



MID-ATLANTIC

News Letter



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Mid Atlantic Conference

Success! Despite severe adverse weather our annual Mid Atlantic Conference was claimed the best in years. George Thompson, program committee chairman, spent most of Sunday evening peering out of the hotel window looking at our dismal new snow fall, with a 4 to 6 inch prediction; he had justification for worry. Monday morning's registration started out poorly but flourished to 80 by mid morning. Total attendance exceeded 150 people registered for the conference and 100 for the banquet.

Highlights of our conference were many: Warren Bidwell started off our Monday morning educational assembly with an informative discussion about his long preparation for the PGA championship he had at Congressional this past August. Of particular interest were his professional quality slides he used to illustrate his points, especially the slides showing his \$400 dollar dogwood tree! (Warren collected \$400 for the defacing of one dogwood to enhance the TV camera viewing of one green.)

Dr. A.J. Powell of the University of Kentucky followed Warren with a presentation concerning managing bent greens; basically a review of benefits from different management practices. Dr. Powell pointed out the success we are having from winter fertilizing our cool season grasses and completely omitting any early spring nitrogen for bluegrass. Applications of fertilizer from late fall throughout the winter dormancy period have proven very successful for maximum root development of our cool season grasses.

Dr. John Hall, V.P.I., ended our morning session with an alarming talk, "Are we preparing for 1984?" Dr. Hall pointed out the severe drop off of new golf courses in the mid 70's and prophesized we all should take note of what the slack in building golf courses means. Monies for golf courses are going to continue to dwindle until we witness a major change in our present economy. This applies now to all of us already in the industry as annual budgets are not increasing as rapidly as the rate of inflation. If the building trend stays on a downward swing, we will see fewer golf courses in 1984 than we have today.

Dr. Hall advocates our best means of survival is to help cut cost — all costs — of managing a golf course. Paul Voykin, our banquet speaker, advocated a prac-

tical means of cutting costs is to gradually revert back to less intense management practices on your golf course, especially in areas of rough, etc. As each day passes we seem to advance the intensity of our management operations which results in higher maintenance budgets.

- Do you have to cut your greens daily?
- Do you have to rake traps every other day?
- Do you have to cut your rough twice a week?
- Do you have to cut your fairways every other day?
- Do you design your golf course for mechanized or hand maintenance?

President's Message

Fellow Members:

It is said that recognition by one's peers is the supreme compliment. I have had a few nice things happen to me as a golf course superintendent, but being elected President of the Mid Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents has to rank number one. For this honor, I pledge to you, the membership, my efforts to guide our association on the course of progress during the coming year. I ask that you exercise your rights, responsibilities, and privileges as a Mid Atlantic member for the good of the association in 1977.

Our 1977 turf conference is now history. A big thank you to George Thompson, our educational director and conference chairman, and his committee for a job well done. Congratulations to Lee Dieter on being chosen by his peers as MAA of GCS "Superintendent of the Year." Lee has always been a willing, dedicated worker both for his club and the association.

In closing, a remark made by Dr. John Hall, of VPI, in his talk "Future Shock — Are you Preparing for 1984?" at our recent turf conference bothered me. Dr. Hall stated that there were three percent fewer golfers in 1976 than there were in 1973. Fellow members, that type of statistic is bad for our profession. Let us all do what it takes to reverse this apparent trend. Golf is our game, it must continue to grow.

Yours for finer turf and better golf.

Bill Emerson

How many hours do you now spend on hand maintenance? Consider the hours saved if you cut each of the above jobs in half. Multiply those hours by your average wage per hour and come up with a substantial savings.

Our afternoon session featured Paul Boizelle, President of the New Jersey GCSA, and Jim Gilligan, also of the New Jersey GCSA. They spoke about their reorganization of their state association to improve attendance and interest within their organization. New Jersey subdivided their organization into eight sub organizations (districts) each having their own executive director, secretary — treasurer, and educational chairman. These districts have meetings within their own districts and eight meetings a year, with all 8 districts meeting together as the New Jersey organization. These 8 joint meetings may go down in number next year.

To date this has proven very successful and more people are active because of the district level management, and their state meetings are successful because each of the eight district executive directors are also



Title: Bill Emerson (right) Our new president, gives David Fairbank (left) past presidents plaque at our conference banquet.



Lee Dieter, Superintendent at Washington Golf and Country Club, receives plaque from Sam Kessel at conference banquet. Congratulations Lee for an award well earned.

board directors within their mother organization. This whole operation may sound complex to those of you who did not attend the conference, but the above is a condensed summary of their organization.

Other educational speakers for the afternoon included Lee Redman's presentation of managing zoysia fairways in Missouri which helped bring in focus our increasing area use of zoysia as a turf grass for golf courses.

We ended our first day's educational proceedings with a discussion of new pesticides that will be released in the future. Our speakers included representatives from Monsanto, Rhodia, Ciba-Geigy, and Eli Lilly.

Tuesday's assembly featured fusarium blight. Dr. Smiley, turf pathologist from Cornell University, began the morning with a report to us of all the chemicals in use to control fusarium. As was expected, none of them worked consistently. Hopefully some of the newer fungicides coming on the market will prove more successful in actual use than what we've got now.

Following Dr. Smiley was a panel discussion on fusarium headed up by Ed Wilson. The panelists were Corky Knoll, and John Segui from Pennsylvania, and Bob Orazi from Hunt Valley. All three showed slides of devastating destruction from fusarium in their fairways and the multitude of management practices and chemicals used to try to keep this disease under control. Corky showed us slides of his burning off of the diseased fairways and related the use of this valuable tool of turf management if used when all conditions were perfect for burning and reseeding. In our area we have resorted to ryegrass as a means of evading this disease. Pennsylvania superintendents are still working with bluegrass and chemicals but are also considering rye overseeding if all else fails.

As you can see we had a wide variety of educational topics and because of this successful program we had a large turn out. George Thompson wanted me to thank all his committee, David Fairbank, Ken Braun, Ange Cammarota, Bill Emerson, Jack Murray, and Ed Wilson for a job well done.

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Portland Conference Notes

More than 70 speakers will address 20 educational sessions and four preconference seminars. In addition to more than 500 hours of educational opportunities, the conference and show will offer more than 100,000 square feet of exhibits, tours of the Oregon Seed industry and five Portland area golf courses, a women's program featuring a tour of the Pacific Coast and inland forest areas, social events and the GCSAA annual meeting and election.

Nominees selected for GCSAA election:

President — Theodore W. Woehrl (Michigan)

Vice President — George Cleaver (Maryland); Melvin Lucas, Jr. (New York); Charles H. Tadge (Ohio).

Directors — Three to be elected — the two with the highest number of votes for a three year term, the one with the third highest number of votes for a two year term. Hobart T. Burgan (Oklahoma); David Harmon (Virginia); Edward Dembnicki (North Carolina); James A. Wyllie (Ontario); Louis D. Haines (Colorado).

Exhibitors will be allowed to sell at the Portland Show. Due to a tax reform law, exhibitors will be allowed to take over the counter orders for the first time. Thus, those attending the Portland Conference and Show may for the first time negotiate for the purchase and delivery of products they previously could only examine from a technical and educational point of view.

In a recent check of laws and regulations it was learned that "wearing roller skates in public lavatories is illegal in Portland". Thus, we are urging everyone coming to the Portland Conference and Show February 6 thru 11, 1977, to leave their roller skates at home.

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Pesticides are a threat more fearful indeed,
Than nematode, fungus, insect, and weed.
They worry we'll eat astronomical doses,
If you eat fifty tons! It will give you cirrhosis!
They doubt all research, but believe every rumor,
Apprehensive do-gooders with no sense of humor,
When it comes to decisions, they do as they please,
All inscrutably written in governmentese.

B.E. Day, Prof. Plant Physiology
University of California, Berkeley
*National Agricultural Chemicals
Association* Newsletter, June, 1976

The best "top salesman" we ever heard of was the one who sold two milking machines to a farmer with only one cow and then took the cow as a down payment.

Tri State News
Ky. — Ind. — Ill.

The auto manufacturing executive received a telephone call, "was it your company that announced in the paper that you recently put together a car in seven minutes?" the caller asked.

"Yes sir, it was", the executive answered proudly.


"Well," the caller said, "I'd like to let you know that I've got the car."



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Winter Kill Its Cause and Cure

Reprint: Dr. Elliot C. Roberts, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa.

Winter kill is a broad term which is used to describe injury to turfgrass during the winter period. Most often the condition is noted in late winter or early spring about the time that growth normally begins. There are five causes of winter injury. These may be listed and discussed as follows: 1. Desiccation, 2. Suffocation of roots from excess moisture, 3. Suffocation of the plant from carbon dioxide, 4. Scald from light reflection through ice crystals and 5. Snow Mold disease. Very often a combination of all five causes results in a single case of winter kill. Turf which has been weakened by disease or chemical or mechanical injury during the previous growth season is often more susceptible to winter kill.

DESICCATION: Turf which is not protected during the winter from strong dry winds may dry out and perish from lack of moisture. Even though turf is dormant and is not producing foliar growth it still has a minimum water requirement. Under normal conditions where snow covers the turf and protects it from drying out or where other vegetative wind breaks shelter the turf injury from desiccation is not common. It is most often noted on putting greens, on new or thin stands of turf and on elevated areas exposed to strong air currents such as greens and tees. This type of winter injury is caused by the loss of moisture from the frozen soil. Ice crystals change into water vapor through a process of sublimation and thus soil moisture is lost and carried off by strong winds. The depletion of moisture levels under a turf may be great enough to cause injury to the plants.

Protect against this type of winter damage by use of show fences or other types of artificial or natural vegetative barriers to protect turf which is subject to winter desiccation. Encourage snow to collect on these areas. Where an open winter without snow is encountered it may be necessary to water the turf at infrequent intervals. This may be successfully done by using a large tank type sprayer on a day when temperatures are above freezing. The amount of water applied need not be large as long as the surface of the turf and soil is moistened.

SUFFOCATION FROM EXCESS MOISTURE: During winter months ice may collect in low spots or hollows which do not drain. As temperatures rise in late winter and early spring water collects under the ice and above the frost layer in the soil. It may become trapped in this position long enough to suffocate the grass as it starts its first spring growth. Oxygen is required for the growth of all turfgrasses. It must be present in the soil or the roots fail to develop and may die. It has been noted that grass which has entered the winter in an over stimulated condition is more susceptible to this type of injury. Over stimulation is most often due to excessive amounts of available nitrogen in the soil.

To prevent this type of winter injury: (1) Topdress regularly to keep depressions which may collect excess moisture from forming. (2) Reconstruct areas of unstable turf to remove hollows and to improve surface drainage. (3) Aerify greens which are subject to winter injury late in the fall and leave aerifier holes open. (4) Remove a strip of sod from pockets in a green where water collects. Continue these strips out to the edge of the green. Deepen the channel by removal of soil so that water will drain from the low spot within the green to the edge of the green and off into the fairway. Place the sod strips roots down on the grass next to the green. Keep them from drying out during the winter. Replace them in the green after all danger of winter injury has passed in early spring. (5) Where the frost layer is thin puncture it several times with a crowbar or other pointed implement to allow water to drain out of low spots in early spring. (6) Break up ice and remove large amounts of snow from turf which is subject to winter injury. This should be necessary only during late winter or early spring accumulations.

SUFFOCATION FROM CARBON DIOXIDE ACCUMULATION: Injury to turf occurs at times before ice melts and frost starts to leave the ground. In this case a suffocation of the plant from excess water in the root-zone cannot be responsible for the injury. It has been noted that a solid ice cover is always found over the injured turf. The ice may be covered with snow so that it is not visible but it is always present. It is known that as turf over winters even in a dormant state there is a certain amount of respiration taking place. A by-product of respiration is carbon dioxide. Since the plant is not growing it cannot use this in photosynthesis, thus it accumulates under the ice. At the same time oxygen is depleted. A toxic concentration of carbon dioxide is believed responsible for some turfgrass failures during late winter periods. A cracking of the ice to allow the carbon dioxide to escape is the only way to prevent this type of injury.

SCALD: Thin sheets of ice may be so formed that lenses develop within the ice that are responsible for turfgrass injury. The sun's rays may be so magnified by the ice that the turf heats up underneath. This may initiate growth at an unfavorable time from the standpoint of soil moisture conditions and soil aeration. Leaves may actually be scalded or become wilted from such conditions. This type of injury may be controlled by breaking up the ice to allow air circulation underneath it. This moderates growth conditions so that the turf may make a more natural start during early spring.

SNOW MOLD: The activity of fungi (Typhula and Fusarium species) on the dormant turf may cause disease injury during the winter and early spring. As a rule these pathogens are most active at temperatures from 40 degrees to 60 degrees F. They develop readily in

areas along the receding edge of snow banks and under the snow where footprints, ski tracks and other forms of traffic have compacted the snow. Injury is not noted until the snow has melted and by this time it is too late for effective use of fungicides. Injury may be reduced by brushing the turf to break up the fungus organism and thus let air and light into the sod. Recovery will be speeded by applications of a little extra soluble or inorganic fertilizer applied early in the spring.

Where snow mold is noted regularly such as on putting greens and on bentgrass tees and lawns a preventative chemical treatment should be applied in early winter before the first snow and again in mid winter (during a January thaw). Mercury chlorides, phenyl mercury, thiram and cadmium compounds have been used effectively for this purpose.

SUMMARY: It is often assumed that there is little need for turfgrass managers to be concerned with the grass during the off season (periods of late fall and winter and early spring). All too often golf courses are understaffed at this time of year. If winter injury is to be prevented, particularly on putting greens, there is a time consuming job to be done in checking the condition of the dormant turf. Where winter injury occurs frequently major reconstruction or renovation may be necessary to improve over-all growth conditions for the grass.

CREDIT: Minnesota GCSA Newsletter Nov. 1975.



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Mustard Greens Carrots Sprout on Golf Green

Savannah, Ga., Nov. 20. — ()—For days and days gangs of men worked on greens at the City Golf club, plowing, planting and rolling the ground. Savannah golfers would have fine putting greens.

Two days ago things began to come up. Seven greens must be made over because officials at the golf club decided Savannah golfers could not putt on the crop of mustard greens and carrots.

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Hole In One

In 1975, there were 25,372 holes-in-one made on U.S. golf courses, according to *Golf Digest's* records. Not all were the result of skill. One man, for example, playing at a club in Reno, sliced a low ball off the twelfth hole. The ball skipped twice across a water hazard, slammed into a rake left near a sand bunker — and bounced onto the green where it rolled into the cup, a hole-in-one!

A Tournament Note

Rain interrupted a major golf tournament in Florida last winter, which prompted the management to issue the following notice: "Yesterday's tickets are good for today. Today's tickets are good for today. But today's tickets are not good for tomorrow. Season tickets are good for today and tomorrow. Tickets for tomorrow's round will have to be purchased. There are no refunds."

Good Luck — Warren Bidwell!



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