club and Interlachen Country Club greens. There have been substantial differences noticeable between the plants! While most have had poor to only fair quality, some do have interesting characteristics such as dark green color, leaves to the base (as many as six live leaves per tiller), good density, freedom from grain, and traffic tolerance. Some maintain better density than bentgrass. There have also been plants with potential resistance to Anthracnose, Brown Patch, and algae. Some individual plants were recognizable throughout the growing season and are undoubtedly perennial in character. Others were identifiable for a few days or weeks and then disappeared into the over-all background population of less recognizable *Poa annua* plants.

We are at the point now where we need to know what kinds of grasses are on Minnesota golf courses. The first step is to locate material and to observe it on the courses where it is found. Next, we want to collect some of this material and move it to the University for further study, both outside and in the laboratory and greenhouse. We are hopeful that research with this expanded collection will aid us in reaching our objectives. Perhaps some of these plants will also be useful in the *Poa annua* breeding program.

Unfortunately, time does not allow our personally following *Poa annua* performance on all Minnesota courses. Therefore, we are asking for your help.

Undoubtedly each of you has seen spots of grass on your greens and collars which caught your eye some time during the year. There is a strong likelihood that these spots are *Poa annua* plants. There is the likelihood even more interesting plants will show up with closer inspection. Please watch for them this summer. When you see what appears to be especially favorable performance, make a note listing the date, the characteristic and the plant location. You might even consider moving part of the plant into your nursery to watch it closer. Towards fall we will ask for the information and may request a sample of the plant for further research. However, if you notice something especially interesting or puzzling which you suspect we should know about, please give one of us a call. Howard's telephone number is 612/941-2290. Dr. White's number is 612/624-9206.

Because of close mowing, individual plants on greens

may be a bit difficult to recognize. Often we do so based on the belief that *Poa annua* plants are of a lighter green color than are bentgrass plants. This is not always true. Through closer observation you may find *Poa annua* plants which are at least as dark as bentgrass. While the miscellaneous *Poa annua* population tends to bloom over an extended time period, some plants may bloom once or not at all. Many plants are not distinguishable from their neighbors and look similar. Some plants may be identifiable for only a few days or weeks. Others may be recognizable throughout the season.

A short description of those characteristics which will help you distinguish *Poa annua* from bentgrass growing on greens is covered below:

- 1) **LEAF TIP.** *POA ANNUA* leaves have blunt (boat shaped) tips. *BENTGRASS* leaf tips are tapered and sharply pointed.

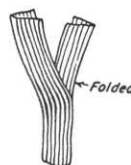


Poa annua

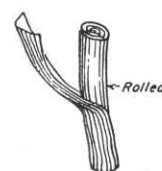


Bentgrass

- 2) **TOP SIDE OF BLADE AND LEAF SHEATH.** Young *POA ANNUA* leaves will be folded and V-shaped. The upper leaf sheaths will also be folded and flattish in appearance and feel. *BENTGRASS* leaves are not folded. The emerging young leaves and the upper sheath will be rolled and round. After emergence from the sheath, the blades are flat.



Poa annua



Bentgrass

- 3) **VEINATION-TOP OF LEAVES.** *POA ANNUA* has one prominent midrib running up the center of the leaves. Side veins are not easily distinguished. When held to light you may be able to see a translucent light-line running either side of the midrib. *BENTGRASS* leaves do not have a noticeable central midrib. Instead you should be able to spot multiple ridges (veins) running lengthwise uniformly across the width of the leaves.



Poa annua



Bentgrass

- 4) **LEAF COLOR.** *POA ANNUA* leaves range from light

green to dark green. BENTGRASS leaves generally are rather dark green.

- 5) **LEAF SHININESS.** POA ANNUA leaves are somewhat shiny. BENTGRASS leaves tend to be somewhat duller in appearance and you may notice a "dusty" look to the top side of the leaf.
- 6) **STOLENS.** Stolens are unlikely on POA ANNUA plants growing at greens mowing heights. Spreading occurs through short, near the surface connections which soon rot off leaving each crown as a separate plant throughout most of the year. BENTGRASS plants will usually sprout stolens and spread by this means across the surface of a green.
- 7) **TILLERS PER CROWN.** From late spring throughout summer, POA ANNUA plants appear as groups of similar independent tillers growing together in a relatively roundish configuration. During early spring and fall you may find two or more crowns still connected together. However, the connections soon rot off leaving each crown and tiller independent of the others. Some plants spread more rapidly than do others but not as rapidly as do bent plants. BENTGRASS plants usually will have several tillers growing from a single crown throughout the year.

- 8) **SEED HEADS.** POA ANNUA plants may or may not have seed heads showing. Many plants bloom most of the spring and into the summer. Others produce seed heads for a short time and may bloom only once during the season. A few will not send up seed heads when mowed at greens heights. BENTGRASS does not produce seed heads on greens.

There are other morphological characteristics which aid in identifying POa annua from other species of grasses. These will not be discussed in this article.

While most of you will undoubtedly be able to recognize the above differences without a hand lens, a ten-power lens may aid your identification of these grass plants.

We are planning to spend a week during the late July, early August stress period looking at Poa annua on greens throughout the metropolitan area. We will appreciate hearing from those of you who believe you have interesting Poa annua plants on your course and/or are having a problem growing Poa or bentgrass. Keith Scott has agreed to help set up a schedule for this inspection trip. We will provide more information in the July issue. Later, perhaps next year, we want to extend our observations outstate and to Wisconsin.



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ELECTRONIC BULLETIN BOARD

FOR THE TURF INDUSTRY

TURFBYTE, the first computer accessible bulletin board for the turf industry opened its doors this month for anyone desiring to take part in a new and unique way of communicating. Centrally located in Lawrence, Kansas, it offers the turf manager a way to gain valuable information and insight through the sharing of experiences from across the country for the price of a phone call.

The use of electronic bulletin boards to trade information among persons of similar interests is on the increase nationwide. No longer just for computer experts, telecommunications is now common in all professions and the use of bulletin boards offer a renewed sense of community in a world which has grown too large to easily assimilate. It is reminiscent of the old time "party line" concept which kept the neighborhood together through a bit of harmless eavesdropping. With bulletin boards, everyone is encouraged to listen in and participate in the discussion, though not necessarily at the same time. Being able to join a discussion at one's convenience is the real value of this type of communication and a reason for its rapid growth.

TURFBYTE evolved from an idea presented in the November, 1987 issue of GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT on telecommunications by Jon Scott, Valhalla Golf Club, and Bill Spence of The Country Club at Brookline, site of the 1988 US Open. That article interested Duane Patton of the Lawrence (KS) Country Club. With the guidance of Dale Gadd, founder of his own computer bulletin board, TURFBYTE was created. At present, Duane is the system operator, or "Sysop" in computer jargon, and runs the service on his office computer at the club. Duane and the others using TURFBYTE welcome all newcomers to the board and encourage anyone with a computer and telephone modem to sign on and become a regular contributor.

"Connecting to TURFBYTE is as easy as dialing a number," says Scott. "All you need is a computer modem and some type of communications software. When a connection is made with the bulletin board, simple, friendly instructions quickly get you signed up and communicating."

A typical visit takes five to ten minutes once one becomes familiar with the system. First visits are slightly longer, but a few extra minutes reading instructions and bulletins pay off in faster visits. Messages from other users are read on command and replied to or commented on at will.

"The real value of the bulletin board concept depends on the user's participation in a discussion," Patton offers. "One subject may have as many comments or suggest-

ions as there are users," he continues. "Messages to specific individuals can be addressed and sent very much like letters, and can be either private, seen by only the receiver, or public, shared by all. Whole text files and public computer programs, called shareware and public domain, can be sent to the board for all to download and use. Industry announcements are posted in the 'Bulletins' section for all to read on sign-on. Messages can be left requesting a return phone call at a specified time eliminating the need to play phone tag."

Patton and Scott feel the uses of the board are varied and many, depending on the expertise and needs of the visitor. "It does not take long to get started," says Scott. "The greatest fear I had was the idea that the phone meter was running, and I'd see a big bill cross my manager's desk. Now I am spending less total time on the phone than before and able to make my call when the rates are lower. That is saving money, and at the same time I am gaining valuable information I might otherwise miss."

TURFBYTE currently supports 300 to 1200 baud modems with parity settings of 8 bits, No parity, 1 stop bit. The phone number is 913-842-0592 and the hours of operation are from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. Central Time daily. Patton is available during business hours for voice communications by dialing the same number. Jon Scott can be reached at 502-245-1715 for further information on accessing TURFBYTE.

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EDITOR'S CORNER

BRAD KLEIN, CGCS

Spring time is here, the grass is greening, the crocuses have popped through the last bit of snow and we are faced with yet another season of pleasing memberships, nature and government.

Memberships are easily pleased with a little luck and an adequate budget. Mother Nature and governments aren't so easily swayed. Governments require forms, affidavits licenses, petitions, studies and other assorted nuisances. Mother Nature may sometimes be cruel, but don't forget it's April and she's taking off the parka and putting on the bikini. All she asks is a little love and consideration.

We can complain about how our government has complicated our lives with regulations and such but that won't make it go away. Only our willingness and professionalism will show our good intent. There is good reason for most of our pesticide regulations and only we

can defend ourselves with education and proper usage.

Mother Nature has many rewards for us, shown to us daily, with only an occasional reprimand to remind us of our own inadequacies. We should never think that we can change things in nature, maybe compliment, but never change. Our dependence on man-made conveniences are probably the most cost effective. But nonetheless, sound cultural practices could accomplish the same end.

Every year our attendance at the Mini Seminar has increased and this year was no different. Don Lindblad and his clubhouse staff did a wonderful job and should be commended. The list of speakers was excellent and the arrangements committee did another fine job.

The April meeting at Faribault should be a good kick off to another growing season so hope you all can attend.

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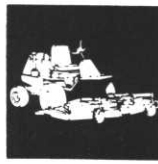
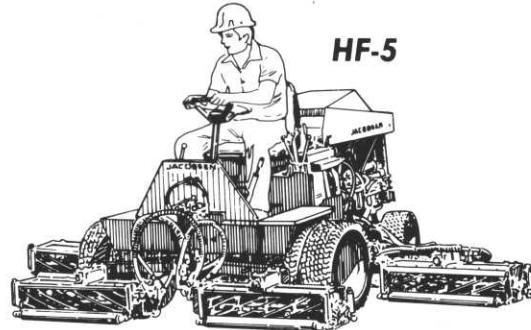
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At this time, North Star Turf has arranged to lease space from R. L. Gould. This will allow North Star to provide uninterrupted service to their customers during the 1988 turf season. The address and phone number will be the same as it has: North Star Turf, Inc., 3711 North Lexington, St. Paul, MN 55126. 612/484-8411.

North Star may be a new company, but the employees are knowledgeable and experienced. Gordy, Dan and Kirby have over 75 years combined experience with the Turf Department of R. L. Gould. Al Gerdin and Jeff Chur-

chill provide valuable knowledge and experience about their products and services.

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HISTORY OF GOLF IN MINNESOTA FARIBAULT GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

by Dale Wysocki, Superintendent
Faribault Golf & Country Club

Faribault Golf and Country Club has its earliest corporate beginnings to March of 1920 under the name of Faribault Realty Co. It remained in operation for 30 years. In 1922 another corporation was organized under the name of Faribault Country Club; this was organized for social and athletic purposes and was intended to be the operating end of a golf club arrangement with Faribault Realty Co. as the owner of the land and the buildings. The original location was located just to the southwest of the center of town in a very hilly area which is quite different from the present location.

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In December 1943 a new corporation was formed, the Faribault Golf and Country Club. The course was located on 32 acres and was quickly becoming surrounded by platted property and improved streets. A committee was formed to find a new location. In 1955 new property was purchased and remains of the current property of the Faribault Golf and Country Club. In developing this new area, basically everything including the clubhouse, the old greens were lifted and moved over to the new location. The old greens had their sod cut and laid on the new course which consisted of nine holes and was designed by Willie Kidd, Sr.

At the time they developed only 80 acres with the idea of developing the other 48 acres. In the early sixties it was decided to develop the remaining 48 acres and to re-design the current nine holes to fit architect Bob Carlson's new design for a championship 18-hole golf course. The new golf holes were 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14. Of the original nine holes only 1, 2, 15, 16, 17 and 18 remain intact from Willie Kidd's original design. When the golf course was re-designed an irrigation system was installed for the fairways and greens.

Since the mid-sixties many improvements have taken place, many trees were planted, most of which were donated by the members and to this date we still have members donating trees and tees. The membership continues to remain active. In 1987 a group of members donated a 24' windmill and underwrote the cost of erecting the windmill and drilling the well to assist in sustaining the pond level behind 12 green and the creek in front of 3 green. During other years the Ladies League has donated the funds for the large directional sign by Highway 21 and the tree plaques.

With the continued support of our Board of Directors and the continued guidance of a very excellent Greens Committee, Faribault Golf and Country Club shall remain one of southern Minnesota's finest golf courses.

Adding Flowers to the Golf Course Landscape

by Dr. Lois C. Berg
University of Maine at Orono

Flowers for many years were almost exclusively in separate "flower gardens," whether in private yards, commercial landscapes or public gardens. Landscape architects and contractors traditionally relied on evergreens, deciduous trees and shrubs, turf and a few groundcovers. Flowers were reserved for the avid gardener, and flower gardens were an afterthought to the landscape design.

Times have changed! The fine line that once separated landscaping from gardening has blurred, and more flowers are being used everywhere — not just in flower beds, but as integral parts of the landscape. The increased use of low-maintenance annuals, perennials and bulbs can be seen in the landscapes of gardeners and non-gardeners alike, creating an urban environment that changes dramatically from one season to the next.

These changes are evident on golf courses, too. In the past, flowers were found only near the clubhouse. Bulbs added a spark of color in spring, and summer color was derived from sunny beds of marigolds and geraniums, and from shady beds of impatiens. Recently, the use of flowers on the golf course has expanded greatly. Many golf courses have added perennial gardens, wildflower plantings and non-traditional groundcovers. But even more exciting, there has been an increased emphasis on the use of flowers as specimens, much the same as shrubs have been used in the past.

Flowers have much to contribute to the golf course landscape. One obvious attribute is color — flowers offer an endless array of shades, hues and tints from early spring until hard frost. A second attribute is variety. Flowers vary tremendously in texture, color, size, shape, habit, season of flowering and foliar interest, making possible an infinite number of combinations. A third and perhaps more subtle attribute is the effect of that variety on the landscape. Flowers change dramatically from one season to the next. A landscape of trees and shrubs can be quite constant, but a landscape using flowers changes constantly. Each season has its own look: a touch of color brightens the spring landscape, full color develops in summer, textures emerge in autumn, and the color of flowers gives way to the architecture of trees and shrubs in winter. This change can be a great asset on a golf course relieving the sameness of the view from one

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