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TURF LIBRARY ESTABLISHED

The O.J. Noer Research Foundation, Inc. has donated the personal turfgrass library collected by the late O.J. Noer to Michigan State University.

Charles G. Wilson, Research Director of the Foundation, announced the establishment of the O.J. Noer Memorial Library, and indicated that the addition of the Library to the existing turfgrass library at MSU makes the combined library the largest single collection of turfgrass literature in the world.

A bulletin will be prepared compiling a list of all turf publications now available at the library. This bulletin is being prepared in cooperation with Dr. James B. Beard, MSU Department of Crop Science and the University's Science Librarian, Dr. M. Kabalin.

This collection will be available to students and scholars throughout the United States. Wilson stated, "I am pleased to announce that this valuable collection of turfgrass literature will be available to all turfgrass students and scholars through an inner-library loan agreement. Arrangements can be made with local libraries to have specific publications loaned to local libraries for a period of time or preferably to obtain a xeroxed copy for a nominal fee."

Interested individuals possessing proceedings of turfgrass conferences, old U.S.G.A. Greens Section Bulletins, early issues of the publications by the Golf Course Superintendents Association or similar publications are encouraged to contact Chas. Wilson at P.O. Box 2079, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201.

LIVING WITH POA ANNUA by Lee C. Dieter

The following article was written by Lee Dieter on his maintenance practices on his Poa annua greens at Washington Golf and Country Club. Lee presented this as a talk at the V.P.I. Turfgrass Conference this past February in Richmond. He felt it would be of interest to the superintendents who must try to contend with Poa in their greens.

"When I accepted the position of Golf Course Superintendent at Washington Golf in the spring of 1961, I found the following conditions:

The greens were extremely small, built for the day when 200 golfers a week was heavy play. Now I would be expected to maintain 3,000 to 4,500 square foot greens in an era when 2,000 players a week can be expected during the season. The soil in the greens was tight and compact, percolation was slow and pore space a minimum. The soil analysis showed high phosphorus (500 lb. per acre range) and low potassium (40-72 lb. per acre range). The pH was low, in the 5.5 to 6.1 range. What could you expect to be growing on these greens other than Poa? It was the only grass that could survive these conditions. From 40 to 90% of the turf cover on the greens was Poa annua.

I felt that, ideally, the answer would be to start from scratch and rebuild all the greens. Certain factors made it impossible for me to start on this program at the time including poor member acceptance of newly constructed greens and financial considerations, among others.

This left me little else to do but face the facts that I must maintain the prominent grass in my greens - Poa - but still improve the conditions so that what bent was in the greens had a better chance of survival. But in any case, I must live with Poa annua until the time that I would be able to rebuild the greens. I embarked on the following program and have found it very successful.

Fertilization: I put 5 lbs of nitrogen and 1lb of potash on in split applications in the spring. The nitrogen source is ureaform and the potash is recrystallized muriate. I also put on 1 oz. of chelated iron between April 1st and May 1st. During the summer I spoon feed the greens by putting 1/10 part N and 1/10 part K on with my spray application. My fall fertilization consists of two applications of a low phosphorus fertilizer, such as 10-3-7 or 12-4-8, in quantity enough to apply 1-1½ part of N per application. Dolomitic limestone is applied during the growing season at 40 pounds per 1,000 sq. ft. This program has balanced out the fertility and pH of the

greens, maintained the Poa, and seems to have favored what bent I have in the greens.

Top dressing and aerifying: A spring and fall application of ¼ yd. per 1,000 of top dressing consisting of 70% coarse sand combined with a fairly heavy aerification during the spring and fall and followed by 5 or 6 regular aerifications also during the spring and fall has greatly improved the top 2½ to 3 inches of the green surface. Compaction is reduced, percolation has improved greatly, and pore spaces allow air to enter the root systems.

Fungicides: Thiram has been the mainstay of my program. Over the years, spring and fall has seen me go from Cadminates to Dyrene and now to Daconil. These chemicals have shown progressively better control of dollarspot for me. ½ oz. to 1 oz. P.M.A. according to the season is added to the main chemical program. Zineb, over the last three years, has seemed to have given me a preventive control of Pythium on one problem green.

Watering: The greens are watered as needed in the spring and fall. The watering pace accelerates as we get into the hot weather to a maximum of every other night. We make it standard procedure to syringe the greens any afternoon that the temperature is over the low 80's.

Mowing and verticutting: We mow our greens daily through the whole growing season. In the spring and fall they are cut at ¼ inch and in the summer at 5/16 inch. We have found that very light vertical mowing does a lot to reduce the number of seed heads on the green and improves the appearance and putting quality of the surface.

Weed control: The only weed that is any real problem is silver crab and we remove it by hand. We don't feel that we can take the chance of thinning out the Poa with the present chemicals available. Soft (hairy) crabgrass is no problem as the ½ oz. of P.M.A. takes care of that.

Our program has paid off during the past eight years with a minimum of green problems. We built a new putting green that helped reduce the reluctance of the membership to building new greens. This past fall we built three new regular greens and hope to continue this rebuilding program. We plan to use chemicals to keep the Poa and silver crab under control in these greens. We have lived with Poa annua and been successful, but by no means do we advocate it. You are living on a powder keg when you are living with Poa. If your percentage is too high for your bent to regain control, by all means, rebuild. But if you have to live with it, perhaps my experiences will be of some help.



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