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Official Publication of the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association

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APRIL 2002

From Your President's Desk

Winter's Been As Unusual As the Summer of 2001



Rick Fredericksen, CGCS MGCSA President

This past winter has been as unusual as the previous summer. I am sure every course in our Association has experienced the extremes. Often times these extremes take their toll on the turfgrass. Crown hydration, desiccation, snowmold –you may have one or a combination of all three this year.

Dr. Brian Horgan, Turf Extension Specialist at the University of Minnesota, has a site that is linked to our website. The site has a "turf" chat room for questions, comments, or to discuss turf related subjects. Log-on to **www.turf.umn.edu** and you may be able to help another superintendent that has questions or you may have questions relative to what has happened on your own course. Brian will also do a live time period on the web site for "active participation."

The MGCSA Research Committee has been active in supporting research to help superintendents take the guesswork out of preparing greens for winter extremes.

Dr. Jon Powell, University of Minnesota, is in the second year of his cover study being done at Rolling Green Country Club. The Association contributes funding to this project. The MGCSA also contributed 50% funding along with the GCSAA, for a three-year winter topdressing study done by Dr. Don Taylor, University of Wisconsin-River Falls. You can find their results complete with pictures on our Website www.mgcsa.com.

The "Drive for the U" program started last year by Paul Eckholm is still very active. The University has 16 acres committed for the turf research. There presently is a project being completed by another department on this site. Our goals are to have the site secured by early-summer with construction on a research green to begin by July 1 and be ready for our membership's inspection on the Field Day, July 25. I would like to thank those individuals and companies that have contributed equipment and made commitments to Paul. The project was originally planned to start last summer with the green being built on another site. This new site will allow for research, teaching, and a research station.

I would like to thank James Bade, Education Committee Chairman, for lining up the speakers and securing a site for our March Mini-Seminar. All good chairmen have great supporting committee members. Special thanks to James's committee of Greg Hubbard, Jeff Johnson, Mark Moers, and Mike Olson for providing the leg work. The seminar was held at Minnesota Valley Country Club and with Superintendent Mike Brower's help, turned into a superb venue to host the Mini-Seminar. I would also like to thank Scott Austin from Midland Hills and Jack MacKenzie from North Oaks for their presentations. Both speakers had well prepared talks and involved the audience in active participation. I did receive some feed back pertaining to the cost of the seminar though. After breaking out the cost of meals, breaks, audio-visual equipment, speaker costs, and mailings, the Association made a small profit. We build this into the cost to cover weather related issues and attendance figures. Fortunately the weather was nice and the seminar was well attended.

Our first golf meeting this year will be held May 13, at The Ridges of Sand Creek in Jordan where Scott Wersal is the superintendent. This will be a great golf course to start our anniversary year off with.

Rick Fredericksen, CGCS
 r-fredericksen@msn.com

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2002 MGCSA CALENDAR

Monday, May 13 **SPRING MIXER** Host: Scott Wersal The Ridges at Sand Creek Jordan, Minnesota

Monday, June 17 SCHOLARSHIP SCRAMBLE Host: Dan Hanson St. Cloud Country Club St. Cloud, Minnesota

Thursday, July 25 **U of M FIELD DAY** Host: Jon Powell

Host: Jon Powell University of Minnesota Campus St. Paul, Minnesota

Monday, August 26 MGCSA CHAMPIONSHIP Host: Tom Kientzle, CGCS The Legacy Course at Cragun's Brainerd, Minnesota

Monday, September 23 **STODOLA SCRAMBLE** Host: Rick Fredericksen, CGCS Woodhill Country Club Wayzata, Minnesota

4 HOLE NOTES

2002 Dollar Spot Fungicide Trial

By JON F. POWELL University of Minnesota

Dollar spot is a perennial disease of high maintenance turfgrasses. Cultural practices such as removal of dew and application of nitrogen fertility (~1 lb N/1000 ft2) are key components of an integrated pest management (IPM) strat-



Jon F. Powell

egy to reduce the severity of dollar spot. However, the current trend in cultural practices is toward the use of lower nitrogen fertility on greens to improve green speed and minimize Poa annua. This reduced reliance on cultural management practices and the low tolerance for disease emphasize our reliance on the use of fungicides for dollar spot management.

Fortunately, the turf manager currently has maintained at fi". Treatments were applied at 14 or 21 day intervals in 2 gallons of water per 1000 ft2. The treatments, rates, and applications intervals are listed in the table.

The table lists the percent of plots infected with dollar spot as of August 21st. Dollar spot severity in the test plots peaked at 21% infection in the untreated plots. Most of the products included in the trial provided good dollar spot management. The only treatments not to provide dollar spot management were ProStar and Heritage, which is not surprising as these products are not labeled to manage dollar spot. As in studies conducted in previous years, Heritage reduced dollar spot severity, but not to an acceptable level. The inactivity of strobilurin fungicides such as Heritage and Compass in managing dollar spot has been a common trait of this class of fungicides. However, Honor is a strobilurin fungicide that effectively manages dollar spot. Emerald is a fungicide you will be seeing on the market in the coming year or two that has performed well in fungicide trials and represents another new chemistry that can be used in the future. The results of this trial emphasize the fact that there are a broad range of products and chemistries currently available to superintendents to manage dollar spot.

many options among fungicides for managing dollar spot. Selection of which fungicide

to use involves many factors of consideration. The cost per application is certainly an important factor. Other considerations include preference of fungicide formulation, is contact or systemic activity preferred, what other diseases are managed by the fungicide, and perhaps most importantly is the fungicide effective for managing dollar spot.

To help address give you the question of fungicide efficacy the Turfgrass Science Program at the University of Minnesota annually conducts evaluation trials of fungicides for dollar spot management. The 2001 dollar spot management trial was conducted on Penncross creeping bentgrass

APRIL 2002

Percent of plots infected with dollar spot on August 21, 2001

Treatment	<u>Interval</u>	Rate per1000 ft 2	% Plot Infected
Untreated			21.2
Daconil Ultrex	14 day	3.2 oz	0.2
Fore Rainshield	14 day	6.0 oz	4.1
Eagle	14 day	0.6 oz	1.4
Eagle	21 day	1.2 oz	0.8
Medallion	14 day	0.5 oz	0.9
Honor	14 day	0.2 oz	0.4
Honor	21 day	0.2 oz	0.2
Emerald	14 day	0.13 oz	0.2
Emerald	21 day	0.18 oz	1.1
Chipco Triton	14 day	0.5 fl oz	0.9
Chipco 26GT	14 day	4.0 fl oz	1.9
ProStar	14 day	2.2 oz	31.0
Heritage	21 day	0.2 oz	16.9

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A Step-By-Step Guide to Consistent Bunkers

Follow The Rules And You Can Achieve Consistency, But Are You Sure You Want To?

By CHRIS HARTWIGER

USGA Green Section Record

BUNKERS are one of the most popular topics discussed during Green Section Turf Advisory Visits. These hazards, as defined in The Rules of Golf, are often criticized for being too hard, too soft, too wet, or contaminated with sediment. Bunker discussions almost always end with the familiar refrain: "All we want are consistent bunkers!" For those of you who share in this desire, I have good news for you. It can be done.

Having been down the long, winding road to bunker consistency with golfers before, the first step is to weed out a few of the pretenders from those who are ready to get down to business. This short survey will do the trick:

How would you rate bunker consistency at your golf course:

1. The bunkers are fine just the way they are.

2. The bunkers are not consistent, but I am not willing to pay any money out of my own pocket to improve them.

3. The bunkers are not consistent and I am willing to pay up to \$500 to improve them.

4. The bunkers are not consistent and I am ready to pay whatever it takes to improve them.

For those of you who selected 1, 2, or 3, you have permission to stop reading and go directly to the "Turf Twisters" on the back of this issue. For those of you who selected 4, read on.

For years golf course superintendents have tried to maintain all the bunkers with the same riding machine or hand raking technique. In the quest for consistency, this approach was doomed to fail because of the many factors that influence bunker performance. The shape of the subgrade, the runoff of surface water, the spacing of the drain lines, the amount of irrigation coverage, and the position of the bunkers in relation to the prevailing wind are a few of the factors that make each bunker unique. The same maintenance program does not produce consistent bunkers.

The first step in our quest for consistency is complete reconstruction. Purchase the best sand in your area and use the most technologically advanced construction technique. Here is where things get a little sticky. If we really want consistent bunkers, it is imperative to make each bunker the same size and shape. After all, it would be inconsistent to have a sloped subgrade on one bunker and a flat bottom on another. Come to think of it, this will make construction even easier.

The next step does require me to break a little bad news

to you. If we want consistent bunkers, and we do, we had better go ahead and make each green identical to avoid any inconsistencies in the way the shot should be played. For example, a bunker shot to a green sloping away from the player is going to perform differently than a shot to a green sloping toward the player. This would represent inconsistency.

Hang in there — the last two changes are almost painless. Every approach shot on par 3s, par 4s, and par 5s should be the same length. Change the length of the holes as needed to meet this requirement. Although our sand is perfect, I have a feeling that a ball hit high with a pitching wedge into a bunker will have a different lie than the lie of a ball in the bunker hit with a low screaming 3 iron. Again, different lies would result in inconsistent bunkers.

Finally, we must do something about the variety of sand wedges that are available. Some sand wedges are great for firm sand, while others are better for softer sand. If we want consistency in our bunkers, we cannot stand for different equipment. Each club can specify which wedge their players must use. To offer a little variety, maybe a different wedge could be specified for different days of the week.

There you have it — consistent bunkers. Although I have offered great recommendations, I hope no one follows them. Now I will tell you why. (Caution: The next few statements may infuriate some of you.) First, most people who complain about the bunkers being inconsistent are really saying that they are not getting the ball up and down as frequently as they think they should. Second, who ever said bunkers are supposed to be consistent? Every bunker is different and, therefore, bunkers are inherently inconsistent.

If you do not take anything else from this article, remember that golf is a game of inconsistencies. A player must make adjustments for yardage, the lie of the ball, the direction and speed of the wind, the slope of the putting green, and on and on and on. What is consistent about playing the game? Nothing. And that is precisely why it is fun to try to get that little ball into the hole in as few strokes as possible.

If the bunkers at your golf course frustrate the daylights out of you, take a lesson from a golf professional. Become a better course manager and avoid them. But above all else, do not allow the condition of a hazard to take the fun out of the game.



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The Fairway Foundation wants to expand and develop our programming and serve as a model to other community organizations helping the growth and development of young people. The Fairway Foundation collaborates with other community based organizations such as the YMCA, The Boys and Girls clubs, Sabathani Community Center, the Golden Eagles Program, the Minneapolis and St Paul Park and Recreation Departments. through these joint efforts, The Fairway Foundation continues to extend its reach and influence and touch many young lives.

The Fairway Foundation programs run year-round. Winter training takes place in our indoor swing and putting center with additional trips to local domes. Summer is our busy time as kids go to golf ranges and public and private courses to practice and play. The Fairway Foundation staff and local PGA professionals conduct our clinics and work one-on-one with all our kids.

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JANE MACKENZIE, president of The Fairway Foundation, accepts a donation from MGCSA president Rick Fredericksen, CGCS. With Mackenzie and Fredericksen are program director Tony Morrow, left, and office manager Jane DiMenna on the right.

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About the Kids

The Fairway Foundation kids, age 8 and up, from the inner-cities of Minneapolis and St Paul. they join our program through local community service organizations. There are no ethnic gender or racial boundaries. many of our kids are in need of positive role models and the opportunity to experience constructive activities outside of their normal environment.

