



MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



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President's Message

The relationship of the Mid-Atlantic and Philadelphia associations has been a unique one. Although not in the heart of the transitional zone our friends from Philadelphia still have transitional zone problems. Our problems and solutions in raising turf have been similar enough to draw us together both professionally and politically. Lets all get together next month and renew our relationships and talk about the summer of 73 - Past History - Yea!! A record turn out is in order, see you at Hunt Valley on September 11th.

Lee Dieter
President

SEPTEMBER MEETING - HUNT VALLEY C.C.

The September Meeting of the Mid-Atlantic will be held September 11, at Hunt Valley Inn and Golf Club in Cockeysville, Maryland. This will be a joint meeting with the Philadelphia Association of Golf Course Superintendents. Our host will be Bob Orazi.

Bob worked along with the contractor and was responsible for the grading and seeding of tees and greens when construction started in June of 1969. Hunt Valley was opened for play in July of 1971. Edmond B. Ault was the architect and Ray Matthews was the general contractor. The course was built by Richard B. Edgar and later leased to Maryland Properties, Inc. a subsidiary of McCormick & Co.

Bob graduated in 1960 from the University of Rhode Island where he majored in agronomy. Much of his maintenance experience came under Al Watson at Sparrows Point C. C. and during the service where he maintained the Fort Sill Officers and Enlisted Golf Club in Oklahoma. He also worked for a golf course contractor in Marietta, Ohio for three years.

The greens at Hunt Valley were seeded to penncross bent; the tees have a mixture of colonial bents and the fairways are an 80% blend of bluegrasses. All greens, tees, and fairways are on a "tri-cal" program.

Like most golf courses in the area, Hunt Valley was not spared the inevitable disasters of Hurricane Agnes in 1972. An encore of similar devastation hit again in July of this year when 2.25 inches of rain were recorded during a one hour period.

For our meeting the course will be available for play anytime after 11:00 a.m. Carts are available as well as lunch at the club house. The main dinner will be served at the Hunt Valley Inn.

Please return the cards enclosed in this newsletter so that we can plan for the proper number for dinner, especially since members of two golf course associations are invited.

Directions to Hunt Valley Inn and Golf Club

From the Baltimore Beltway take Interstate Route 83 North to Exit 18 marked Shawan Road. Go east on Shawan Road to the Hunt Valley Inn. This is where dinner and the meeting will be held. To reach the golf course, proceed on Shawan Road to York Road, turn right and continue for approximately one-half mile. Turn left on Papermill Road. Continue on Papermill Road for approximately 3 miles and turn left on Phoenix Road. The entrance to the clubhouse is on the right approximately one-half mile.

LADIES' NIGHT

SEPTEMBER 4th

Remember Ladies Night - if your wife hasn't already reminded you. Date: September 4th

Place: Washingtonian Motel

Cocktails - 6 p.m., Dinner - 7 p.m.

Show - 8:30 p.m., Shady Grove (Sonny & Cher)

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SATAN and the SUPERINTENDENT

Old Satan sat with face on grim
And muttered, "What'll I do with Him?
He's sure to find this place a bore
With the life on earth he's had before!"
And then while shaking his horny head
He opened his ledger and this he read:
"John Doe - Supt. of Greens,
A man behind the golfing scenes -
Had sixty years of toil and strife
Pleasing golfer, manager, pro and wife!
His job included keeping the greens
Planting new turf, repairing machines.
Fighting diseases, insects, defeat
Battling rain, humidity, heat.
Fixing the water pipes that break thru the ground
Changing all markers and mowing weeds down.
He worked all the day - studied all night,
Trained all new men in the ways that were right.
Knew the diseases; 'till his face would turn blue,
Not only a scholar and teacher was he,
But an ambassador of good will - and publicity.
Records he kept; watched budget allocation -
On him depended the course reputation.
And 'tho heading a project whose value was high,
Credit and praise went to some other guy.
Gripping and moaning he got every day
But seldom a raise in the old take-home pay!"
Now here he lies, his days they are thru-
"Tell me," said Satan, "What hell can I put him to?"
After sitting and thinking for quite a while
His face broke out in a great big smile;
The best known hardship he could deem
Was to send him where all was calm and green!

Reprint: Supts. Handicap, Finger Lakes A.G.C.S.





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GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

Recently I ran across a flyer advertising literature available through the U.S. Government Printing Office. You can get on a twice monthly mailing list which lists many publications that are available at a nominal cost. The list before me has over a hundred available pamphlets and books. The subject matter varies from "Growing Magnolias" (15¢), "Growing American Bunch Grapes" (25¢), "Using Phenoxy Herbicides Effectively" (20¢), "Selected Irrigation Return Flow Quality Abstracts" (\$2.75), and "Foot Rot of Sheep" (40¢).

One publication "Suggestions for Control of Turnover and Absenteeism" (\$1.00) could be of value to any superintendent.

To get on the free mailing list and receive this booklet twice a month, write to: Superintendent of Documents, Attn: S. L. Mail List, Washington, D. C. 20402.



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Summer Woes

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I'm sorry I shouted at you the other day when you questioned me about whether we were having any trouble with the course. However, I don't think it was necessary for my assistant to grab me on the pretense that I was about to start swinging.

Yes Sir! We have been having some trouble with the course, in fact several of the members have suggested that we are stretching the truth by calling it a golf course. As you may remember, it rained the entire month of July-record amounts. Well, during the first two weeks of August, while you were away on vacation, it turned hot and dry. Now I know you have said there's nothing unusual about such weather at that time of year, and I guess there isn't, but after ten inches of rain? Let us say in layman's terms the grass just didn't have the ambition, or the guts to survive. We literally saw aerial roots growing to nowhere on the Bent, and the Poa (which comprises most of our turf population, regardless of what you think I told you in the spring) had just enough roots to keep it from tipping over. It sure was interesting to watch the man syringing fairways with the wilt both ahead and behind him. Of course, as I told you earlier, I was very glad to be able to get back to watering seven nights a week. That \$18 item under Misc. last month was for a case of 6-12.

Then at the end of August we went back to our normal climate for this year, late abysmal swamp. I imagine one of the things you were questioning me about the other day is called "wet wilted, rotten, dead grass." It's not very attractive, and from what I'm told is very difficult to play from. In fact, I've been told the latter so many times that I suggested to three of the worst offenders that they resign-they already had.

Those large brown thin areas on the greens are disease. We realize that fungicides should prevent them, and I have written several pointed letters to the manufacturers of the 5 chemicals we applied in two weeks. The small tan spots on the fairways are called "dollar spot." As soon as we get the sprayer out of the mud on the 17th fairway, we'll get right on those areas.

We do hope to get the greens top-dressed this fall, however, it may be a little difficult as the operation really takes six men, and we only have four since our "summer professionals" have left for school. I sure hope we can get Mr. Looney's son back next year. I can't quite agree with the Board that just because he cut that word in the 9th fairway with a greensmower, he should not be asked back. After all he is a member's son, and certainly was a help on those weekends that parties didn't interfere.

In closing I certainly want to thank that kind member, who sent me the case of beer the day we lost 5 greens and 11 fairways to disease and wilt. I really wasn't feeling too chipper anyway, and his note—"You might as well drink, you haven't done very well at anything else," really set me up.

Respectfully submitted
Greens Superintendent
(Anonymous)

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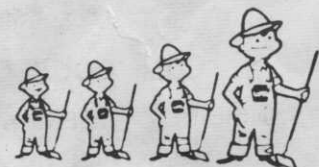


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IT'S STILL THE WEATHER

By Houston B. Couch

ATMOSPHERIC MOISTURE AND TURFGRASS DISEASE DEVELOPMENT

For many of the fungus-incited turfgrass diseases, free water on the surface of the leaves is a necessary requisite to successful infection by the pathogen. Also, for many of these diseases, splashing water and wind driven rain serve as the primary means of transport for the spores of the pathogens. It is reasonable, then, to relate both initial outbreaks and the relative severity of certain diseases of turfgrasses with prescribed periods of rainfall. However, several of the so called "wet weather" diseases also occur in high incidence during periods of prolonged dry weather. Sclerotinia dollar spot for example is most severe during periods of low soil moisture content. In fact, in tall cut grass the disease is often mistaken for drought injury. The foliar blighting phase of Fusarium blight has also been observed to be particularly severe during warm, dry spells.

The reason for this seeming paradox is that periods of low rainfall and high night temperatures are often accompanied by heavy ground fogs that persist until midday. As the result, free water is deposited on the surface of the leaves and remains well beyond the time necessary for promotion of the maximum number of infections. In the final analysis, then, when relating atmospheric moisture to the incidence and severity of turfgrass diseases, primary consideration should be given to the length of time the leaves are wet (*wetting period*), rather than the source of the moisture.

WARM WEATHER DISEASES OFTEN OCCUR IN GROUPS

The climatic conditions for development of many of the more important warm weather turfgrass diseases are similar. For example, Rhizoctonia brown patch; Fusarium blight, Pythium blight and Helminthosporium leaf spot are all most severe under prolonged wetting periods and daytime air temperatures of 85°-90°F and night temperatures that do not fall below 70°F. It is not uncommon, then, for these diseases to occur simultaneously in the same stand of turfgrass. This has most certainly been the case for Virginia during this part of the growing season.

When these combinations do occur, field diagnosis is very difficult. Often-time, the problem is identified as simply one disease with attending "atypical symptoms." This type of diagnosis can lead to serious problems. Many of the turfgrass fungicides now in use are limited in their spectrum of disease control. The primary materials used for Pythium blight control, for example, will not control the other three diseases mentioned above. The most efficient fungicide for Fusarium blight control will not control Pythium blight or Helminthosporium leaf spot. Programs developed for the control of summer diseases, then, should contain fungicides of sufficient spectrum to cover all of the

major problems that may be encountered. Furthermore, the turfgrass management specialist should not become so preoccupied with the control of one disease that he allows attending disease situations to get out of hand before he is fully aware of their presence.

SPRAY NOW — DRENCH LATER ?

The systemic fungicides now in use in turfgrass management move upward in the plants. This has lead to a theory that watering the area after it has been sprayed with a systemic fungicide will enhance the material's effectiveness by washing it down to the root zone of the plants. While there are apparently some rather strong opinions about the merits of this program, the research information that is available would not seem to support it. Field research with systemic fungicides for the control of stripe smut (*Ustilago striiformis*) and Fusarium blight (*F. roseum*) indicates that there is no difference in levels of disease control when the materials are applied at dilution rates ranging from 10 gallons to 50 gallons per 1000 square feet of turfgrass. Assuming an initial application of a systemic fungicide as a normal dilute spray of 4 to 5 gallons of water per 1000 square feet, additional drenching of the area by irrigation or syringing would probably not significantly increase the effectiveness of the material. On the other hand, since the material is systemic, this procedure probably won't decrease its effectiveness either. It would seem, then, that this is one of those rare instances in turfgrass disease control programing where either approach is equally appropriate.

Article from VPI Plant Protection Newsletter

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Top-dressing Season Here Again

Top-dressing your greens and possibly tees, while not as annual a project as aerating, unquestionably helps to restore the vitality of your greens. Since top-dressing your greens is very time consuming and costly this maintenance practice is often reserved as an aid to restoring turf quality when soil conditions are bad or putting surfaces are not true. Greens receiving heavy winter play require a spring topdressing to restore the damage from heavy foot traffic and frost heaving. At the early fall of the year many greens would benefit from topsoil if the green was severely thinned out from loss of annual bluegrass or heavily diseased during the hot summer months. If modifying a poor soil structure is your objective you probably will consider both a spring and fall top-dressing in conjunction with aerifying and removal of old plugs. What ever your goals top-dressing programs should be adjusted to a specific condition to be corrected and not be considered as a standard and routine practice that must be used at regular intervals as a part of normal turf maintenance. Where greens have been well constructed and a good strain of bent has been used, then there may be no necessity for top-dressing for long periods of time.

If you do plan to top-dress this fall carefully choose your material, a sterile sandy-loam of uniform size and texture that conforms with U.S.G.A. specifications has proven to be the most beneficial topdressing to use on greens.

For the benefit of our new Tidewater Members a new distributor of topsoil has been formed in Rocky Mount, North Carolina; E.N.S. Soil and Peat Industries, Inc., which will serve southern Virginia and the Carolinas — see add in newsletter.

GREEN HILL YACHT & C.C.

Lou White's meeting on August 14th, in Salisbury, Md., brought out a good crowd of some sixty superintendents.

A blind boggy tournament was held for the 33 golf contestants. Ed Dembnicki won first prize with Bryan Hall and Bob Milligan coming in 2nd. & 3rd. Charley Johnson and Ray Hall (Dr. Jack Hall's father) also won a "closest to the hole" contest.

Dr. Jack Hall, our featured speaker for the meeting, discussed the successful "Horticultural Happening" show held at Tysons Corner Shopping Center two weeks ago. For three consecutive days expert horticulturalists and extension agents manned various booths and tackled thousands of questions pertaining to soils, plants, trees, grasses, and flower & vegetable problems that plagued neighborhood homeowners. The public response was so great that Dr. Hall states a second "Horticultural Happening" is in the works for next year — possibly at Landover Mall Shopping Center. As a professional turf expert you may be fortunate enough to be part of the program!

Guide To First Aid

The National Safety Council has a well known slogan that says "safety is everyone's business". A little knowledge of basic first aid can often reduce the seriousness of occupational hazards.

Keep in mind the American Red Cross's definition of first aid: "The immediate and temporary care given the victim of an accident or sudden illness until the services of a physician can be obtained." In other words, it's important to know not only what to do but what not to do.

Some general policies to follow are: Don't try to move an injured person. Treat him for shock, control bleeding and keep him comfortable until proper transportation arrives. Improper moving can cause more harm; take your time. Great haste may also be harmful. In two cases however, speed is necessary: when bleeding is severe, and when artificial respiration is required. Have first aid kits in order and readily accessible.

If you are alone, treat first for severe bleeding; second for suspended breathing needing artificial respiration; third for internal poisoning; fourth for open wounds; fifth for burns; sixth for fractures and dislocations.

If the patient is unconscious and is not breathing, or if it seems uncertain, start artificial respiration at once.


Loosen tight clothing at neck and waist. Do not slip clothing over injured part. Rip it at the seams with knife or scissors.

Do not touch an open wound with the hands.

If the patient is vomiting, turn the head to one side so he will not choke.

The patient should always be kept warm except in sun stroke.


Never give an unconscious person water or liquid to drink.



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ABOUT HERBICIDES

The following chart lists the principal herbicides used in turf and the tolerance of various turfgrasses to these chemicals:

Herbicide	Turfgrass Species					
	Kentucky Bluegrass	Bentgrass	Fescues	Bermuda-Grass	Zoysia	St. Augustine
Atrazine	N	N	N	N	S	S
Bandane	I	S	I	I	S	S
Benfin	S	I	I	S	S	S
Bensulide	S	S	S	I	I	S
Calcium arsenate	S-I	I	I	I	O	I
2,4-D	S	N	S	S	S	N
DCPA	S	I	I	S	S	S
Dicamba	S	I	I	I	I	I
Endothall	I	N	N	I	O	I
Lead arsenate	I	I	I	I	O	I
Mecoprop	S	S	S	S	S	N
Organic arsenicals	I	I	N	S	S	N
Paraquat (dormant spray)	N	N	N	S	S	S
Siduron	S	I	I	N	S	S
Silvex	S	N	I	I	O	N
Tebutol	S	I	I	S	I	S

S = safe for use

N = not suggested for use

I = may be injurious

O = unknown

Reprinted from April 1973
Grounds Maintenance

CORRECTION

In the August Newsletter the listing of members received from the Tidwater Section of the Mid-Atlantic was incomplete. The list should have included the name of Lewis Knight from G. L. Cornell Co., Bon Air, Virginia.

MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

A story goes that a farmer was approached by a young representative of the state agricultural department who urged him to take advantage of the advisory services which were available. The farmer demurred at this suggestion, saying, "I know now how to farm twice as good as I'm doing." What did the farmer say?

Isn't this too often the situation superintendent's have to continually guard against? The economics of golf course maintenance is escalating annually, as is everything else; and simultaneously we alter our management practices to make ends meet, sometimes to the detriment of our golf course.

View your operations carefully for budget preparation in the up coming months. Set a folder aside and jot down ideas and probable expenses you will expect to encounter for the following year's budget. Now is the time to formulate your ideas, because all your maintenance operations are still in full swing; changes are now easy to visualize and plan for. To prepare your budget for next year, using only last year's budget and expenses as a guideline, might put you in the situation the farmer found himself in for lack of planning ahead.

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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

1973 Mid-Atlantic Meetings

- Sept. 4 Ladie's Night – Shady Grove
Golf Available
- Sept. 11 Hunt Valley C.C., Cockeysville, Md. (Joint)
Host: Bob Orazi
- Oct. 2 Woodmont C. C., Rockville, Md. (annual
Tournament)
Host: Bob Shields
- Nov. 13 River Bend C. C., Great Falls, Va.
Host: Tom Haske
- Dec. 11 OPEN – Is your club available??
Election meeting

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Craig A. Spottswood
Editor – 301/460-5038

