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THE DIFFICULT SEASON OF 1973

by Alexander M. Radko, William G. Buchanan and Stanley J. Zontek
USGA Green Section, Eastern Region

Ever heard of Murphy's Law? It says in part, "if anything can go wrong, it will!" Murphy's Law applied to 1973 weather so far as the fine turfgrasses this year were concerned. Everything that could have gone wrong, did . . . and golf courses suffered excesses in turf loss on fairways, collars and aprons principally.

First came the very wet spring weather . . . skies were continuously overcast . . . and rains came often and heavily. Soils could accommodate little more water from the previous two years of heavy rain but new record rains came nevertheless. So long as the cool weather held, the weaknesses caused by these excesses did not show. It was when we first experienced clear, hot, sunny days followed by extended periods of high humidity that the bottom began to drop out. Without question, the year to this mid-August date has been one of the most difficult periods that superintendents have experienced in many years.

Then the extended periods without sunshine in spring caused the fine turfgrasses to grow weak and spindly . . . they were extremely tender, they were soft . . . they were not as good for golf as they normally are in spring . . . they did not exhibit firm growth at any time in spring. The week of July 4th came with several consecutive bright, sunny days . . . the first strong sunlight that grasses were subjected to up to that point . . . it proved too much . . . it was tantamount to keeping a man in solitary confinement for three months in a cold, dark and damp cellar . . . then suddenly exposing him to the blazing desert sun . . . this is the torture treatment and this is exactly what our grasses were subjected to and they weakened quickly . . . there was no period of adjustment.

This condition, coupled with record rainfalls, compounded the problem. It set

the stage for wilt, scald and diseases of every kind. It created new, and aggravated old drainage problems . . . water began to show in areas where it never was a problem before. It also caused a lot of mechanical injury . . . grasses *had to be cut* despite conditions that favored scalping, bruising, rutting . . . etc. There were times when more water trailed mowers than grass clippings . . . it was bad yes, but the grasses had to be mowed! Fairways otherwise would have looked like roughs and greens would have looked like Fairways if left unmowed over weekends. The difficult part of it all was that every decision of whether to mow (Fridays especially) was critical. If you guessed wrong just once, wilt readily set-in . . . and weak grasses don't quickly recover from wilt in the July-August heat.

The lesson learned is that the permanent grasses stood out like islands . . . the *Poa annua* died in most areas or was severely set back all around the bentgrass and bluegrass clones. *Poa annua* was held in some cases by constant watering and syringing . . . golfers played through sprays almost all of July and August where *Poa annua* predominated. Courses where permanent grasses predominate in fairways were watered much less and were hardly ever syringed. From the golfing standpoint, firm fairways play superior to spongy, wet fairways. It's years like this that makes one wish that *Poa annua* never existed . . . superintendents and golfers wish they never heard of watered fairways . . . and superintendents and workers pray that they never have to install another drain ever again!

To date 1973 has been a torturous year for grasses . . . it is safe to predict that its praises will never be intoned in a ballad . . . it wasn't a very good year!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rain, Rain Go Away, Come Again
Some Other Day (when we need it).

Boy, has it been wet! This spring and summer have really put the Superintendent through a test of his ability in public

relations. How do we explain to the members why the course is closed or why the golf cars are restricted?

We can thank the good Lord that the majority of our golfers understand, and that they have enough confidence in the Superintendent's judgement. It is a tough decision to make in the early morning hours when the remainder of the day may be sunny and bright. But it is a decision that must be made from time to time in order to prevent compaction and tire ruts that take time to repair and heal.

Most courses rely on the Superintendent to make these important decisions. Let's hope they continue to do so.

Your President,

Levi Travis

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND THE SUPERINTENDENT

Webster's Dictionary defines "public relations" as quote, "relations of an organization with the general public through publicity," unquote. You could also define it as the art of winning public favour by doing the right thing and receiving credit for it.

Let us see how public relations affect us and in what manner they can be beneficial to us superintendents. Let us first answer the "why?" of public relations for us. Simply to become better known and recognized by the general public and by golfers in particular.

How do we go about mounting a public relations campaign? There are several strategies we can use. Let us enumerate the principal ones.

Take a leadership stand by suggesting that the members refer all golf course maintenance inquiries to you. Arrange for constructive discussions with your crew and schedule a daily critique with your assistant to discuss the calendar for the coming weeks. This should be done so that in the event of your absence, the maintenance programme need not be disrupted.

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Develop contacts with newspaper men and send them as many communiques as possible on our activities.

Attend in a constructive spirit the meetings of the golf and greens committees. Using technical terminology and phrases during your discussion meetings on course maintenance will also improve your professional image.

Dress at work like the head of a department, and not just as another laborer. Let us attach a great deal of importance to our appearance, in clothes and other, when we meet the public at the club or elsewhere.

Discipline is essential at all times. We must not forget that we are observed and judged when we take part in seminars and other activities at our club.

Every golf course superintendent should be a golfer. Is there a better way to look over the course? We should play golf with the members, pro, members of the greens committee, for it is while playing golf that we see imperfections noticeable only to the golfer, and we can correct these before other players have to tolerate them, thus affecting our image.

Be an "ACTIVE" member of different golf associations. An excellent opportunity for showing pride in your professional organization is to invite your greens chairman to the chapter meetings, and include lunch and a game of golf. You could also arrange with a fellow superintendent for a golf game with each other's greens chairman.

The aim of public relations therefore is to establish communication, to fortify those bridges which are formed by letters, publications of all kinds, exhibitions, conferences, newsletters, etc.

When our opponents have learned to respect us, and when the golfing public recognizes and appreciates our profession, only then can we take time off. But let us be very careful not to give up, because a well planned public relations program will remain the primary condition to the evolution and the continuity of our association of professional superintendents.

POLLUTION WITHIN THE GOLF COURSE

It is very difficult to understand why the people who receive the most benefit from a beautiful golf course are sometimes responsible for the contamination of that course. We have all seen, both on private and public courses, golfers dispose of such things as bottles, cans, cigarette and cigar boxes, paper tissues and many other pieces of garbage under the nearest shrub or even right out on the fairway. Sometimes, the excuse will be offered

that there are not enough garbage containers made available. This is true sometimes. If it is, the superintendent should rectify the situation. More often, however the garbage that is indiscriminately — distributed by golfers could have been put in containers but for the thoughtlessness or laziness of the person involved. The availability of "no-return" bottles and cans with aluminum tops is making this problem increasingly worse.

Such pollution on a golf course is not only unsightly but may very well be quite costly in terms of damaged equipment or even injured personnel. Most of us have had the experience of hitting a hidden bottle with a power mower. It is quite possible that pieces of flying glass from such an encounter could hit workmen or even nearby golfers.

On the whole, the beauty of a golf course is dependent on plants, shrubs, flowers and trees. However, plants themselves may be pollutants: for instance, weeds found on the fairways, greens, flower beds or in ponds and streams. This type of pollution is rather easy to control with our existing herbicides. Obviously, some care must be exercised in the use of these chemicals so that the superintendent cannot be accused of causing one kind of pollution in his attempts to clean up another kind.

The use of pesticides has been the subject of much criticism in the popular press in the last few years. Unfortunately, most of the articles that have been written about pesticides have played up the possible dangers of these materials and either have ignored or played down the benefits to be derived from proper use of chemicals. Obviously, it is impossible to produce the king of golf courses we want without the use of herbicides, fungicides and insecticides.

The use of pesticides on golf courses has been blamed for reducing the bird population of the area. In actuality, birds would be vastly reduced in an area without a golf course. Cities offer few concentrations of trees other than golf courses that provide birds with nesting places, shelter and food.

The combination of streams flowing through golf courses has been partly blamed on the courses themselves. It is possible that when a sprayer is filled, some pesticide might enter a stream. However this is unlikely if the person doing the spraying is aware of the possibility and uses care and common sense. Also, the high salt levels in some of these streams has been attributed to the leaching of fertilizers from the golf course. This too seems highly unlikely as the soil is a tremendous storehouse for fertilizer elements, and, in addition, golf courses

mainly use fertilizers containing slow-release nitrogen, which is not readily leached. The image of the superintendent as a good "housekeeper" is particularly important to maintain in these pollution-conscious times. Corners filled with old equipment should be cleaned up, fertilizer bags and pesticide containers should be buried, dead trees should be removed as quickly as possible, and tall weeds and brush should be cut. Through good housekeeping and by using chemicals correctly, the superintendent will be helping to control pollution on his course; more important, he will help to convince others to join him in the battle against environmental contamination.

PLANS PROCEED FOR NEW SEMINAR SERIES

At its Spring Meeting, the GCSAA Executive Committee approved funds for the implementation of a new seminar series. This new series of seminars will focus on pesticides.

The first seminar in this series will be entitled "Principles of Chemical Usage." Six tentative locations have been selected. These sites are: Cleveland, Ohio; San Francisco, Calif.; St. Louis, Mo.; Dallas, Tex.; Atlanta, Ga.; Hartford, Conn. The scheduling of these seminars is not yet complete. Members will be advised when a seminar will be planned in their area.

Authorization was also given for GCSAA to conduct any of its seminars wherever and whenever groups of members or chapters can guarantee 30 participants and if there is no conflict in scheduling. Member groups who would like one of the existing or future seminars to be in their area should contact the Headquarters office.

ON THE TOUR WITH DAVE LINDE

The GCSAA has announced recently that David L. Linde, a member of our Association and Golf Course Superintendent at Wedgewood Golf Club, Woodbridge, Suffolk.

Dave attended Coopersburg High School and he received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Horticulture from the Delaware Valley College of Science and Agriculture. He first worked for Henry Bartholomew at Wedgewood Golf Club and then spent one season working for Harold Loescher as the Assistant Golf Course Superintendent at Passaic County Golf Course, Wayne, New Jersey. Dave assumed the Golf Course Superintendents position at Wedgewood Golf Club in January 1965. Wedgewood Golf Club is a public operation owned by the Phoenix Contracting Company.

Dave is an avid golfer and sports fan. His hobbies include playing golf, softball, basketball and volleyball. He is married and his wife's name is Elise. They are the proud parents of a new-born daughter, Kristen. They also have three other children, David, 8, Jeff, 6, and Douglas, 4.

Dave's schedule shows him leaving for England on September 30th; from London to Ipswich October 1st for a practice round and then a 36 Hole Tournament will follow. Wednesday, October 3rd, is the date for the tournament. After the tournament his group will tour other golf courses before returning October 6th.

This is a wonderful opportunity for Dave and as an Association we wish him the best.

Nominating Committee Formed For November PTGA Elections

President Levi Travis has appointed Mr. Bill Lansdowne, Country Club of Scranton, as chairman of the nominating committee.

The nominating committee is charged with the selection of a prospective slate of candidates, who if elected, will uphold the dignity, encourage the support and stimulate progress of the association. After careful consideration of our roster and trying to present candidates from all sections of our area, the following names are offered to you.

President	Levi Travis
Vice President	Oliver D. Moon, CGCS.

For three Directorships — your choice of six (6)

Marlin Gible	Blue Mtn. View C. C.
Mark Monahan	Fernwood Inn and C. C.
Dave Linde	Wedgewood C. C.
Jim Kohler	Valley C. C.
Bill Templeton	Shawnee Inn & C. C.
Frank Mycek	Horsham Valley C. C.

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ABSTRACT

Benomyl Tolerance Exhibited by *Sclerotinia homoeocarpa*

By G. W. Goldberg and Herbert Cole, Pennsylvania State University

During the 1972 growing season the first instance of lack of control of *Sclerotinia* dollar spot with benomyl was reported from an Akron, Ohio golf course in early July. This followed with similar reports from locations in Illinois, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. Isolates representative of *S. homoeocarpa*, on the basis of morphological characteristics,

were obtained from diseased grass samples from these sites. When grown on autoclaved rye grain and inoculated on bluegrass and bentgrass varieties in the greenhouse, typical dollarspot lesions appeared from which isolates similar to the originals could be obtained. Tolerance was measured by amount of radial growth on benomyl amended agar. Isolates from the failure locations were 100 times as tolerant to benomyl as isolates from areas where no control difficulties had been experienced.

Comments by

Dr. P. M. Halisky, Turf Pathologist, Rutgers Univ., New Brunswick, N. J.

At a recent meeting of the Phytopathological Society held in Syracuse, N. Y. on November 1-2, 1972, researchers from Pennsylvania State University reported that the dollar spot fungus was again "playing games" with fungicidal control measures. This particular fungus, *Sclerotinia homoeocarpa*, is known to be stimulated in turf plots by carbamate fungicides, notably "difolatan". During the past decade, research at Rhode Island and Pennsylvania State University demonstrated that the dollar spot fungus has developed tolerance to cadmium fungicides. Now, this versatile fungus is beginning to demonstrate tolerance to the systemic benlate-benomyl fungicide. How this development will relate to the use of systemic fungicides and their effectiveness in controlling dollar spot is a question mark.

One word of caution is advisable. Benlate is a systemic fungicide that should be drenched into the root zone for best results. Once absorbed by the grass roots the chemical is translocated upward within the plant, immunizing it. Drenching should be done at the time of application using sprinklers, water hose, or perchance rain. In many instances failure to control dollar spot may be due to improper application of the chemical rather than a tolerance of the fungus to the fungicide. With systemic chemicals it is important to drench rather than to spray.

Dates To Remember:

1974 Penn State Turfgrass Conference
January 28, 29, 30, 31.

Pocono Turfgrass Association Christmas Party
December 8th at Green Pond C. C.

1974 Elections of Officers and Directors
November 20th at C.C. of Shepard Hills

45th International Turfgrass Conference and Show
February 10th — 15th. Anaheim, Calif.

OSHA Change of Address

New mailing address
U. S. Dept. of Labor
Occupational Safety and Health
Administration
3535 Market Street
Philadelphia, Pa. 19104

MORE ON OSHA

Reprinted with permission of the National Club Association, Washington D. C.

After studying occupational safety and health inspections in various parts of the country, the National Safety Council has come up with a list of violations that OSHA inspectors most often find and cite. Many of these are relatively minor and easily corrected yet despite this, the council found, plant personnel tend to overlook them. OSHA's Minneapolis Acting Director, Don Siebert, has also compiled a list of frequent violations, in this case ones that his inspectors most often find.

Electrical wiring. Look for frayed wires, loose conduit connections, bare wiring that might produce shock or fire, broken or damaged switchplates, missing plates, wet sawdust around electrical outlets, and circuit breakers not marked to show function and purpose.

Open function boxes, electrical outlets without proper grounds and broken ground plugs are also frequently cited.

Fan guarding. All fans within seven feet of the floor must be guarded; openings should be no greater than ½-inch width.

Floor conditions. Check for rough or uneven floors and stairs which might create a tripping hazard. Loose material on the floor such as boards, metal bands, oil, water, scrap and parts could also bring an OSHA citation.

Aisle markings. There should be no doubt about the location of the aisle. Aisles should not be cluttered with materials.

Air pressure for cleaning. Perhaps the OSHA violation cited more than any others is the requirement limiting air pressure for cleaning equipment to 30 psi. "Inspectors are quite fussy about this one," the council report warns.

Fire extinguishers always get attention. The standards are quite specific concerning their locations, heights, frequency of inspections, and accessibility, etc.

Exit signs. Lack of exit markings often brings citations. Also, inspectors will notice whether or not the routes people must follow to reach exits are open, aisles are blocked, or materials stored in front of exit doors.

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Injury recordkeeping requirements of OSHA. Records are a routine checkpoint for the inspectors. Whoever is responsible for such records should be instructed to keep them up to date and ready for inspection at all times.

Other violations;

Overhead storage areas overloaded or without guard rails;

Machines without guard rails;

Bench grinders with chipped wheels or without proper workrests or guards;

Oxygen and fuel gases unsecured or stored together;

Battery charging areas with unmarked exits, no "no smoking" signs, no water available for diluting spilled electrolytes and improper ventilation;

Poorly ventilated welding areas;

Paint and flammable materials stored outside proper areas and near welding areas;

Defective ladders with cracked steps, missing rails and missing braces;

Paint spray booths that are too small and force painting outside the booth.

BENOMYL AND DUTCH ELM DISEASE

Benlate (Benomyl 50% w.p.) has been registered as an aid in control of Dutch elm disease. Important details:

1. It is not a cure-all.
2. Contains Methoxychlor sprays and sanitation when adding the use of Benlate to control programs.
3. Combine Benlate with Methoxychlor during spring sprays before beetles begin to feed.
4. There is a 60% chance of curing trees with Dutch elm disease if they

show 5% or less infection in the crown. There is less than 50% chance of a cure if crown shows 5% - 10% infection. No chance of cure if root graft or more than 10% infection.

RATE OF APPLICATION:

8 lbs. 50% w.p./100 gallons as a foliar spray, 2 - 3 gallons of formulation per tree.

Injection method:

2 lbs./100 gallons - injectors at 2-inch intervals and left in place 24 - 48 hours.

Don't Ignore OSHA's Requirements for Safety Records at Each 'Establishment'

Regulations issued under the Safety Act require that injury records be kept and posted at each "Establishment." The criteria set forth for defining an "Establishment" are:

It is a single physical location where business is conducted.

It is a place where employees report daily.

If there is more than one distinct business activity conducted at a location, each activity constitutes an establishment.

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

Recently I ran across a flyer advertising literature available through the U.S. Government Printing Office. You can get on a twice monthly mailing list which lists many publications that are available at a nominal cost. The list before me has over a hundred available pamphlets and books.

One publication "Suggestions for Control of Turnover and Absenteeism" (\$1.00) could be of value to any superintendent.

To get on the free mailing list and receive this booklet twice a month, write to: Superintendent of Documents, Attn: S. L. Mail List. Washington, D. C. 20402.

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