

UPDATE

A super's best friend

"I'm sold on them. A person can do anything a computer can do, but it's not as easy or as efficient."

Those are the sentiments of James F. Moore, golf course superintendent at Ridgewood Country Club in Waco, TX, and president of the Texas Turfgrass Association.

As computers and "computerese" creep their way into more and more industries, Moore told an audience at the recent Texas Turfgrass Association Convention in Houston, that superintendents can do their jobs more efficiently and in less time with a little help from a personal computer.

Moore applied his \$4200 system to six areas of his job: equipment maintenance, employee records, daily records, available products, budget and communications.

"It can do as much or as little as you want it to," he said.

One of the largest areas where his computer has come in handy is in the equipment maintenance area.

"With a computer, you can easily keep a record of every repair on a piece of equipment and when it was made and why," he said. "This helps tremendously when you have to convince a greens committee it's time to buy a new piece of equipment. You have a complete record of everything done."

"I could live without a computer on the job, but I'd hate to try now that we have one."

Watson on maintenance levels

Developing a long range plan for maintenance levels on your course -- one that is approved by the club's membership and is greens committee-proof -- is one of the best ways to insure first-rate course maintenance, according to James Watson, vice president of customer relations and agronomist with the Toro Co.

Watson, speaking at the Texas Turfgrass Conference in Houston, said it is up to the superintendent to keep the lines of communication open between the membership and greens committee to insure proper maintenance levels.

"No matter what your budget, strive for consistent application of fertilization, watering, mowing, cultivating and disease, insect and weed control," said Watson. "Of course the intensity with which you go about any of these boils down to the budget."

Watson also said a thorough soil analysis for texture, structure, porosity, air-water relationships, compaction and organic matter is important before application of cultural practices.

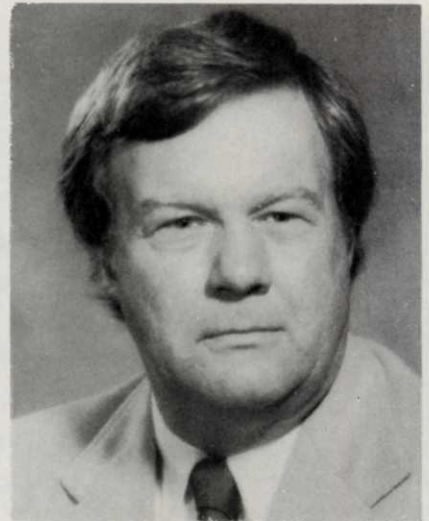
Course development almost in a boom

Golf's growing popularity and lower interest rates are being credited with an increase in new golf course development.

The National Golf Foundation's Golf Facility Development division reports it supplied more than 100 golf course planning groups in 31 states with basic golf course planning and operational information, including estimated course development costs, to assist them in developing new golf facilities.

Requests for help came from all over the country and pertained to all types of courses.

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L.T. Walden, Jr.

traffic, order entry, service parts, warranty, field service and quality assurance departments. He also oversees the firm's service training schools and currently is acting director of project engineering.

CHEMICALS

Monsanto expands research facilities

The Monsanto Co. has announced plans to build a multi-million dollar addition to its research and development facilities currently under construction in west St. Louis County, MO.

The addition includes a two-story building that will house process-development laboratories for the firm's plant-growth regulator, animal-nutrition and human health-care products. Scheduled for occupation by late next year, the new facility is to be fully operational by 1985.

According to a Monsanto spokesman, an estimated \$150-\$170 million pricetag for the entire facility is "within the ballpark" of the project's cost, including the new addition.

CONFERENCES

Houston conference tops ever, draws 760

The Texas Turfgrass Association's 38th Annual Convention and Trade Show attracted more than 760 registrants, the group's largest turnout ever.

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