



A practice green at the New Haven Country Club gets a workout. This green is bordered by a yard-wide strip of blacktop. Increased golfing pressure puts a premium on turf management.



James MacDonald, superintendent, surveys one of the greens and fairways on the 18 hole course. He uses Acti-dione weekly to control major turf diseases.

Rush Hour On The Golf Course

Families are golfing more.

This statement has all sorts of implications for psychologists, sociologists, and other "ists", but it's having a more direct impact on golf course superintendents. James MacDonald, superintendent at the New Haven Country Club, Hamden, Conn., has noted the increase in families golfing.

"During 1973 I noticed an increase in junior golfers," he says, "and the course is getting pressure seven days a week. The club membership is the same as it was in 1905 — 600, some of which are third and fourth generations of founding families, but all the family members are doing more golfing.

This increased golfing pressure puts a premium on turf management and organization of maintenance work. MacDonald utilizes his eight years of superintendent's knowhow, yet almost daily is learning new ways to get the job done.

As with most superintendents, he gives turf management top priority and blends fertilization, disease control, mowing and irrigation into an

integrated program. Because he has a six-man migrant summer crew that returns every summer and two full-time men, labor hasn't been a problem for him.

"Thus far our labor situation has been good," he adds, "and we've been able to handle our seasonal tasks, which means the March to December time span. As expected, the tees have borne the brunt of most of the increase in traffic in recent years."

Tees on the 18-hole course consist of a mixture of Merion bluegrass, *Poa annua*, Manhattan rye and Fylking. Fairways have been overseeded with Fylking and Kentucky bluegrasses for the past four years.

New Haven Country Club greens consist of a mixture of Seaside, *Poa annua* and C1-C19 bentgrass, while the fairways contain *Poa*, Kentucky bluegrass, and some bentgrasses. The greens are built on soil brought from mushroom beds in New Jersey.

"My fertilization program isn't any different from anyone else's," MacDonald points out, "but we do topdress our own mix on the greens

five times a year. With the spring and fall topdressing, we aerate the greens."

Herbicide treatments of Banvel D and 2,4-D are made every other year, with spot applications of MCPP used to control particular problems like clover. Disease control involves a combination of preventive and curative measures.

"Acti-dione has been a part of my disease control program since I've worked in turf management," MacDonald says. "I use it in a preventive program on the greens and haven't had any disease outbreaks in the five years I've been here."

He sprays Thiram, Cleary's 3336 and Acti-dione once a week on the greens from the middle of May into the month of October. When the spraying stops depends on the weather.

The fairway preventive treatments usually begin in April after the first mowing and go on twice a month through September. Until two years ago, he had just used a curative program on the fairways, but "diseases present in the spring must be controlled as they start to incubate,"

MacDonald emphasizes.

"Using Acti-dione through September and into October helps keep the turfgrass in shape for the winter season," he adds. "This fungicide does a tremendous job on leafspot and worked well on dollarspot in 1972."

His preventive programs go a long way toward this type of control because leafspot often goes unnoticed until most of the damage is done. With turf mixtures such as those at New Haven Country Club, the disease will likely attack only one type of grass and the rest will remain healthy.

This makes it easier for the disease to go undetected until severe thinning has occurred.

Leafspot most often occurs between April 1 and May 15 when temperatures are cool and the turf is moist. In MacDonald's area, the generally high humidity, along with an abundance of rainfall last year, provided good conditions for leafspot outbreaks.

Helminthosporium is present year-around, however, and can cause leafspot damage during cool, wet periods of summer and fall.

"During the application season, we spray every Friday," explains MacDonald. "This gives the greens more protection during a time when the heavy golfer traffic can bring on bruises and diseases. Even though our greens are three to four decades old, they're in good shape." □

Grass Seed Prices Up Farmer Interest Down

Several conditions, both artificial and natural, have compounded to more than triple the price of grass seed this year.

The upsurge of grass seed prices parallels the general grain trade situation of the past year. An export raid on U.S. grass seed, similar to the Russian wheat sales, has been quietly conducted by various foreign nations.

Added to the domestic shortage were unfavorable wet weather conditions in major Mid-west seed-producing areas, both during the 1972 grass seed harvest season and the 1973 planting season.

Despite an all-out effort for agricultural production by the USDA, experts are predicting little or no relief on either short-run or long-term basis.

Certified seed production has been largely dominated by veteran farmers. When farmers retire or otherwise go out of the business, young farmers are not attracted to seed

growing, despite premium per-bushel prices. Some experts attribute this factor to the lack of desire by young farmers to take the special care required in growing, handling and storing high-quality seed.

Wisconsin Assembly Plant For Toro Announced

The Toro Company plans to start construction this summer of a 165,000-square-foot assembly plant in Tomah, Wis.

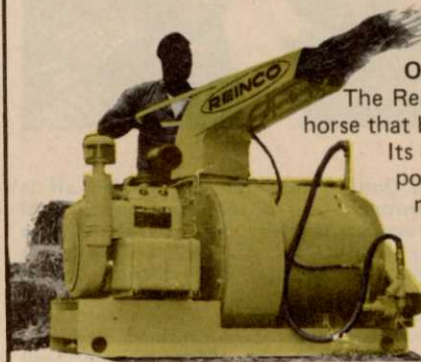
The plant will be located on 25 acres in Tomah Industrial Park, a

350-acre development created eight years ago to attract new industry and jointly owned by the city of Tomah and Forward Tomah Development Corporation. Tentative completion is scheduled for early summer of 1975. Initial work force will be about 50, but will build to between 300 and 350 employees, making Toro the largest employer in the industrial park.

Estimated the total cost of the new facility will be more than \$3 million. Annual payroll of the plant, once it reaches full employment, will be over \$2 million.

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