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to an additional 45,000 rounds annually.

"I get five compliments for every one complaint," notes Stuntz, a 1975 Iowa State University graduate. "I focus on the negative and try to figure out how to correct the complaints. You can accomplish all your agronomic objectives and still lose your job if you don't communicate."

—Jerry Roche

An opinion: green speed kills

To the editor:

I would like to reply to Jim Prusa's article which appeared in your August issue.

Jim says "the best superintendents set very high standards for themselves and demand the same from those around them." This is very true and typifies the qualities of the golf course superintendent. He or she is very dedicated, strives for the best playing conditions, and is very much a professional.

However, I strongly disagree with the statement Jim made when he said, "Let's stop searching for ways to lower our standards." Let's define what the standards are!

When the standards are excessive speed on greens which relate to mowing heights of 1/10th of an inch or less, then I feel that the standards are wrong. What is happening is that many of the golfers expect day-to-day conditions at our courses to be like those at a major PGA tournament. This relates to conditions which bring about a decline in the quality of turf found on the greens: thin turf, algae, ball marks and old cup plugs not healing, disease, and an increase in labor to hand-water and "babysit" all the greens. Even the USGA Green Section is preaching the evils of excessive green speed.

The quality of playing conditions on golf courses has greatly improved in the past decade due to the professionalism of the golf course superintendent. I am very confident that these conditions will remain at the highest level in the future.

However, common sense still has to prevail when the expectations of the golfers reach a point which relate to the decline and health of the turf. As one golf course superintendent related, "Speed kills—the green or the golf course superintendent, or both."

—Dave Fearis, CGCS
Blue Hills Country Club
Kansas City, Mo.

WHAT'S NEW IN COURSE MAINTENANCE

Wastewater symposium in Newport Beach, Calif.

FAR HILLS, N.J.—The USGA, in cooperation with four other golf organizations, will co-sponsor a Golf Course Wastewater Symposium on March 4-5 at the Newport Beach (Calif.) Marriott Hotel.

Effluent water from sewage treatment plants and wastewater from other sources have been playing an increasingly important role in golf course irrigation, as the use of potable water for irrigation comes under public scrutiny. The Wastewater Symposium will bring together turf managers, engineers, agronomists, architects, manufacturers and others.

For more information, contact Dr. Michael Kenna (405-743-3900) or Dr. Kimberly Erusha (908-234-2300) at the USGA.

Other sponsors are the American Society of Golf Course Architects, the Golf Course Builders Association of America, the National Golf Foundation and the GCSAA.

Hurdzan notes irrigation changes in greens design

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Golf course architect Mike Hurdzan sees some changes in golf course design on the horizon.

"It appears that there will be more irrigation around greens using two or three systems of sprinkler heads," he notes. "Instead of one sprinkler which applies water uniformly over a circle, the trend now is to recognize that greens have different water requirements than their surrounding collars, aprons or banks."

"Therefore, where construction budgets permit, one set of sprinklers is installed to water the putting surface, and another to supplement or separately water the non-putting areas around the greens. And in some instances, a third set of small lawn heads just to water green mounds."

This evolution is thought to have begun by Eb Steinger at Pine Valley about 20 years ago. It spread to Augusta National and "now is becoming commonplace on even modest budget public facilities," Hurdzan says.

Mechanics must know turf game

FAR HILLS, N.J.—Mechanics who work on golf course equipment must know the turf business, according to Tim Moraghan, agronomist for championships for the USGA Green Section.

Writing in "Hole Notes," Moraghan says "not just anyone should be assigned the responsibility of repairing and adjusting a cutting unit."

Moraghan says golf course mechanics must have a well-rounded understanding of his job, including:

- an understanding of the principles of mowing and its effect on the turfgrass;
- a basic knowledge of putting green agronomics;
- a "golfer's eye" and realizing the premium placed on putting quality; and
- conscientiousness and pride in the results.

"Your mechanic must have a thorough understanding of what will occur if the greens aren't up to speed," Moraghan notes.

Rutgers conducts turf schools

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J.—Cook College of Rutgers University is offering three special turf schools next month: an advanced turfgrass management symposium (Feb. 8-9), a clinic on site analysis and modification (Feb. 17 and 24) and "Advanced Management Program for Golf Course Leaders (Feb. 22-26).

For more information, call (908) 932-9271 or write Office of Continuing Professional Education, Cook College, P.O. Box 231, New Brunswick, N.J. 08903-0231. For information via fax, transmit to (908) 932-8726.