



Course superintendent Charles Santoianni of Island Hill, Sayville, Long Island, says *Poa annua* bluegrass is a mainstay on many courses in his area.

**A** WEED is a weed wherever it grows. True? Not necessarily. Golf course superintendents in many parts of the northeast know its not true. On courses in most other parts of the country, *Poa annua* bluegrass is nothing but a nuisance. In this area, however, where short summers are the rule and growing conditions are far from ideal, *Poa annua* takes the place of the grasses normally used in southern areas and warmer climates. The hardiness and quick growth of this grass makes it an acceptable substitute.

However, *Poa annua* brings with it problems all its own, says Charles Santoianni, course superintendent of Island Hills at Sayville, Long Island, and insect control leads the list.

During the past few years northeastern superintend-

Long Island, N.Y.:  
*Poa Annua* Country

## *These Managers Whipped Weevil Worries*

ents have found a new pest attacking the *Poa annua* they have been relying on.

It's the hyperodes weevil which first appeared in the area in 1967 and has been rapidly multiplying since. The resultant damage from the pest, which feeds only on *Poa annua*, has been an increasing problem on many courses.

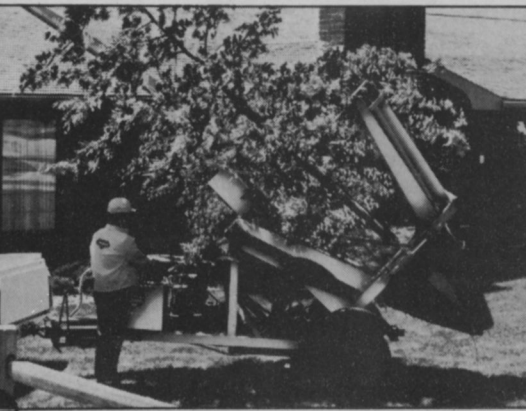
The weevil has been found in nearly all areas where *Poa annua* is used to provide a grass cover, but golf courses have been especially hard hit, since intensive turf management seems to encourage the spread of the pest.

Santoianni employs frequent Diazinon insecticide, Agrico 12-4-8 fertilizer, and Acti-Dione R2 fungicide applications on his Island Hills course. Diazinon is  
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Frequent light chemical applications are the rule at Island Hills. Granular insecticides are used to control Hyperodes weevils, sprays for others.



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### WEEVIL WORRIES (from page 18)

sprayed on every two weeks to control chinch bugs and other problem insects while Santoianni prefers Diazinon granules to control hyperodes weevils.

Dr. Haruo Tashiro, Cornell professor of entomology



John Roma manages the course for Harbor Hills Country Club, Port Jefferson, N.Y. He keeps turf pests in check with Diazinon. Note the healthy stand of turf on this fairway. Effective chemical control of insects takes much of the worry out of the job.

at the New York State Experiment Station, Geneva, points out that the threat of the hyperodes weevil has been recognized only in recent years. Two applications of Diazinon give good results, he says, and cites mid-April and mid-May as optimum dates for application.

"We know now that the weevil pest causes a great deal of damage," Dr. Tashiro comments, "but it can be effectively controlled with chemical treatments. Much of what was thought to be damage from hot summer weather is now being blamed on the hyperodes weevil. Diazinon has recently been labelled in New York for control of the problem," he adds.

The larval stage is the time to get control of the weevils, superintendents agree. The pest should be killed while still in the first eating stage. Control is more difficult if weevils are left alone beyond that stage.

Cornell research indicates there is one complete spring generation of hyperodes weevil and in some cases at least a second partial late summer generation. Eggs are first laid in April and May, developing to adults in about two months, from as early as late April to late June. Eggs of the second generation are usually laid during July and August.

Many superintendents also agree that aprons need just as careful insecticide treatments as the greens receive, since they often get almost as much fertilizer. The weevil seems more of a problem on well-fertilized areas, they point out.

John Roma, superintendent of Harbor Hills Country Club, Port Jefferson, New York, has found later applications seem to do the best job. He applied Diazinon twice, first in late May and again in late July, once weather turns dry.

A wide variety of grass is found at this course, but *Poa annua* is there, too. Roma says he's found liquid and granular Diazinon serve most of his needs; and chlordane is employed as well.

"This course is in excellent condition," Roma says, "and the main reason has been effective chemical control of insects pests."

Other problems exist in this area, too, he says. Chinch bugs have been his primary worry aside from weevils. Cutworms and June bugs also present problems, but chemical control is usually good on these pests.