



CHARTER

Mid-Atlantic Newsletter



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Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents to aid in the Advancement of the
Golf Course Superintendent through Education and Merit

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Number 10

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Fellow Members:

In the history of man it has never been easier to communicate than it is today. Because of the ease to communicate some of us don't do it very well. I accept the blame and sincerely apologize for the inconvenience some of you suffered because of

your association's failure to communicate the proper dates for our recent meeting in Wilmington and our October "3rd" meeting at Bob Orazi's Hunt Valley Golf Club. There is no good excuse for mix-ups such as these and again I am truly sorry for the problems it has caused some of you.

October's meeting at Hunt Valley is highlighted by our annual memorial tournament or the golf cart ride on Bob's new nine. Depending on how well you play, one or the other, will give you a thrill.

Looking forward to seeing you OCTOBER 3RD, FIRST TUESDAY, at Hunt Valley Golf Club.

Yours for finer turf for better golf through good communications,

Bill Emerson

October Meeting



The October meeting will be held at Hunt Valley Golf Club located in Phoenix, Maryland on Tuesday, October 3rd. This is the first Tuesday in October. Hopefully you received a flyer on the Tournament. Your host for the day will be Bob Orazi.

As you all know the October meeting is our championship tournament for the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents. If any of you have ever played Hunt Valley before you know that it is a scenic and challenging test at golf.

The original 18 holes were built in 1969 after design by Ed Ault. Bob assisted during construction and stayed on as superintendent after completion of the course.

In May, 1975 another 9 holes were started at Hunt Valley as part of an expansion program which included a swimming pool complex and 4 Har-Tru tennis courts, plus 2 all-weather, in addition to expansion of the existing clubhouse. The new nine holes were designed by Algie Pulley and opened for play in May, 1977.

All greens are Penncross Bent. The majority of the tees are a blend of colonial bents. Some of the tees have been converted to Bluegrass and Ryegrass varieties. The fairways are primarily a blend of several bluegrasses.

Directions to the Club:

Exit from Baltimore Beltway to Interstate 83 North. Take the Shawan Rd. Exit East. Proceed to York Road and then turn right. Approximately 1/2 mile on York Road turn left onto Ashland/Papermill Roads. Continue along Papermill Road for approximately 2 miles and turn left onto Phoenix Rd. Entrance to the club is on the right.

Program:

Golf: After 11 a.m.

Lunch: Available on cash basis

Cocktails: 6-7 p.m.

Dinner: 7 p.m.

Speaker: Dr. Charles Darrab

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Employment Referral Service

August 18, 1978

Title of Position: Golf Course Superintendent

Golf Course: Baltimore Country Club
Baltimore, Maryland 21210

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At least two years associate degree in turf management or related field

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Those Dog-Days in August

There are times I wonder why I ever got into this business, and the last two weeks in August (those dog-days) are one of the times when I wonder most.

I don't have to look at a calendar to know when the August dog-days are here, all I have to do is go to work. I know it's dog-days when there has been 40 to 50 90° plus days (mostly in a row), and there has been at least an inch of rain in the past 45 to 60 days, unfortunately it all came in five minutes. Also during dog-days greens tend to get a little firm on the mounds (it takes dynamite to set a cup) and a little soft (the greens mower needs pontoons) in the swails.

The low areas in the fairways also tend to get a little on the damp side. They team with water fowl, and possibly reptiles, plus there is speculation that a drag line should be employed to look for last year's men's club champion and his cart, believed somewhere on the back nine. Fortunately there are just as many dry areas in the fairways as wet. I figure that about the time these dry areas are too hard to drive in a 16 penny nail it's time to try and talk one of my employees into dragging a hose over and running a little extra water. That is assuming 1) I have water, 2) I have an employee.

Speaking of employees, they often highlight dog-days with items like—all the night watermen quitting the same week, all the intellectuals deciding they need to leave for school two weeks before it starts, and all the unintellectuals caring less whether they work or get fired, as welfare and unemployment pay about the same; and don't try to hire anybody during dog-days, there isn't anybody.

The golfers are also happy to add their two cents to dog-days by pointing out little items that are out of line. You know those items, like greens which have been chewed up by thousands of golfers leaving their ball marks and dragging their feet; fairways which have been beaten into prairie roads by thousands of golf carts and tees that look like the Lowry Bombing Range thanks to these observant and helpful golfers.

Last but not least, are the dog-days equipment dulldrums. Dog-days are here the day the stunt driver you've been threatening to fire all summer wraps one

cushman around a tree (he lives, the cushman and the tree are both killed) and the wiring harness burns up in another. Persons unknown let the tee mower run out of oil and the engine freezes up, and a greensmower breaks a hydraulic line. But that's not all, it takes longer to get the rotaries started than it takes to mow, there are no new aerating tines in town, in fact there are no new parts for anything in town, the belts are broken on the top dresser, the roller bearings are shot in the fairway unit and the mechanic is gone to Iowa for his annual family reunion.

Yes, these August dog-days make me wonder if I might not be better off sorting mail at the bulk mail center, but then again with what the federal government pays, I wouldn't know what to do with the extra money.

Denny Lyon

Editor - Rocky Mountain Reporter

Update on Cool Weather Brown Patch - A Continuing Problem

H. Cole, Jr., L.L. Burpee and P.O. Sanders

A Brief History

For years Brown Patch has been recognized as a warm temperature, humid weather disease of colonial bents and the older mixed creeping bentgrasses of greens and tees. Typically the disease would smolder causing patches of brownish discolored grasses until the weather became especially "muggy" and warm when smoke rings and active patches would appear overnight.

Older writings about golf courses diseases contain references to winter Brown Patch but these brownish rings or patches were little more than curiosities. In the mid 1970's, however, persistent reports of brown rings or yellowish brown rings or patches were being made from golf courses throughout the East. Often these symptoms occurred when temperatures were in the 50's, 60's, or 70's. Superficially, they resembled typical Brown Patch, but in many instances symptoms were not controlled by the common Brown Patch fungicides or at

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Brown Patch

(continued from page 3)

best were checked for only a few days. As the reports filtered in, we were about to blame the disease on fungicide resistant low temperature strains of *Rhizoctonia solani* and we were going to publish a note about the resistance problem. Fortunately, Dr. Robert Sherwood of the U.S.D.A. Pasture Research Laboratory asked a most important question: How do you know the fungus is *Rhizoctonia solani*, the cause of the common warm temperature Brown Patch? To make a long story short, we didn't and it wasn't. The fungus superficially looked like *R. solani*, but there the relationship stopped. After much literature and laboratory searching the fungus turned out to be a *Ceratobasidium* sp., a *Rhizoctonia* relative to *R. solani* but completely different in temperature requirements and fungicide sensitivity.

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.....
People have a built-in hunger for genuine friendship and enduring relationships.

In our mobile society it seems more difficult to establish the finest, deepest friendships for they require time—considerable time. Being a friend means making one's self available to another. Really good friends work out reasonable ways of coping with each other's supply and demand.

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Guest Editorial

In our profession, problems are often put on the shelf in hopes that they will rectify themselves or simply be forgotten. Fortunately, in many cases this is true. But when a problem occurs time after time and it appears that nothing is being done about it, it is time to look for an answer. This problem is unique in the golf course superintendents' business in that it is common to us all and occurs regardless of location, budget, expertise, experience, or capital investment. I'm speaking of parts availability.

If anyone in our association has not had a problem in getting urgently needed parts, please let us know. I've heard unbelievable stories from superintendents about delays and snafus. Parts ordered, and two weeks later you may receive a back order notice. Must we buy a new Greensaire to complete our aerification? Is it really an ingenious selling ploy? The cost of parts versus the entire machine can be astronomical. Must we beg as well as pay through the nose for them? I realize turf equipment is "custom made," but with escalating costs wouldn't it be economical to produce an overabundance of parts which could be sold (and quickly) at ever higher prices? According to the computer list of available parts most equipment becomes obsolete in 5 years in Florida. Is this true in the northern states with the short seasons or are all the parts held back for those that have the winter to repair at leisure?

I've had two pieces of equipment in the shop awaiting back ordered parts for over 2 months. Who pays the storage cost? (One more reason parts are more and more expensive). I ordered a new piece of equipment with options. After three weeks it became apparent that the options would be back ordered. The basic item was subsequently delivered and several months later we are still awaiting these options—the total bill has been paid! The situation is so bad that salesmen and partsmen will put us off in hopes that we will forget or make other arrangements. Who pays for the \$6000 machine, idled for weeks by a commonly worn or broken part?

Often we are at fault for expecting the instant communication of television or the simultaneous copy of a teletype. Sometimes we read the wrong part number, or because of incomplete information or not reading the manual, order the wrong part. This editorial does not wish to blame the manufacturer, transporter, distributor, serviceman, or salesman. However, we would like to hear the problem in each area and what can and is being done to alleviate some of the bottlenecks. Can we as superintendents help? How? We would like to see responses from each area (including superintendents) in the newsletter.

George Reid

Florida West Coast Newsletter Editor

Brown Patch

(continued from page 4)

The Current Situation

As more samples and reports of disease occurrences rolled in, it became apparent that we were not dealing with a curiosity but with a problem of consequence of golf turf. Symptoms have been reported on fairways, greens, tees, and aprons.

We could isolate the *Ceratobasidium* fungus from many of these turf areas; from some we could isolate neither *Ceratobasidium* nor *R. solani* but still other unidentified fungi. At present we believe that the disease is not going to become the scourge of turfgrass but merely another problem to be solved on the way to qualify turf. It would appear that humid, cool weather is most favorable for disease development.

Where did the problem come from: Why *Ceratobasidium* now and not 10 years ago?

Any new problem always stimulates the question of why now? and not before? Answers have ranged from: the discontinuance of growing season use of mercury to the introduction of the benzimidazole systemic fungicides in wide use. Others have blamed shifts in the weather towards cooler, wetter summers. At this point there is not correct answer and there may never be one. The best we can do is speculate based on the facts on hand. Our best estimate is that the same shift towards cooler, wetter summers that has brought on increased

Red Thread prevalence and severity has also brought Cool Weather Brown Patch to prominence. Fungi respond to their environment. Those that are favored by a change in the environment become more common; those that are less favored become less common.

Where do we go from there?

The major practical problem that the turfgrass manager faces is disease control to a level compatible with the uses of the area in question. At present we just do not have enough information about the disease to make clear recommendations for either cultural or fungicide control. Environmental manipulation does not seem to offer promise, especially for the golf course superintendent who is locked into a multitude of other concerns dealing with irrigation and culture. From a fungicide view the best recommendation would be to stick with success. If Cool Weather Brown Patch does appear and your current program is not holding it, then try shifting to other fungicides labeled and registered for Brown Patch until you meet with at least partial success. We are attempting to work out the fungicide situation. Dan Loughner, who is working on his M.S. in Plant Pathology with us, will be evaluating fungicides in the laboratory, green house, and with luck, in the field. We will be screening both the *Rhizoctonia solani* warm temperature Brown Patch group as well as the *Ceratobasidium* cool temperature group of fungi.

From The Keynoter, Penn. Turfgrass Council

Dates to Remember

OCTOBER 3rd

Hunt Valley Golf Club
Superintendent's Championship Tourney

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

JANUARY

Turfgrass 79, Baltimore Hilton
January 7th-11th

January 23-24 - Virginia Turfgrass Conference
Shannon Green, Fredericksburg

Sulfur - The Forgotten Turf Nutrient

During the years 1957 through 1962 only 10 to 13 states were listed as having a sulfur deficiency in their soils. Today there are at least 29 states deficient in this amazing life giving element.

Sulfur is essential to the healthy growth of turf as well as all plants. Here are some of sulfur's benefits to turf.

1. Improves water penetration in soil.
2. Increases availability of iron, manganese, copper,

(continued on page 7)

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Sulfur

(continued from page 6)

zinc, and boron to the plant.

3. Improves soil structure.
4. Builds healthy protoplasm and plant tissue to help resist drought.
5. Enhances color.
6. Promotes turf growth and density.
7. Aids the turf response when used in combination with nitrogen.
8. Helps keep alkalinity in balance.
9. Aids nitrogen release from organic matter.
10. Improves recuperation capacity.

WHY IS THERE AN INCREASED NEED FOR SULFUR NOW?

Substantial amounts of sulfur used to be in the air because of coal burning home furnaces. Sulfur would be carried to the soil and plants by rain. During the 50's as much as 200 lbs. of sulfur per acre would be included in the annual rainfall in the Chicago area while the rural areas of Kentucky only received 5 or 6 lbs. of sulfur annually. Today, because of very little sulfur coal burning and environmental controls eliminating sulfur emissions the amount of sulfur returned to the soil in rainfall has been practically eliminated.

Before the popularity of today's high analysis plant food, most fertilizer had a high concentration of sulfur contributed by ingredients, such as ammonium sulfate, superphosphate, potassium sulfate, sul-po-mag. Because of lower costs and greater availability, higher analysis sources of nutrients are used containing little or no sulfur. As a consequence, two of the most important sources of sulfur that have been washed out of the air by rain and a normal ingredient in fertilizer have almost been eliminated.

The sulfur present in the soil is eventually used up or leached out. The more nitrogen used the more sulfur is needed for proper turf growth. Depleted sulfur must be replenished or severe turf damage can result. Here is a list of sulfur sources:

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Elemental sulfur	0-0-0-99
Sulfur-coated Urea	32-0-0-24
Ammonium Sulfate	21-0-0-24
Ferrous Sulfate	18% S, 21% Fe
Gypsum	20% Ca, 18% S
Potassium Magnesium Sulfate (Sul-po-mag)	0-0-22-18, 11% Mg
Ferrous Ammonium Sulfate	16% S, 22% Fe
Potassium Sulfate	0-0-50 - 17% S
Superphosphate	0-22-0 18% Ca, 12% S

HOW MUCH SULFUR DOES TURF REQUIRE?

Normally grass contains as much sulfur as phosphorous. The more nitrogen that is fed the more phosphorous, potash and sulfur needed. For example, if 4 lbs. of nitrogen were fed each thousand sq. ft. of turf it

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Sulfur

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would require 1 lb. of phosphorous; 2 lbs. of potash and 1 lb. of sulfur. Sandy soils would require more sulfur because of leaching tendencies.

CAN SULFUR BE TOXIC TO GRASS?

The major sulfur villain is sulfur dioxide usually produced by smelters. This atmospheric contamination can completely kill plants. It is rare that sulfur added to the soil will harm plants. However, in arid or poorly drained soils, high concentrations of sulfates can cause problems by making calcium unavailable.

SULFUR DEFICIENCIES

Plants deficient in sulfur have very similar symptoms to those with a nitrogen deficiency; yellowing of leaves, faint scorching of leaf tip continuously until the whole leaf withers and dies.

SULFUR IS NEEDED TO LOWER pH OR INCREASE SOIL ACIDITY

If your pH is 7 add 2 lbs. of sulfur per 100 sq. ft. for every $\frac{3}{4}$ degree of pH you want to decrease. For example, if your pH is 7, 2 lbs. of sulfur per 100 sq. ft. will bring your pH down to 6.5 and 4 lbs. of sulfur per 100 sq. ft. will bring the pH down to 6.0. In sand, cut these amounts by one third.

Never add sulfur or lime to correct pH until you have tested your soil and known what the pH is.

Robert A. Brown

Reprinted from the New Hampshire Turf Talk, Vol. 7, No. 1, Jan/Feb, 1977. Mr. Brown is Sales Manager with The Andersons, Lawn Fertilizer Section, Maumee, Ohio.

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8 TIPS TO MAKING NEW FRIENDS

1. **REMEMBER** that the time to make friends is before you need them.

2. **BROADEN** your friendship base (including all age groups) so that when you lose friends through death or geographical separation others will remain to take their place.

3. **REGULATE** your routine and business affairs so that friendships receive proper attention.

4. **MAINTAIN** good listening habits (which means active listening and thoughtful responding) so people will look upon you as a friend.

5. **RENEW** past acquaintances with a willingness to fade in or out as the vibes indicate.

6. **MINIMIZE** little inconsistencies and oddities that you notice in your friends, for you too have your share.

7. **COMMUNICATE** by brief, thoughtful gestures such as phone calls or notes. I'm not talking about writing long letters; instead send clippings, snapshots, or a pressed flower with "Hi! Thinking of you."

8. **DARE** to tell your friends that you love them and that they matter to your life.

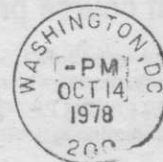
Boswell in The Life of Samuel Johnson says, "If a man does not make new acquaintances as he advances through life, he will soon find himself left alone. A man, sir, should keep his friendship in a constant repair."

Credit: Cooperative Extension New York State

Mid-Atlantic Newsletter

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