METRO AREA



DULUTH AREA



15.0 5.0 Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec 0.0

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Septembe	r October	November	Decemb
16 / -9	22 / -6	33/0	48 / 9	62 / 17	71 / 22	77 / 25	74 / 23	64 / 18	52 / 11	35 / 2	21 / -6
-2 / -19	3/-16	16 / -9	29/- 2	40 /	49 / 9	55 / 13	53 / 12	44 / 7	35 / 2	22 / -6	5/-15
1/31	1/20	2/48	2/ 57	3/77	4/ 97	4/92	4/101	4/98	2/63	2/46	1/32
13/34	9/23	12 / 31	4/11	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	1/2	8 / 20	15 / 39
12/19	11/18	12/ 19	13 / 20	12/ 19	11/17	10 / 15	10/15	11/17	11 / 18	12/19	11/18
NW	NW	East	East	East	ESE	ESE	ESE	WNW	NW	WNW	NW
5.4	5.3	5.6	5.4	5.2	5.3	4.8	4.9	5.3	5.6	6.1	5.8
	16/-9 -2/-19 1/31 13/34 12/19 NW	16/-9 22/-6 -2/-19 3/-16 1/31 1/20 13/34 9/23 12/19 11/18 NW NW	16/-9 22/-6 33/0 -2/-19 3/-16 16/-9 1/31 1/20 2/48 13/34 9/23 12/ 31 12/19 11/18 12/ 19 NW NW East	16/-9 22/-6 33/0 48/9 -2/-19 3/-16 16/-9 2 1/31 1/20 2/48 57 13/34 9/23 12/ 4/ 12/19 11/18 12/ 11 12/19 11/18 12/ 13/ NW NW East East	16/-9 22/-6 33/0 48/62/9 -2/-19 3/-16 16/-9 29/-40/2 1/31 1/20 2/48 27/37 13/34 9/23 12/48 27/37 13/34 9/23 12/47 0/0 12/19 11/18 12/13/12/19 11/18 19 20 19 NW NW East East East	16/-9 22/-6 33/0 48/62/71/9 -2/-19 3/-16 16/-9 29/-40/49/2 -1/31 1/20 2/48 57 1/31 1/20 2/48 57 77 13/34 9/23 12/4/31 11 0/00/0 12/19 11/18 12/ 13/12/11/ 19 20 19 17 19 20 19 17 NW NW East East East East ESE	16/-9 22/-6 33/0 48/62/9 71/7/9 -2/-19 3/-16 16/-9 29/-40/49/55/2 49 13 1/31 1/20 2/48 57 77 97 92 13/34 9/23 12/47 57/7 97 92 13/34 9/23 12/47 0/000/00 0/0 12/19 11/18 12/17 13/12/11/10/15 NW NW East East East East ESE ESE	16/-9 22/-6 33/0 48/62/71/77/77/74/23 -2/-19 3/-16 16/-9 29/-40/49/55/53/12 1/31 1/20 2/48 57/77 97 92/4/101 13/34 9/23 12//41/00 0/0 0/0 0/0 0/0 12/19 11/18 12//13/12/11/10//15 10/15 NW NW East East East ESE ESE ESE	16/-9 22/-6 33/0 48/62/71/77/74/23 64/18 -2/-19 3/-16 16/-9 29/-40/49/55/53/12 44/7 1/31 1/20 2/48 57/77 97 92 4/101 4/98 13/34 9/23 12/4/31 41/000/00/00/00/00/00/00/00/00/00/00/00/0	16/-9 22/-6 33/0 48/62/9 71/7/22 74/23 64/18 52/11 -2/-19 3/-16 16/-9 29/-40/49/55/53/12 44/7 35/2 1/31 1/20 2/48 57/7 37/97 92 4/101 4/98 2/63 13/34 9/23 12/4 57/7 77 97 92 4/101 4/98 2/63 13/34 9/23 12/4 4/10/000/00/00/00 0/0 1/2 1/2 12/19 11/18 12/1 13/12/11/10/10/15 11/17 11/18 NW NW East East East ESE ESE ESE WNW NW	-2/-19 3/-16 16/-9 29/-40/49/56/53/12 44/7 35/2 22/-6 1/31 1/20 2/48 2/3 3/4/4/4/4/101 4/98 2/63 2/46 13/34 9/23 12/4/31 11 0/000/00/00/00 0/0 1/2 8/20 12/19 11/18 12/ 13/12/11/10/10/15 11/17 11/18 12/19 NW NW East East East ESE ESE WNW NW WNW



INSIGHT: One Superintendent's Perspective

By TOM MEIER Le Sueur Country Club Le Sueur, Minnesota

Le Sueur Country Club is an 18-hole semi-private club located southwest of the metro area. Le Sueur Country Club was established in 1926 as a 9-hole course built along the Le Sueur Creek. In 1972, the course was expanded to 18 holes with the additional nine holes designed by Joel Goldstrand.

I have been in the golf industry for 28 years. Graduate of Worthington High School. Studied business at Minnesota West Community and Technical College.

Why did you enter the turf management industry?

I took up the game of golf in the late '70s and was immediately hooked. During my junior year in high school I was asked if I would be interested in working on the driving range at the Worthington Country Club. Enjoying the game of golf so much, I couldn't think of a better way to improve my own game than being around it all the time. As I was working that year, I also had the opportunity to help with the grounds crew several times and found that I really enjoyed that side of the business, too. The following year a position opened within the grounds department, which I applied for and was hired. The rest is history.

Who was your professional mentor?

I would say it has to be Mr. Drew Demorest who hired me as his assistant superintendent at the Worthington Country Club in 1981. He gave me the opportunity to further enhance my career by sharing with me his knowledge of the golf course maintenance industry and also by giving me plenty of responsibility as his assistant. In addition, when he left in 1988, he recommended to the board of directors at WCC that I be promoted to the position of golf course superintendent.

What has been the highest point in your career?

There have been many high points in my career with the first and foremost being hired as superintendent at Worthington Country Club. Next would be being hired as superintendent at Le Sueur Country Club. I would also say that winning the MGCSA Championship has to be right up there, too.

What has been your lowest point?

I think that it had to be Thanksgiving weekend in 1996 or '97. We had a terrible ice storm followed by heavy snow, most of the trees on the course were either damaged or destroyed, there was also a 2-3" layer of ice underneath about 10" of snow on all of the greens. My heart sank to my stomach as I stood there watching huge trees succumb to the weight of the ice and snow and wondering if we were going to have any turf alive on the greens come spring. That was a long winter!

Are your greatest challenges political, agronomic or managerial?

I have learned to try and avoid the political side of the industry although it is hard to do sometimes and focus on the



agronomics and managerial side. The two are equal as far as challenges.

What is the most difficult disease to manage on your course?

Anthracnose and pythium are the most difficult diseases to manage here at Le Sueur Country Club. We monitor the weather closely and spray preventatively when conditions favor development. I 've found that the phosphite products have worked very well the past couple of years.

Is it hard to find good help in your area of the state?

Not really, you just need to know where to look and use the great staff that you already have to make new contacts.

Where will our industry be in 10 years?

I wish I had a crystal ball to see that far into the future. My thought is that there will be continued improvements to chemistries, equipment and turf grass cultivars. Maybe new equipment that is controlled by GPS and operated at night so as not to disturb players on the course during the day, new and improved electric powered equipment that takes us away from our dependence on foreign oil. There may also be improved formulations of growth regulators, fungicides, herbicides and fertilizers that are safer for us to use and safer for the environment. I also think that our water supplies and usage will be a big issue. With the population growing at such a rapid rate, conservation of our natural resources will be extremely important for our industry.

Where would you like to be in 10 years?

Still happy, healthy, enjoying life and family, and of course, a little closer to retirement.

What is your perspective of our state association and what would you change?

I believe that our association is a wellrun and organized group. The current and past B.O.D. and staff have done a fantastic job of giving our members plenty of educational opportunities to further enhance our careers, and also keeping us informed as to changes in the laws and regulations that will have an impact on our industry.

Name your foursome:

Jack Nicklaus because he's the greatest ball striker who ever has played the game (maybe a little of that would rub off on me). Ben Crenshaw, the greatest putter ever and Fred Couples, because of his calmness under pressure – we could all use a little help with that on the course.

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2005 Turf & Grounds Field Day Recap

By LARRY VETTER Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation

The sixth annual Turf and Grounds Field Day was held on July 29 at the St. Paul Campus of the University of Minnesota. The Minnesota Turf & Grounds Foundation was pleased to be able to sponsor this event in conjunction with the University of Minnesota.

The day began with refreshments at the registration area, which was in the Display and Trial Gardens on the St. Paul Campus. Mother Nature cooperated beautifully and the event was graced with tremendous weather. The total attendance increased from previous years but continues to be disappointing. Those who did attend were amazed at the expansion and quality of the work being conducted at the TROE Center and other horticultural activities and projects in place in various areas.

Following the official welcome by Larry Vetter, MTGF Executive Director, and Dr. Eric Watkins, University of Minnesota turfgrass breeder and instructor, attendees were split into two groups, one interested in the turf activities and the other touring current grounds research and programs. The grounds group began at the Display and Trial Gardens while the turf group boarded wagons for the trip to the TROE Center site.

The "grounds" group had six stops that included "Garden Design & Construction," "Herbaceous Trials," "Plant Growth Greenhouses & Classrooms," a tour of the CAD Lab, a walking narrative of various trees on campus and a description of tree research experiments currently being conducted and funded, in part by the MTGF.

The "turf" group spent the morning at the TROE Center rotating between nine different research projects. They included "Nutrient & Pesticide Loss with Runoff," "NTEP greens trials," "Turf Insects", "Fine Fescue/Colonial Bentgrass Fairways," "NTEP Fairway/ lo-input fairway trials," "Tall Fescue & Kentucky Bluegrass Trials," "NTEP Perennial Ryegrass Trials," "Remote Irrigation Sensing" and "Low-input Turfgrass Plots."

Dr. Jeff Gillman hosted a stop at the TRE Nursery on the University of Minnesota's St. Paul campus which is the home of many new and exciting investigations into tree selection, growth, and care. Numerous organizations support this research including the MTGF, the Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association and the Minneapolis Park Board.

Some of the projects currently underway at the TRE Nursery include evaluations of Dutch Elm disease resistant elms, investigations into the effects of planting deeply on stem girdling roots, and experiments on the effects of various techniques applied to potbound plants to encourage root growth. Reinders will donate \$5 to the MGCSA Scholarship Fund for every case of Daconil or pound of Heritage purchased.

Reinders has donated more than \$104,000 to the WI Turfgrass Association over the past 12 years.



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Phosphorus Fertilizer Re-Training Program

It's hard to believe that it is now time to renew your Phosphorus Fertilizer Training certificate. For some of you, on January 1, 2006, the two year period that your initial training was good for will have expired. In order to accommodate over 400 people in Minnesota that have taken the 4-hour training session, re-training will occur via correspondence. Remember, this training is required by the state of Minnesota if you are a golf course employee and you want to be exempt from the legislation restricting the use of P fertilizers.

Here is how this will work. You read this article and research update on Phosphorus fertilizer fate. At the conclusion of the article, YOU are responsible for filling out and signing the tear-off then sending it to MGCSA office at the address provided. Signed tear-offs will be accepted until December 31, 2005.

If you have not completed the 4-hour training course, this does not apply to you. You need to complete the 4-hour training course first which is good for 2 years following completion. The next 4-hour training will be offered at the Green Expo on January 3, 2006.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at bphorgan@umn.edu.

RESEARCH UPDATE

Statewide regulations restricting phosphorus fertilizer application to turfgrass went into effect on January 1, 2005. This legislation prohibits the use of phosphorus containing fertilizers on established turf unless a soil or tissue test indicates a need. Golf course personnel are exempt if they have completed a certified phosphorus

By DR. BRIAN HORGAN and CARL ROSEN University of Minnesota

fertilizer training course offered by the University of Minnesota. One of the provisions of the initial law was that effectiveness of the bill was to be evaluated through research and reported back to the legislature: "...the Commissioner must evaluate the effectiveness of the restrictions on phosphorous fertilizers under this section and report to the legislature by January 15, 2007".

In order to determine the environmental impacts of restricting phosphorus in lawn fertilizer, a dedicated research facility was established at the Turfgrass Research, Outreach, and Education (TROE) Center on the St. Paul Campus at the University of Minnesota during the 2004 growing season. The overall objective of this ongoing study is to determine the effects of phosphorus and clipping management on phosphorus runoff and turf health.

Methods: A sloped plot of land at the TROE Center previously used as pasture was selected for this study. The soil is classified as a Waukegin silt loam and is typical of soil in urban areas of the Twin Cities. To prepare the land for the study, the original vegetation was stripped and the site was graded to a uniform slope of 5% and then compacted to simulate an urban setting. Kentucky bluegrass was sodded in the fall of 2003 and uniformly managed during 2004 prior to initiating treatments. Twenty four individual plots were constructed by installing four inch plastic edging around the perimeter of each plot area. At the base of the plot, water is funneled to a metal trough. The dimensions of each plot are 8 ft in width and 24 ft in length, but because of the fun-



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Golf Course - Sports Turf & Environmental Consulting Services

- Balanced Soil & Plant Nutrition - Consulting, Monitoring & Analytical Services -"Where success is never an accident" www.paskvanconsulting.com neling at the base of the plot, the actual runoff area is approximately 184 ft2. A plastic tube at the base of the trough is used to direct the runoff water to a five gallon plastic bucket, which is located within a larger 30 gallon container to catch any overflow runoff water. After each runoff event, the volume of runoff water is measured from each plot and a subsample saved for soluble and total P determination. Total P analysis is not yet complete and therefore only soluble P concentrations and runoff are presented in this report.

Eight treatments are currently being evaluated:

1. Control (no fertilizer applied), clippings returned

2. 1N, 0P, 0.5K (1 lb N and 0.46 lb K2O/1000 ft2 applied 3 times per yr), clippings returned

3. 1N, 0.33P, 0.5K (1 lb N, 0.33 lb P2O5, and 0.46 lb K2O/1000 ft2 applied 3 times per yr), clippings returned

4. 1N, 1P, 0.5K (1 lb N, 1 lb P2O5, and 0.46 lb K2O/1000 ft2 applied 3 times per yr), clippings returned

5. Control (no fertilizer applied), clippings removed

6. 1N, 0P, 0.5K (1 lb N and 0.46 lb K2O/1000 ft2 applied 3 times per yr), clippings removed

7. 1N, 0.33P, K (1 lb N, 0.33 lb P2O5, and 0.46 lb K2O/1000 ft2 applied 3 times per yr), clippings removed

8. 1N, 1P, 0.5K (1 lb N, 1 lb P2O5, and 0.46 lb K2O/1000 ft2 applied 3 times per yr), clippings removed

Prior to fertilizer treatments, soil samples from each plot were collected at the 0-3" and 3-6" depths. Fertilizer was applied on Sept. 19, 2004, Oct 16, 2004 and May 31, 2005. These rates of P are typical for establishing turf. Starting in Sept. 2005, P rates will be reduced to one third of the rates listed above to more realistically simulate formulations for established turf previously used before the P fertilizer restrictions. In 2004, clipping samples were collected on September 30 and October 18 for phosphorus determination. The weight of the clippings was measured only for the clippings removed treatments on the second sampling date. Starting in 2005, clippings will be weighed for the

(Continued on Page 19)

Phosphorus Program-

(Continued from Page 18)

entire plot for those plots where clippings are removed. For the plots where clippings are returned, only a small area in the middle of each plot will be weighed and then returned. The remainder of the plot will then mowed with a mulching type mower. On a monthly basis, a subsample of clippings will be saved for P determination.

Results to Date: Runoff data have not been statistically analyzed and therefore results should be considered preliminary at this point in time.

Initial Soil Tests: Soil test values for the runoff plot prior to fertilizer application are presented in Table 1. These soil test results are typical of those in the Twin Cities area for turf - near neutral pH, medium organic matter and potassium, and high phosphorus.

Clipping Measurements: Clipping phosphorus concentrations and yields are presented in Table 2. There was a trend for P fertilizer application to increase P concentrations in the clippings at the second sampling date. All P concentrations in clippings were above the critical level of 0.26%P. (*Continued on Page 21*)

Initial Soil Test Results for the Runoff Plots, September 2004

Soil Depth	pH	Organic Matter (%)	Bray P1 (ppm)	K (ppm)
0-3"	6.8+ 0.2	4.4+0.7	27+8	115+21
3-6"	7.0+0.2	2.9+0.6	20+5	87+17

Table 2

Table 1

Treatment Effects on Clipping P Concentrations

Treatme	nt	Sampling Date		
Fertilizer lbs		9/30/2004	10/18/200	
N, P205,K2O / 1000 ft2	Clippings	% P	% P	
0, 0, 0	Returned	0.41	0.33	
1, 0, 0.5	Returned	0.36	0.32	
1, 0.33, 0.5	Returned	0.44	0.40	
1, 1, 0.5	Returned	0.40	0.42	
0, 0, 0	Removed	0.44	0.37	
1, 0, 0.5	Removed	0.39	0.37	
1, 0.33, 0.5	Removed	0.36	0.36	
1, 1, 0.5	Removed	0.39	0.40	

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