

USE YOUR CAMCORDER!

■ Mike Mongan of Arcola Country Club in Paramus, N.J. has been very successful at communicating with members and the greens committee through video presentations.

"Membership and governing bodies have situations where they ask you, 'what have you done for me lately?'" Mongan said at the annual GCSAA Convention. "They have short memories.

"I've gained a lot of respect from the membership for the grounds crew because I've been able to demonstrate that we're not just grass-cutters and we don't just sit around drinking coffee in the winter. You get to show them things they wouldn't normally see. We can show things that are being done on a timely basis, in-house with our own staff."

Mongan says you can use a videotape to document things like construction, the effects of nature on the course, and vandalism.

"You can also show (your greens committee) that your crew is well trained, and that they are willing to tackle problems," Mongan says. "The reporting aspect is essential. Being able to bring things to life is an integral part of communication."

Mongan has 10 commandments of video

taping, gleaned through four years of experience taping his course's development:

- 1) Identify a subject or project.
- 2) Be sure your battery is charged.
- 3) Keep the segments brief, just enough to give a flavor or whet the appetite.
- 4) Keep the day/date mechanism on the camera turned on.
- 5) Refrain from quick movements.
- 6) Keep reference points the same during time lapse photography of the project.
- 7) Use the fade button for more professional results.
- 8) Narrate during your presentation to the governing body, not while taping.
- 9) Don't tape golfers up close, or their faces.
- 10) Solicit comments from the governing body during the presentation.

—J.R.



Use video cameras to record golf course renovation projects.

Controlling summer patch

■ Summer patch is a disease that affects annual bluegrass on golf course greens, tees and fairways in the northern U.S., according to Dr. Bruce Clarke of Rutgers University. The scientific name of the pathogen is *Magnaporthe poae*.

Several methods of cultural and chemical control are now available, Clarke says.

"Cultural management (i.e., aeration, fertilization, lowering soil pH) will reduce disease severity and thus reduce the amount of fungicide needed to control summer patch," he further notes.

Aerifying will reduce the disease's harmful effects on turfgrass. "It doesn't matter whether it's shallow- or deep-tine aeration," Clarke says, "Springtime aeration, however, is most effective in reducing disease severity."

Fertilizers can help superintendents cope with summer patch. For instance, Clarke states, an acidifying fertilizer will reduce the severity of the disease by lowering soil pH. "This is a long-term approach in which results don't become apparent until the third year," he further notes.

Sulfur-coated urea, ammonium sulfate and ammonium chloride will reduce the disease. However, certain fertilizers should be avoided. Calcium nitrate and potassium nitrate will actually accentuate

summer patch.

Clarke further notes that superintendents can decrease the probability of damage from summer patch and other root diseases by making sure the soil pH is between 5.5 and 6.0, which is more acid than the normally-accepted 6.5.

If you must use a fungicide to control disease outbreaks, Clarke says that foliar applications of the fungicides in the

accompanying chart work best. Use full label rates until proper cultural practices (i.e. fertilization and aeration) reduce disease development.

He adds that high rates of water—four or five gallons per 1000 square feet—should accompany fungicide application. "But if you can't apply that much water, irrigation does enhance control slightly," he says. One-eighth to one-fourth of an inch of irrigation is ideal.

continued on page 54



Summer patch thrives in soils with higher pH factors.

Courtesy DowElanco

SUMMER PATCH from page 51

The *Magnaporthe poae* fungus needs a soil temperature of at least 60 degrees at a two-inch depth to infect roots. This means that the soil temperature will have to be 60 degrees for four or five days in a row before it will begin the infection process. Therefore, the first fungicide application should not be made until this time. For optimum control, repeat two to three times at 21- to 28-day intervals.

To summarize Clarke's approach to effective summer patch management:

- aerify and improve drainage;
- raise mowing height during heat stress;
- overseed with perennial ryegrass, tall fescue or bentgrass;

FUNGICIDES FOR SUMMER PATCH CONTROL

DMI/sterol inhibitors

Product	Rate
Banner 1.1E.	4 oz./1000
Bayleton 25DF	4 oz./1000
Rubigan 1AS	3 oz./1000
Sentinel 40WG	1/4 oz./1000

Benzimidazoles

Product	Rate
Cleary's 3336 50W	8 oz./1000
Fungo Flo 4.5F	8 oz./1000
Tersan 1991 50W	8 oz./1000

- fertilize with ammonium sources or SCU; avoid nitrate sources;
- keep pH between 5.5 and 6.0; and/or
- apply systemic fungicides in 4-5

gal. water/1000 sq. ft.

Clarke made his observations at the GCSAA Convention in Dallas two months ago.

—Jerry Roche

I.D. weeds: start with weed type

■ Weed identification begins with classifying the weed type.

Broadleaves, or dicotyledonous plants, have two seed cotyledons (young leaves) at emergence and have net-like veins in their true leaves. Broadleaves often have colorful flowers. Examples of winter broadleaf weeds include clover, lawn burweed, henbit, speedwell and chickweed.

Grasses, or monocotyledonous plants, have only one seed cotyledon present when they emerge from the soil. Grasses also have rounded hollow stems with nodes (joints), and parallel veins in their true leaves. Annual bluegrass is an example of a winter grass weed.

Sedges and rushes generally favor a moist habitat and have stems which either are triangular and solid (sedges) or round and solid (rushes). Although many sedges are perennial and live through the winter, frost usually causes sufficient shoot dieback. Sedges therefore are not usually noticed at this time.

Most winter weeds germinate in late summer through early fall, grow throughout the winter months, and flower or produce seedheads during late winter and early spring. For most observers, winter annual weeds are not usually noticed until spring when growth sprouts, along with seedheads and flowers, produce a ragged-appearing turf.

In the past, weed identification has frustrated turf managers because of the lack of an adequate turf weed identification guide. "Weeds of Southern Turfgrasses" is a highly recommended identification guide published recently for turfgrass managers. It is available from either the Florida, Georgia or Alabama state cooperative extension offices. County agents, lawn care operators and industry representatives are also helpful in identifying troublesome weeds.

—Dr. Bert McCarty,
University of Florida

Native plant is defined

■ What is a native plant? According to Tom Smith, who is on the board of directors of the Wildflower Association of Michigan, the definition goes back a long way.

Smith says the correct definition, according to the fall, 1992 issue of "Wildflower" magazine is "a plant that grew in an area prior to European settlement." The definition appeared in an article by Mark V. Wilson, David E. Hibbs and Edward R. Alverson entitled "Native Plants, Native Ecosystems and Native Landscapes."

Smith writes: "Many of our introduced or 'exotic' plants now occur 'naturally in a region' and are 'ideally suited to grow there' as the definition in the article states. That does not make them native. If they can reproduce in nature in an area, then they are considered 'naturalized' but not native."

Smith is president of Grass Roots, East Lansing, Mich.

Primo receives New York label

■ The New York Department of Environmental Conservation registered Primo, a growth management tool, to be used on turf in the state beginning March 18th. Primo was labeled for use in the rest of the nation in February, 1993.

Primo, manufactured by Ciba Turf &

Ornamental, is registered for golf courses and highly-maintained commercial and residential turf. When used at standard rates, Primo reduces turf growth and clippings by approximately 50 percent for four weeks during prime growing periods, Ciba says.

The product may be used on all

major warm- and cool-season turf species, including bahiagrass, common and hybrid bermudagrass, centipede-grass, St. Augustinegrass, zoysiagrass, bentgrass, Kentucky bluegrass, red and tall fescue and annual and perennial ryegrass.

For more information, call the Primo information line, (800) 395-8873.