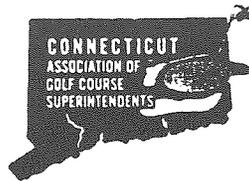


# CONNECTICUT



## CLIPPINGS

July, August 1987

Volume 21, Number 3

### Up Coming Events

CAGCS Invitational Tourney--Sept. 15  
Watertown Golf Club

Scholarship and Research Tourney  
Glastonbury Hills--Oct.7

CAGCS Meeting--Oct. 13  
Tashua Knolls

CAGCS-GCSAA Seminar--Nov. 23,24  
Cromwell, Conn.

RIGCSA-GCSAA Seminar--Dec. 14, 15  
Seekonk, Mass.

GCSAA International Conference  
and Show--Jan. 30---Feb. 4  
Houston, Texas

### ?? WHAT'S INSIDE ??

Facts About Fast Greens

GCSAA News

Grass Catcher

Turf Clippings

*Controlling Poa Annua  
in Cool Season Turf*

### GCSAA TO CO-SPONSOR INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR HANDICAP CHAMPIONSHIPS

Donald E. Hearn, CGCS, President of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), announced that the Association plans to co-sponsor the upcoming International Amateur Handicap Championships.

"The amateur golfer obviously plays a vital role in the popularity of the game," Hearn said. "This championship format provides any skill level a chance to compete in a fun, 72-hole competition, just like the professional golfers."

A field of 600 amateur participants from the United States, Australia and several European countries is expected for the tournament.

The new Tournament Players Club at Scottsdale, the Palm and Pine courses at McCormick Ranch and Scottsdale Country Club will host the championship play. The competition will take place Oct. 25-31.

This event also provides the GCSAA with another firsthand opportunity to promote the goals and ideals of our membership to the participants, "Hearn added.

GCSAA plans to extend its "Challenge for Excellence" hole-in-one competition to participants on the final day of the tournament. The challenge will offer a prize of \$5,000 to the first player to ace a specified hole. The actual distribution of money will be \$1,000 to the player, \$2,000 to the GCSAA Scholarship & Research Fund, and \$2,000 to a charity chosen by the player.

"We're delighted to have such an outstanding organization like the golf course superintendents joining our sponsorship ranks," said Doug Mason, founder of the event and director since its inception in 1984. "GCSAA plays such an important role all over the world in making and keeping courses playable and affordable to the general golfing public that it's a natural affiliation."

Among other sponsors for the International Amateur Handicap Championships are Kodak, Foster's Lager, Continental Airlines, America West Airlines, Registry Resort, Foot Joy, Destination West, Iron Horse Bar & Grill, Pinnacle Peak Patio and K. Michael.

# Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents

**President:** Greg Wojick, CGCS

**Vice President:** Robert Chalifour, CGCS

**Secretary:** Thomas Watroba

**Treasurer:** Michael Wallace, CGCS

**Past President:** David Stimson, CGCS

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**Golf:** Mike Chrzanowski

**Public Relations:** James Mederios, CGCS

**Newsletter:** John F. Streeter, CGCS

**Membership:** Steve Rackliffe

**Research  
and Scholarship:** John Napieracz, CGCS

**Representative  
to the Board:** Henry Lesinski

**Executive Director:**  
Peter Pierson  
Po. Box 112  
Cromwell, Ct. 06416

The object of this association is to encourage increased knowledge of golf course management and greater professionalism through education, research, exchange of practical experience and the well being of each individual member.

## Facts and Fallacies of Fast Greens

James T. Snow, Director, Northeastern Region,  
USGA Green Section

One of the undisputable facts today is that greens are generally faster than they were only a few years ago. A national survey done by the USGA Green Section in 1976 showed that the average green rolled approximately 6 feet 6 inches according to the Stimpmeter, where as the average green today is probably closer to 8 feet. It's also a fact that most golfers have short memories. Though greens are faster than ever, complaints about slow greens are more common than ever. So how fast is fast? In my view, the following offers a reasonable perspective on the subject.

Fast for regular play	-	8' to 9'
A reasonable range	-	7' 6" to 9'
Ultra fast for regular play	-	above 9' 6"
An unreasonable range	-	above 9' at all times

Due to the vagaries of the weather and other circumstances, it is impossible to maintain a precise green speed throughout the the year, but maintaining speeds between 7'6" and 9' should be feasible. Speeds 9' should be established only for special occasions. Trying to keep green speeds above 9' at all times, as desired by some golfers, often results in serious problems and should be avoided.

Achieving fast greens has been well studied and involves proper mower maintenance and adjustment along with the manipulation of cultural factors such as fertilization, irrigation, topdressing, verticutting, rolling, etc. To achieve ultra-fast greens, all of these programs must be pushed to the limit. In the process, extreme stress is placed on the turf and jeopardizes its very survival during periods of difficult weather. If a goal of maintaining fast or ultra-fast greens throughout the season is ever to be achieved, then a real effort must be made to control or minimize other stress factors as much as possible. These include:

- poor drainage
- moisture stress due to a poor irrigation system or improper irrigation practices
- soil compaction
- disease, insects, and nematodes
- unreasonable traffic (e.g. play during bad weather, winter play, etc.)
- tree effects (shade, root competition, poor air circulation).

Despite efforts to control these stress factors, however, following through with all of the practices necessary to produce consistently fast or ultra-fast greens can thin and weaken the turf to such an extent that many undesirable consequences can occur. Among the problems observed:

- establishment of moss and algae
- encroachment of crabgrass, goosegrass and other weeds
- proliferation of summer patch, take-all patch and other difficult to control stress related diseases.

Trying to maintain consistently ultra-fast greens means always living on the edge of disaster, and once golfers become used to these fast greens, they expect them to be that way all of the time. The superintendent is then locked into a maintenance program which at best will make him a nervous wreck, but which ultimately could spell disaster. In the end, the piper will be paid!

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Try to keep the speed of your greens in the reasonable range of 7' 6" to 9'. Aim for the 8' to 9' range if you wish, but recognize that green speeds will vary from day to day and season to season.
  - Avoid getting caught up in the race for ultra-fast greens, striving for speeds of 9' 6" only on very special occasions, if at all.
  - Explain to your club officials about the potential consequences of trying to maintain consistently ultra-fast greens.
  - Be on the lookout for the symptoms of weakness noted earlier, and be prepared to compromise your green speed goals in an effort to strengthen the turf.

In the long run, the game of golf will be best served by taking a reasonable approach to managing green speeds, avoiding the excesses which can only result in dead grass and unhappy golfers.

## GCSAA Updates

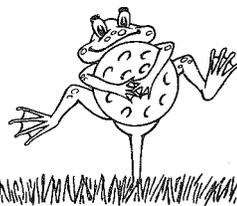
by Steve Cadenelli CGCS, Director  
GCSAA

The continued growth and development of GCSAA has never been more evident than during the past several months as the Government Relations and Public Relations efforts of the association have taken shape and been implemented. GCSAA members have for some time looked for their association to promote the role of the golf course superintendent within the golf community. The recently approved dues increase, which specified significant sums toward such public relations efforts, illustrated this desire ever so clearly. So it is most gratifying to report that such efforts are well underway. Under the watchful eye of John Schilling, Executive Director, and thru the enthusiastic initiatives of Bob Still, Manager of Media Relations, the world of the golf course superintendent is becoming more widely understood and recognized. Television advertisements, VIP receptions, soon to be introduced radio spots, and perhaps most importantly, regular one-to-one contact with individuals who report the game's goings on or who function within the framework of the golf community, all serve to help elevate the awareness of the professional golf course manager.

Truly exciting initiatives for GCSAA are in the area of Government Relations where Zack Grant, Manager of Government Relations, is breaking new ground in terms of creating positive perspectives in the minds of legislators and those who write the laws as to the professional qualifications of golf turf managers and how we, as keepers of the green, are indeed environmentalists who have a love of nature and who seek to manage our golf courses in a manner that is most favorable to the environment and to players of the game.

These are exciting times for GCSAA as our Association breaks new ground and as our profession becomes more recognized, better understood, and more willing to assert itself as a very significant player in the community of golf and the world around us.

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Green and tee construction materials & mixes conforming to U.S.G.A. specs are also available.

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## GCSAA's "Challenge For Excellence" Extended To LPGA

The GCSAA and the LPGA announced the "Challenge For Excellence" hole-in-one competition, sponsored by the GCSAA. The "Challenge" offered a prize of \$25,000 in the name of the first player to ace a specified par-3 hole during LPGA tour events. The Boston Five Classic (held July 16-19) was the debut event.

"We're very pleased that the GCSAA can participate in some of the LPGA's finest events in this manner," said Donald E. Hearn, CGCS, President of the Association. "This type of promotion wins for everybody because not only does the player receive prize money but the event charity and the GCSAA scholarship program benefit as well."

"The Ladies Professional Golf Association obviously realizes the importance of superintendents and their contribution to the game," said LPGA Commissioner, John D. Laupheimer. "Today's events are played under some of the best conditions possible, and the superintendent at each course always goes beyond the normal call of duty to be helpful and responsive. We are pleased to have this exciting and positive promotion on our Tour."

Future sites are being planned at this time for additional "Challenge For Excellence" competitions with the LPGA Tour.

## A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Greg Wojick, CGCS

A Stream of Near-Consciousness on Stress and Professionalism and some other stuff...

Larry Bird, Swish!.. Michael Jordan, Slam!! Alford for three and a jumper for Smart, Alleoop for Seikaly... I've fantasized about playing basketball like these guys, but I'm regulated to my nurf ball and plastic hoop set up in the kitchen (haven't had the nerve to put one up in my office yet). It's a great stress reliever - slam like the big guys, bombs from the outside - feels good enough though it's on a smaller (and less painful) scale. I thought that I was a little strange when I started playing "toy" basketball after work, but in a recent article in a respected business periodical, it seems as though many busy, high-paid, high-power professionals use the nurf basketball to offset dangerous tension buildup. It works! I've just come from the Mall where I purchased a slightly larger basketball and metal rim for the garage. Air Jordan here I come. (Next month - Hackysack & juggling for stress reduction!).

\* \* \* \* \*

(Air Jordan, Nike's cashed in). I like shoes and I've made a little pact with myself to dress more like a professional this year...perhaps even dress like a golfer during the working day, starting with the shoes.

Nearly every superintendent these days wears the golf shirt, the golf sweater or the golf windbreaker at the workplace. But let's face it, it's the pants (trousers) and shoes (boots) that make the difference.

Many of the younger superintendents go for jeans (Levi, Lee, etc.) combined with the workboots (Timerland, Dunham, or whatever). You "older" guys go for the Dickies (forest green, kacki or UPS brown) together with the old "janitor" boots. It's the Marlboro Man look or the humble handyman look but certainly resistance to the "golfer look". I know that the golfer look is better for our profession and for you in your job. Join'em - don't fight 'em.

Worried about cost? Check around and you'll be surprised to find that "golfer-type" pants can be less costly than jeans or dickies (and repel grease and grime just as well). Work boots certainly aren't cheap and can be much more expensive than casual (spikeless)

golf shoes. (If you need to wear work boots-wear them when you need them but change out of them when you don't need them). L. L. Bean or those rubber shoes are great for those early morning tours on the golf course or fiddling with the sprinklers.

But by looking more like a golfer at work, you do open yourself up to a lot of interesting comments from the crew. Be prepared.

\* \* \* \* \*

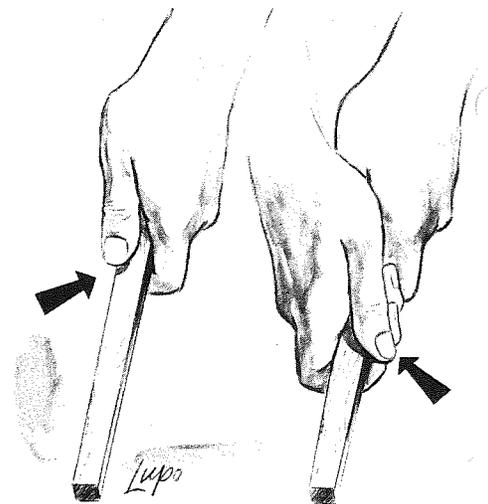
- Speaking of professionalism, Jim Medeiros' crew will look sharp this season with their new Avon 'Staff' apparel.

Congratulations! !

50 years as CAGCS members ...

**Bill Somers  
Everett Pyle.**

- The SAV plan will be there when you need it. SAV stands for Superintendent's Advisory Volunteer plan. Paperwork will be out to you soon. Read it carefully.



### GOLF TIP OF THE WEEK

The grip has often been called the engine-room of the swing. To enable you to grip the club properly, imagine the handle is a block of wood. Place your left thumb on the right corner of the block and your right thumb on the left corner. The V's formed by your thumbs and forefingers should now point to your right shoulder.

### The Grass Catcher

CAGCS Announces New Members.

As of July 1, the following people were accepted and welcomed to the Association.

**Kenneth Parkin**, Class B  
from Hunter Memorial Golf Club

**John Filossie**, Class B from  
Suffield Country Club

**Tom Watson**, Class B from  
New London Country Club

**Scott Ferguson**, Class B  
from Brooklawn Country Club

**Scott Schukraft**, Class A  
from Rolling Hills Country Club

**Barry Anes**, Class A from  
Candlewood Valley

**Kevin Bengston**, Class B  
from Indian Hill Country Club

**Ed Clark**, Class B from  
Wallingford Country Club

**Dan Rackliffe**, Class A  
from Longshore Country Club

**James Dudzik**, Class C  
from Pakulis Equipment

### Position Available

Sales Person to pursue the golf course irrigation and irrigation contractor markets. Knowledge of irrigation and installation required.

Send Resume to:  
I&E Supply, Inc.  
P.O. Box 9  
Milford Conn. 06040  
Attention Dick Smith

# IMPORTANT BUDGETING INFORMATION

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# Performance

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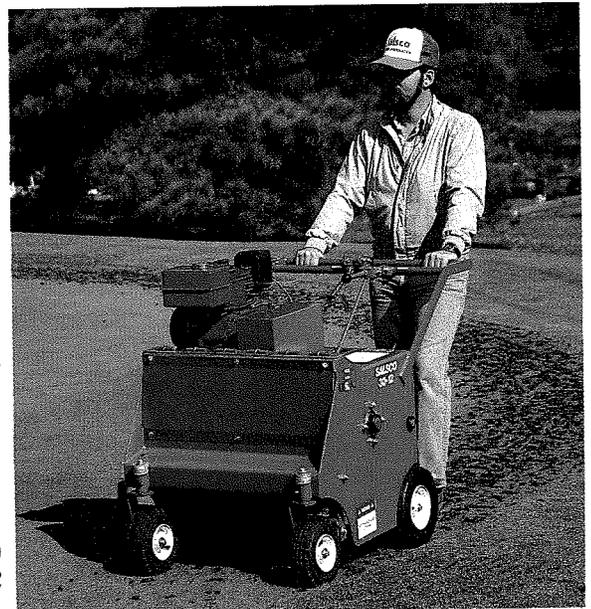


The FTA-60-24 (above) and 30-12 (right) Core Aerators are built tough, and to exacting quality standards, so you can depend on them year after year. And you can also depend on them for the best performances of any core aerators on the market. That's why we compiled the fact sheet. So you have a handy reference when it comes time to order new equipment. We think the facts speak for themselves!

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**TO: CAGCS MEMBERS**

**FROM: WALTER W. LOWELL,  
CANTON PUBLIC GOLF COURSE  
CANTON, CT 06019**

Please be advised that The Connecticut PGA has an Agronomy Scholarship that it administers:

Eligibility:

1. Applicant works at a course that employs a PGA Professional.
2. Applicant works at a course in Connecticut or W. Mass section.
3. Applicant attends a school or college in an Agronomy studies, i.e., short course turf program or college, two or four year course.

Please send inquiries and application to:

Walter Lowell  
Canton Public Golf Course  
Canton, Connecticut 06019

Attached is an application.



**The Professional Golfers' Association  
of America**  
Connecticut Section



**AGRONOMY SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

1. Name in Full \_\_\_\_\_

2. Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

3. Address and Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

4. Marital Status: Married ( ) Single ( )      4A: Number of Children ( )

5. Name of Current Employer (Golf Course or Club): \_\_\_\_\_

5A. Address Current Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

5B. Number Years Employed: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Name and Address of School (or Schools) Attended (or Attending)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Elective Offices Held in School: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Extra-curricular Activities:

8A. Social \_\_\_\_\_

8B. Athletic \_\_\_\_\_

8C. Others \_\_\_\_\_

9. Community Activities

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. Need of Financial Assistance To Continue Education

10A. Candidate's Income and Sources \_\_\_\_\_

10B. Additional Income \_\_\_\_\_

11. Accompanying This Application There Must Be:

11A. A letter with records from high school and/or college

11B. A written statement by your physician as to health

11C. A letter of recommendation from your superintendent

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Conn. PGA Professional \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Superintendent \_\_\_\_\_

# Turf Clippings

## Controlling Poa Annua In Cool Season Turf With Prograss

by C. Robert Staib, Nor-Am Chemical Co.

Annual bluegrass, also known as Poa Annua, can be selectively removed from cool-season turfgrasses in fairways, tees, and roughs with PROGRASS, a herbicide produced by NOR-AM Chemical Co. PROGRASS (chemical name, ethofumesate) is registered for use in perennial ryegrass, Kentucky bluegrass, and fairway-maintained bentgrass. It is formulated as an emulsifiable concentrate and packaged in one-gallon plastic jugs containing 1 1/2 lbs. of active ingredient. It exhibits both pre and post-emergence activity on Poa annua by means of root and foliar absorption in established plants and in germinating seedlings prior to emergence.

### TIMING:

For optimum results, PROGRASS should be applied in late summer or fall (mid August into November). This is the primary period for annual bluegrass germination and the time when established plants are most susceptible to post-emergence control. Ethofumesate is active in the soil for approximately 6 weeks. Poa annua has such strong propensity to re-establish itself, given any opportunity, that repeat applications of PROGRASS during the first and second year on a control program are important.

Perennial ryegrasses are tolerant of PROGRASS at all stages of growth including newly emerged seedlings. PROGRASS can be applied to perennial ryegrass one to two weeks following initial seeding or overseeding, when the seedlings are approximately 1-inch high.

Established turfs of Kentucky bluegrass (mowed 3/4-inch or higher) and fairway-maintained bentgrass are tolerant of PROGRASS, but these varieties cannot be used in overseeding during the treatment period. Kentucky bluegrass should be established for at least 8 weeks prior to treatment. Bentgrass fairways can be treated 30 to 45 days following bentgrass seedling emergence.

### RATES:

Prior to applying PROGRASS be sure to read the label as rates vary according to turf species and soil type. In general, the following treatment programs have proven successful:

#### I. Perennial ryegrass ...

Apply PROGRASS at 1 gallon ( 1 1/2 lbs. a.i.) per acre. Repeat at this rate in 30 days. When overseeding with perennial ryegrass, apply when the seedlings are approximately 1" high.

#### II. Kentucky bluegrass ...

Apply PROGRASS at 1/2 gallon 9.75 lbs. a.i.) per acre.

Repeat at this rate in 21 days, and a third time 42 days following the initial treatment. Do not overseed with Kentucky bluegrass until 8 weeks following the last treatment.

#### III. Fairway-maintained bentgrass ...

Apply PROGRASS at 1/2 gallon (.75 lbs. a.i.) per acre. Repeat at this rate in 21 days and again 42 days following the initial treatment. Do not treat seedling bentgrass for 30 to 45 days following emergence. (approximately 6 weeks after seeding).

### IMPORTANCE OF OVERSEEDING

In areas of even moderate infestations of annual bluegrass, superintendents should prepare for the possibility of bare spots resulting from its eradication. Fortunately, perennial ryegrass can be overseeded into the existing turf prior to treatment, or later as necessary when bare ground becomes evident. There is a significant two-fold advantage to tie the Poa annua treatment program to overseeding with perennial ryegrass. Combining the pre-emergence activity of PROGRASS with competition from the developing ryegrass seedlings provides better protection against reinfestation of annual bluegrass. Even in heavily infested bentgrass fairways, perennial ryegrass can be used to provide green cover during the period of control. Eventually, close mowing will encourage the predominance of bentgrass with little disruption in aesthetics or maintenance.

PROGRASS will not impede rhizome development of Kentucky bluegrass. If it is desired to increase the stand of Kentucky bluegrass beyond normal rhizomal expansion, dormant seeding (at least 8 weeks following the last application) or overseeding the following spring would be permissible options.

### CONCLUSION

Depending on conditions, herbicidal activity on established Poa annua may be observed within a week or two following application. In some cases however, control may not be evident until the following spring. Experiences from research and commercial programs indicate strongly that better results are achieved with repeat applications during the first two years, especially in areas of heavy infestation. By the third year, the number of treatments can be reduced, and applications can be made on an as-needed basis.

No longer need superintendents lament, "Poa annua, you can't live with it; you can't live without it." PROGRASS has definitely made it easier to live without it.

The following is a suggested PROGRASS program for those who have Bentgrass fairways in the Northeast:

August 15	Renovate and overseed
September 26	Apply PROGRASS at 1/2 gal. or .75 lbs. AI per acre
October 17	Apply PROGRASS AT 1/2 gal. or .75 lbs. AI per acre
November 7	Apply PROGRASS At 1/2 gal. or .75 lbs. AI per acre.

These Patrons help support our Association.

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● **Valley Farms Nursery & Supply**  
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Joseph D. Bidwell, Owner  
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● **Westchester Turf Supply, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 198 Lincolndale, NY 10540  
Bob Lippman  
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(914) 248-5790HM

● **Winding Brook Turf Farm, Inc.**  
240 Griswold Road Wethersfield, CT 06109  
Donald Grant  
(203) 529-6869

**Al Zikorus**  
Golf Course Architect  
Member ASGCA  
P.O. Box 187, Canaan, ME 04924  
(207) 474-8868

● **Val-Agra, Inc.**  
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