

Turfgrass Matters



October 1994, vol. 46, no. 8

Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Newsletter

MAAGCS Individual Championship To Be Held at Queenstown Harbor on October 11

by Bill Shirk

Queenstown Harbor Golf Links is a 36-hole, daily-fee golf course located in Queenstown, Maryland on the Eastern Shore. The two 18-hole golf courses known now as the Lakes and the River were carved out of 750 acres of woods, farmland, and of course wetlands. The property lies at the mouth of the Chester River and Queenstown Creek.

This property has been owned by Washington Brick & Terra Cotta Company since 1972. Washington Brick & Terra Cotta Company developed the golf course and still manages its operations. Both courses were designed by Lindsay Ervin & Associates, Inc. and built by Kenova Construction. On July 1, 1990, construction began on 27 holes, and enough construction was completed to open 18 holes on July 1, 1991. The third nine was opened April 1, 1992, and on August 1, 1993, construction for the fourth nine was started and that nine opened on July 29, 1994.

The original 27 holes averaged about 50,000 18-hole rounds for 1992 and 1993. The first month, which was August, 1994, QHGL did 9,350 18-hole rounds on 36 holes with three days closed due to rain. Queenstown Harbor GL is constantly trying to improve. Even at our young stage, we have already completely rebuilt one green, now known as #3 River, last October due to severe con-

touring and a perched water pocket. We have two more greens due for reconstruction in the near future, #14 River and #18 River.

I have an outstanding crew of 20 full-time employees, with two good assistants. Jeff Wolfe is a Penn State graduate and has been

**QHGL has...
approximately 200 acres
of wetlands and wildlife
areas.**

with me since March, 1991, and John Stern who is a University of Maryland graduate and has been with me for two years.

Queenstown Harbor GL has approximately 200 acres of rough which is a bluegrass and ryegrass mixture; 50 acres of fairways is Penneagle bentgrass; eight acres of tees and eight acres of greens that are Penncross bentgrass, and for good measure, approximately 200 acres of wetlands and wildlife areas.

Queenstown Harbor GL was awarded GCSAA's 1993 Environmental Steward Award at the last conference in Dallas, Texas for public golf courses in the Mid-Atlantic region—an honor we are all proud of!

Our course has already hosted several superintendent meetings in our short history, one of which was Superintendent-Pro in 1992. The owner, Arthur Birney, the head golf professional, Trent

Wright, and I are always ready to welcome any Superintendent or Pro meeting at QHGL. We are very proud of the golf courses, whether it be in peak condition or less than peak condition—which happens from time to time. I also wish that more superintendents and clubs would adopt this same attitude as many of us do.

I have been at QHGL since the beginning of construction. I have
See Shirk, page 8, column 2

○○○

Directions: Take Route 50 east across the Bay Bridge. Ten miles beyond the bridge, on the "Land of Pleasant Living," take 301 north toward Wilmington. One-half mile on your left side is QHGL.

Dinner: Will be at Annie's Paramount Steak House. Take 50 west back toward the Bay Bridge. Take exit 42, Kent Narrows East. Turn right at the stop sign. Annie's is at the end of the road.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A sincere
Thank You to
Jon Mach-
muller and the
Beach Club
Golf Links for
hosting the
September
meeting. It
sounds like Jon will be very busy
in the near future building another
18 holes. Most of those attending
took advantage of the great
weather and toured one of Ocean
City's finest golf courses.



Thanks to Ken Ingram for
bringing us up to date on the
Progress/Scott's granular issue.
Looks like we either live with Poa
or gamble on the registered
product at light rates.

Two golf events other than
our own championship will be
held this month. Your support of
the John Deere Tournament at
Greenspring Valley and the
Maryland Turfgrass Council
Tournament at the University of
Maryland Golf Course benefit
Mid-Atlantic superintendents
directly. Most of you know how I
feel about the great job being done

at the University. Your support
ensures the programs will con-
tinue to progress.

Speaking of golf events, Glen
Smickly had the Robert Trent
Jones layout in grand shape for
the Inaugural President's Cup. If
you didn't attend, you missed a
great golf course and the best
players in the world right in your
back yard. Congratulations to
Glenn and his staff for a job well
done.

The MAAGCS Championship
will be contested at the Queens-
town Harbor Golf Links, Bill
Shirk, host. Please note, you will
have to call golf chairman Jim
McHenry—410-479-0666—directly
to register for the tournament as
well as dinner. The permanent
reservation list *will not* be in
effect for this meeting! Dinner will
be limited to 100, so get your
reservation in **now** if you haven't
already.

If you haven't tended to the
MAAGCS request for support of
our legislative fund, do so now!
Second notices will be mailed
directly to your club president/
green chairman. Please do not
delay in sending your clubs
pledge. The 1995 legislative
sessions promise to have many
negative proposals that will need
professional assistance during
testimonies. Your support is
needed monetarily as well as
personally in our Grass Roots
Effort to get the correct message to
state legislators. If you did not
give Sean Remington your fax
number during last year's rally for
assistance, please do so soon. The
MAAGCS will be able to send fax
messages using a computer
network so everyone will be
notified promptly of any propos-
als that may affect you and your
golf course. Thank You!



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Lou Rudinski, President

Experiences with Prograss Applied to Creeping Bentgrass

by Peter H. Dernoeden, The University of Maryland

Our experiences with Prograss began on perennial ryegrass fairways at Baltimore CC and Bonnie View CC in 1982. It worked great at Baltimore CC, but it was a flop at Bonnie View CC. Regardless, the BCC evaluation showed the enormous potential of this herbicide for controlling annual bluegrass safely in perennial ryegrass fairways. Further research conducted at Chartwell CC between 1984 and 1986 clearly showed that two applications of Prograss (i.e., 2.0 lb ai/A in late Sept. + 1.0 lb ai/A in mid-late-Oct.) provided exceptional (>93%) annual bluegrass control. The level of control provided by one application of 1.0 lb ai/A or 2.0 lb ai/A were about 30 and 80% control, respectively. Single applications at lower rates were ineffective.

Prograss research on bentgrass greens was initiated at Chartwell CC and the Naval Academy GC in 1984. We observed that there was objectionable discoloration at rates exceeding 0.75 lb ai/A. The 0.75 lb ai/A applied twice in the fall provided between 10 and 60% annual bluegrass control and most of the bentgrass injury dissipated by December. The superintendents at that time believed that the injury was too objectionable for most golf courses. Also, the bare ground areas resulting from eliminating a lot of bluegrass was unacceptable. Our interests in pursuing Prograss use on greens ended, at least temporarily, in 1985.

In the early 1990s, the use of growth regulators as an annual bluegrass reduction strategy became popular in the Mid-Atlantic region. These products sometimes cause extended periods of objectionable discoloration. This discoloration was predictable and found to be acceptable to superintendents. Ten years ago when we worked with Prograss on greens the discoloration elicited was not much more severe as is sometimes experienced growth regulators. We therefore began working on Prograss again in 1991 to see if the discoloration problem could be minimized. We found in 1992 that the methylol-urea product N-sure, when tank-mixed at 0.25 lb N/1000ft² with Prograss, greatly minimized bentgrass discoloration. In 1993, Prograss treatments were applied to a practice putting green at Norbeck (sunny, good drainage, and well rooted) and several greens-in-play at Port America (wet, shades, poorly rooted). At Norbeck, Prograss was very safe to the bentgrass, but

at Port America there was extensive bentgrass injury. Much of the bentgrass eventually recovered at Port America, but the recovery period was several months. The Port America study, which was conducted by Ken Ingram, indicated that there was less injury with Scott's Granular Prograss versus Prograss 417 SC.

Below, I have summarized in the form of a list what we have learned about using Prograss on creeping bentgrass. Please note, these comments summarize research findings and *do not* constitute a recommendation. Remember, this herbicide is not labeled for use on putting greens or bentgrass tees. It is, however, labeled for use on bentgrass fairways.

Rate. This has been narrowed down to either two applications at the 0.75 lb ai/A rate or three applica-

See Prograss, page 4

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Prograss, from page 3

tions at 0.5 lb ai/A. I favor the high rate applied twice. There is more initial discoloration, but there also can be more rapid recovery before winter. Three applications at the low rate can provide erratic levels of control; whereas, 0.75 lb ai/A applied twice can be counted on to provide from 20 to 90% control. The level of control, even at the higher rate, is site dependent and therefore it is not predictable.

Safener. Tank-mixing Prograss 4.17 SC with N-Sure (at 0.25 lb N/1000ft²) greatly minimizes bentgrass, but not annual bluegrass, discoloration. Lescoc's Fe+N and Ferremec also help to mask injury if nitrogen use is not desired.

Timing. Initial treatment was best in late September or early October. Prograss works best when applied on a 21-day interval. Frost and cold weather are required for Prograss to effectively control annual bluegrass. The annual bluegrass generally does not die until spring. Spring applications of Prograss are often ineffective.

Dangerous Situation

1. Prograss can severely injure vegetative bentgrass varieties and the so-called "Old South German" bents.

2. Initial annual bluegrass populations greater than 10 to 15% could lead to problems with bare ground. When there are large areas of annual bluegrass killed by the Prograss they must be overseeded in spring. Spring seedings can be fraught with problems.

3. Poorly rooted bentgrass in sunny or shaded locations is severely damaged.

4. Bentgrass in low and wet areas is often severely damaged.

5. Bentgrass grown in moderate to heavy shade, where bentgrass rooting is invariably poor, also can be severely damaged by Prograss.

It appears that Prograss may only be safe where creeping bentgrass is grown in sunny, well drained sites. Where bentgrass rooting is poor, regardless of the reason, the bentgrass is generally damaged severely by Prograss. These problems are less of a concern in higher-cut fairway turf. Regardless, it would be prudent for a superintendent to spray only small test plots across bentgrass fairways to gain needed experience with the product. This is because Prograss performance and bentgrass tolerance can be

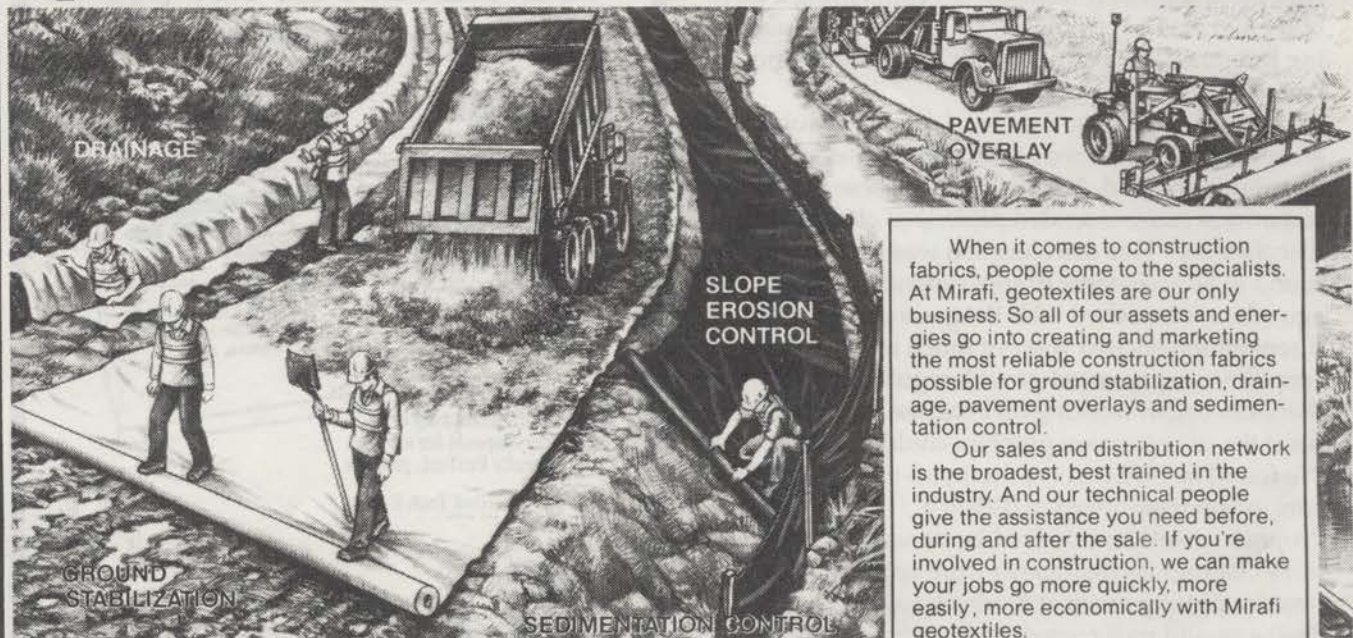
See Prograss, page 5



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Prograss, from page 4

variable from fairway to fairway. For example, we observed on our Penncross research green (3/16" mowing, sunny, excellent rooting, no traffic, etc.) that Prograss at rates as high as 1.0 lb ai/A only mildly discolored bentgrass. At Port America, 0.5 lb ai/A caused severe injury to bentgrass grown on a wet, shaded green. I don't believe liquid formulations of Prograss will be labeled for use on greens in the foreseeable future. O.M. Scott, however, is attempting to label a granular formulation for use on greens and fairways. There will be limitations placed on using the granular product and registration is not expected until 1995.

GOLF NOTES

Many thanks to Jon Machmuller and The Beach Club for hosting the September meeting and the Two-man Championship. It proved to be a wonderful day all around. **Gross winners** were: **1st**, Ron Hawkins/Kirk Intermill—70; **2nd**, Scott Wagner/Jim McHenry—75; **3rd**, Nick Vance/Tim Sage; **4th**, Craig

Reinhardt/Ken Keller—78. **Net winners: 1st**, Ken Braun/Paul Brandon—61; **2nd**, Gordon Caldwell/Tim Davisson—64; **3rd**, Joe Perry/Todd Cowing—64; **4th**, Bill Neus/Ryland Chapman. **Long Drive**: Walter Montross; **Closest to Pin #5**—Tim Davisson, **#8**—Craig Reinhardt, **#11**—Kirk Intermill, **#15**—Craig Reinhardt.

I would also like to thank our sponsors for the day: **Egypt Farms, Finch Services, G.L. Cornell, TESCO, and Turf Diagnostic.** Thanks so much for your support.

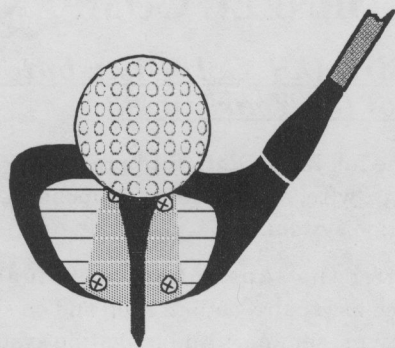
Remember October 11 is our individual Championship at the River Course, Queenstown Harbor Golf Links. You should have received a separate mailer with all the details. **Take Note: the permanent reservation list is not in effect for this meeting. You must call 410-479-0666.**

Jim McHenry, Golf Chairman



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COHOON'S CORNER

○ October is a big month for golf tournaments in the Mid-Atlantic. In addition to the annual tournament to be held at Queenstown Harbor, there will be two additional tournaments geared to the turf industry:

On Tuesday October 19, at the University of Maryland GC, the sixth annual **Turfgrass Research Golf Tournament** will be held. This tournament benefits the University of Maryland Turfgrass Research Center. This tournament is vital in assuring that the tremendous research done at this center can continue. As government funding is being reduced, it is up to us to insure that this important research can continue. For more information call Bernie Beavan at 301-475-8070.

On Monday October 10 at Green Spring Valley Hunt Club, the eighth annual John Deere Team Championship will be held. For each team that participates \$20 will be donated to the GCSAA Scholarship and Research Fund. The winner of the tournament qualifies for the national tournament held November 10-13 in Palm Springs, Ca. Contact Ray Finch at 410-876-2211 for additional information.

Both of these tournaments benefit the turf industry and your support is greatly needed and appreciated. Without events like these the important research and development needed to improve the quality of our golf courses could not be done. Please try and attend one or both of these tournaments and help those who are helping you.



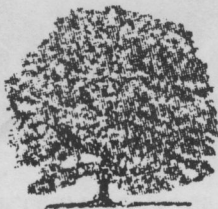
Take a load off your back

Most are aware there is a right way and wrong way to lift something. However, back injuries and hernias continue to be a major problem—possibly because these injuries often occur over long periods of improper lifting. For example, workers might not feel immediate pain over one box lifted incorrectly, but after lifting many boxes incorrectly for days, months and even years, the chance of injury multiplies.

Here are 10 steps for minimizing your risk while lifting and carrying heavy or awkward items. *If you are experiencing back pain or hernia, refrain from lifting heavy objects.*

See Back Safety, page 7

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Back Safety, from page 6

1. Determine whether you can lift the object alone; when in doubt, get help! If the item is packaged, be sure the box is stable and sealed.
2. Check the area where you are going to be carrying the object to make sure it is clear of obstacles. Be sure to check for, and avoid, slick or wet surfaces.
3. Get a good footing close to the load to be lifted. Place your feet 8 to 12 inches apart.
4. While keeping your back straight, bend your knees to grasp the load. Bend your knees outward and straddle the load somewhat.
5. Get a firm grip on the load. If you have to handle the load awkwardly, then it isn't ready to lift. (For example, if you need to wrap your arm underneath the load so contents don't fall out, secure the load first. See item 1.)
6. Remember, you want to keep the load close to your body as you lift and carry.
7. Lift carefully and smoothly by straightening your legs. Do not jerk the load up, since the weight could suddenly transfer from your legs to your back.
8. If you are carrying the load in areas of pedestrian traffic, be sure to give vocal warning that you

are approaching. This will ensure that fellow workers will not bump into you. If you are walking around corners and blind spots, be sure to make wide turns so you can see someone coming into your path.

9. Use your feet to change your direction. Do not twist your body, as this will shift the burden of the weight to your back.

10. When you reach your destination and are ready to set the load down, simply reverse the lifting steps. Keep your back straight and the load close to your body. Slowly bend your knees. When setting a load onto a raised surface such as a table or bench, set the object just over the edge and slide the rest of the load onto the surface.

To lift an item above the waist:

1. Follow proper lifting procedures.
2. Rest the load on a firm object for support, change your grip and once again bend you knees to get extra leg muscle into the final effort.
3. Never attempt to change your grip or the position of your load while you are moving.

Your back is a very important part of your body, but it's easy to forget that you have one until you injure it. Practice these safety tips and keep your back and body operating comfortably.

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Shirk, from page 1
 been a superintendent for 24 years now. Certified in 1989, I currently serve on the GCSAA's government relations committee. Also, I

am the secretary for the MAAGCS. I have been married for 21 years to Cheryl Ann who is a nurse manager for the intensive care and critical care unit at Easton Memorial Hospital. We have two wonderful children—Adrian, 12, who loves baseball and soccer, and Ashley, 10, who loves to read and get As on her report card.

I would like to use this last paragraph to personally and publicly thank our president, Lou Rudinski, for his outstanding work this year representing our industry and our profession at all of these legislation meetings, hearings, and bill proposals. He has done an outstanding job, and I certainly thank him as all of us should do. **Thanks Lou!**



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