

CONNECTICUT CLIPPINGS



Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents

Devoted to sharing knowledge and experience for better turf

June, 1991

Volume 25, No. 2

**CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION
OF GOLF COURSE
SUPERINTENDENTS**

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Connecticut Clippings
 is an official publication of
 The Connecticut Association of
 Golf Course Superintendents.

Newsletter
 John F. Streeter, CGCS, Editor
 Photos by Jeff Rogers & Dave Basconi

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.

What's Inside?

Grass Catcher	4
Scoreboard	5
GCSAA News	7
"If creeping bentgrass is going to compete ..."	8

**Are You Watering
Too Much?**

By Peter Hull
 Turf Products Corporation
 Irrigation Division

As a superintendent, this is a question that may have been asked of many of you on more than one occasion. Possibly by a golfer who has been frustrated by standing water or has been dodging sprinklers during their latest round of golf. Even if you have never been asked this question, perhaps it is time to ask yourself!

There are many reasons to be concerned about how you water. State and local agencies are taking a close look at how we are managing our water resources. New England, once thought of as "The land of limitless water supply" is under a watchful eye. Golf courses that use city water, and even courses that have their own water supply (ponds and wells) could be forced to restrict when and how much they water. There are several things you can do to water more efficiently. You must evaluate your system and see where its strengths and weaknesses are.

How is the piping system on your course? If your system is 20 years old or older, chances are pretty good that you have some problems out there. Many courses have steel pipe, asbestocement, ABS and PVC all in the same system. This is a result of repairing breaks over the years with different materials, and sometimes the wrong size materials. This can create serious pressure deficits in your system. This also affects the velocity and gallonage you can safely move through your pipes.

By the time the water reaches the sprinklers, you may not have the pressure or the gallonage that was intended when the system was new. This means that the sprinklers will not perform properly, cause poor coverage. Quite often, poor coverage is mistaken for the need for more water. This can result in both over and under watered areas.

Another factor that contributes to this is pipe that cannot support the number of sprinklers operating at one time. This generally is not designed error, but happens after heads were added "here and there" to pick up poorly covered areas. These could have been actual poor coverage areas, though sometimes they are a symptom of other problems such as high traffic areas, re-contoured fairways or new construction.

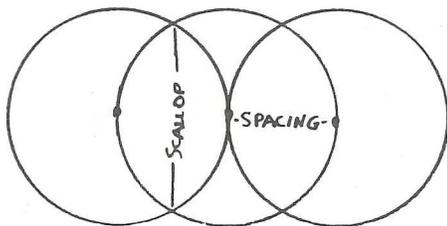
The sprinklers are the final component of the water distribution system and as such they are the most important. It is their job to distribute the water over the turf in a uniform pattern. They cannot do their job properly if the water does not reach them at the pressure or gallonage for which they were designed. An often

overlooked item in each sprinkler is the nozzle(s). Over time, they wear and the orifice gets larger. This allows for more gallons per minute to come out of the head, over-taxing both the piping and the pumping system, as well as over watering. It is very important to examine and replace nozzles periodically.

The purpose of a sprinkler is to deliver water to the turf. We measure its delivery rate in terms of inches per hour, or its precipitation rate (P.R.). The P.R. is a function of a sprinkler's spacing, in relationship to its neighboring sprinkler and the gallons per minute that it delivers. There are three basic formulas for calculating P.R.

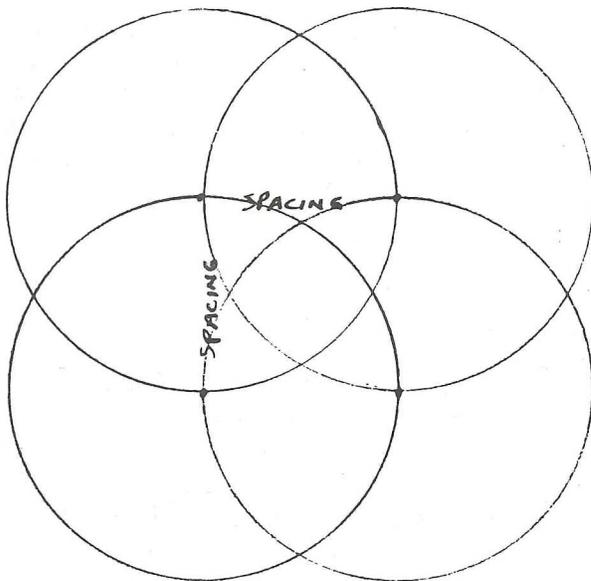
The first is for sprinklers in a single row, as is often found in fairways and tees.

$$\frac{\text{G.P.M. of sprinkler} \times 96.3}{\text{Spacing} \times \text{Scallop}} = \text{in./hr.}$$



The second is for square spacing like you might have in greens and double row fairways.

$$\frac{\text{G.P.M. of sprinkler} \times 96.3}{\text{Spacing} \times \text{Spacing}} = \text{in./hr.}$$



(continued on Page 3.)



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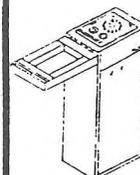


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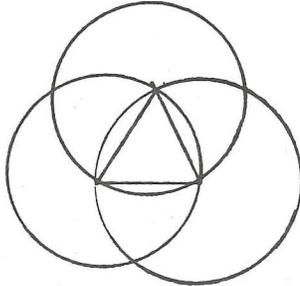


(continued from page 2.)

Are you watering too much?

The third formula is for triangular spacing.

$$\frac{\text{G.P.M. of sprinkler} \times 96.3 = \text{in./hr.}}{\text{Spacing} \times 2 \times .866}$$



If you are unsure of the gallonage your sprinklers are using, you can get the performance data from the manufacturer or their local distributor. It is also a good idea to check the operating pressures of your sprinklers with a pitot gauge.

It is a good place to start when trouble shooting your watering problems. Don't forget to consider that a single sprinkler operating during the day may not perform the same as it would at night when other heads are operating at the same time.

The precipitation rate of your sprinklers is a major factor when determining how long you will run your sprinklers. In Southern New England during the growing season, our turf requires approximately 1.0" of rainfall or irrigation per week.

(This is a general figure based on evapotranspiration data in our region and may vary for your area and conditions.) You must know the P.R. of your sprinklers so that you can supplement what nature does not provide. It is also important so you can properly water in pesticides and fertilizers. Of course, soil structure, compaction, slope, location and turf

type are all major factors that will influence when and how much you water.

Another factor that contributes to over watering can be sprinkler zoning, or more specifically, block zoning. Block zones are zones of more than one sprinkler that operate off a single valve. This can lead to over watering because you have to run all the sprinklers in that zone for the same amount of time. In a flat area, this may be fine; but, on golf courses, the terrain can vary drastically, even within short distances. Consequently, superintendents are forced to over water some areas in order to get enough water in others, or spend a great deal of time hand watering.

There are many other products available to help turf managers reduce their water usage. Probably the most important is the soil probe, which you are all familiar with. There are also a variety of rain gauges that can shut down your controllers after a pre-set amount of rainfall. You can also use soil moisture sensors that wire to individual valves that interrupt power to the valve when the soil moisture reaches a user defined level.

It is evident that there are many factors that influence how you water, from pipe sizing to zoning and the type of sprinklers you have. Many of you have good systems that give you the type of control you want, but those of you with older systems may experience some or all of these problems. When you look at ways to improve your irrigation system, remember to try and treat the problem, not the symptom.

No matter what type of system you have, you can see how important it is to learn its strengths and weaknesses. Your turf cannot live without water, and we can't control mother nature. These two facts make your irrigation system your most valuable tool. Because water is a finite resource, we must learn to make the most of what we have. I am sure that if you were to experiment with the watering times using precipitation rates and evapotranspiration data as a guideline, you will use conserved water, save money and promote healthier, stronger turf!

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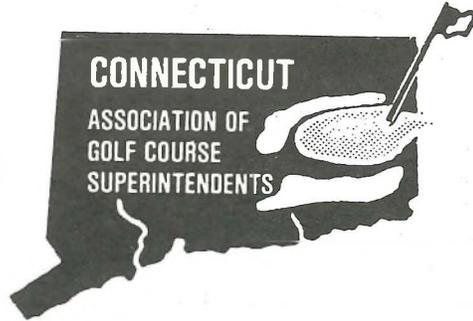
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Grass Catcher



Yards, the Long Island GCSA Newsletter and also produces a premier publication. My hat's off to you, too, Charlie.

.....

CAGCS to host summertime cruise

Phil Neaton, Social Chairman, is in the process of finalizing plans for an "Oldies But Goodies" cruise up the Connecticut River, in lieu of the annual family day.

Phil is planning a late summer date and as usual, this will be a free evening of fun for all who attend!!!

.....

CAGCS Welcomes New Members

- Dale Wesselman - C.C. of Waterbury
- Jud Smith- Orange Hills C.C.
- Lori Spielman- Spielman Landscaping
- Gary Preston- Cliffside C.C.
- John Creevy- New London C.C.

.....

Take Note

Invitations have been mailed to all Class A members for The Annual Invitational to be held on Tuesday, June 25th at The Woodbridge Country Club. If you are a Class A member and have not received an invitation, please contact John Streeter.

Return enclosed post card if you wish your Green Chairman to receive a copy of the *Connecticut Clippings*.

CORRECTION

TO

UST INFORMATION

It was reported in the last issue of the *Clippings* that any Underground Storage Tank (UST) which is under 1,100 gallons does not have to be regulated. This information was received from a reliable source, but I regret to inform you that it is wrong.

I have since called DEP, and they have instructed me that any tank containing gasoline or diesel fuel, no matter what size, is regulated in the State of Connecticut. Therefore, you are required to meet all of the UST regulations.

The first one being the regulation concerning all USTs must have liability insurance by October 26, 1991, and we are told this process takes up to 3 to 4 months.

The direct line to all of your questions concerning USTs is 566-4630.

.....

A Note of Thanks

As editor, it is always an uplift to see members contributing articles to the Newsletter. For some reason, the past two issues have received more contributions than I have ever experienced. I am puzzled to the reason why, but I am overjoyed with the help. The contributions received have contributed greatly to the quality and usefulness of our publication.

I hope this renewed interest will continue, and I would like to see more of you come forward with some of your

ideas or projects or unique experiences, or anything that you wish to share with the members of our Association.

I would like to say thank you to our contributors:

- Pat Lucas - Innis Arden
- Peter Hull - Turf Products
- Jeff Rogers - Baker Nurseries
- Thomas Watroba, President, CAGCS
- Al Arison - O. M. Scott
- Fred Bachand
- (Al and Fred's articles will appear in the next issue)

.....

CAGCS to Sponsor Advertisements

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July 13 & 14
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September 28 & 29
Ryder Cup Matches

.....

Thank you, Charlies Cross!

For your gracious comments on our April issue of the *Clippings*. It's always nice to hear from someone who sits in the same chair and understands what it is to put together a publication such as we do.

Charlie is the editor of the *Hole Nine*

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New Haven/Hartford host May and June meetings

The Connecticut Association made their way to the southern part of the state for the April meeting at the New Haven Country Club. After a very enjoyable round of golf, all were treated to a large selection of hors d'oeuvres and cocktails, followed by a full-course dinner. A brief business meeting followed, and Pat Lucas ended off the day with his presentation about the ins and outs of deep tine aerification.

Then we traveled to the northern part of the state for the May meeting which was held at the Hartford Golf Club. After dodging a few rain drops for the first 5 holes, we finally made it into the 19th hole for a little bit of comradery amongst the 80+ in attendance. Russ Palmer, Executive Director of CSGA, entertained us with his feelings on the importance of the golf course superintendent, and how far we have come in a short time.

Both facilities were in impeccable condition. Host superintendent Jim MacDonald of New Haven Country Club and Herb Watson, host superintendent at the Hartford Golf Club received high praise and numerous compliments on the conditions they provided.

From sign-in through dinner, both meetings were well organized, professional and well attended. Hats off to all members in attendance. We had 70 to 80 for golf for both meetings and up to 100 for dinner.

Results from the Blind Draw Tournament

April Meeting - New Haven Country Club

Gross

First

Dave Roule &
Mike Dukette - 143

Second

Bruce Carlson & Peter Cure - 152

Third

Frank Lamphier and Jud Smith - 157

Closest to the Pin

(Donated by The Cardinals)
Eric Johnson

Net

First

Steve Rackliffe &
Ted Maddocks - 135

Second

Ed Lamphier and Dave Basconi - 142

Third

Roger Barrett & Al Adaskeveg - 142

Longest Drive

(Donated by The Cardinals)
Kevin D'Amico

Results from First Round

CAGCS Championship/Met Team Qualifying

May Meeting - Hartford Golf Club

**CAGCS Championship
First Round**

Gross

Les Kennedy - 74
Paul Jamrog - 76
Frank Lamphier - 77

Net

Phil Neaton - 68
Greg Wojick - 68
Mike Ovian - 69
John Mulhearn - 69

Closest to the Pin

(Donated by Winding Brook Turf Farm)
Dave Stimson

**Met Team Qualifying
First Round**

Gross

Jim Staszowski - 72
Les Kennedy - 74
Mike Duquette - 74
Frank Lamphier - 77

Net

Roger Barrett - 67
Phil Neaton - 68
Mike Ovian - 69
John Mulhearn - 69

Longest Drive

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NEWS FROM G C S A A HEADQUARTERS

EPA AND GCSAA TEAM UP ON LAWN CARE EDUCATION

The nation's environmental authorities have joined forces with America's turfgrass experts to educate homeowners about ecologically responsible lawn care practices. The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the GCSAA are co-sponsoring a new campaign that features television public service announcements on the proper use of lawn care chemicals.

The 30- and 10-second commercials ask homeowners to "read the directions and use only the amount needed to do the job," when applying lawn care chemicals. Both spots list a toll-free number (1-800-858-7378) that viewers may call to receive more information on proper usage of and possible alternatives to lawn chemicals.

The commercials were released in the top 40 U.S. television markets. Leading national cable television networks also received the spots.

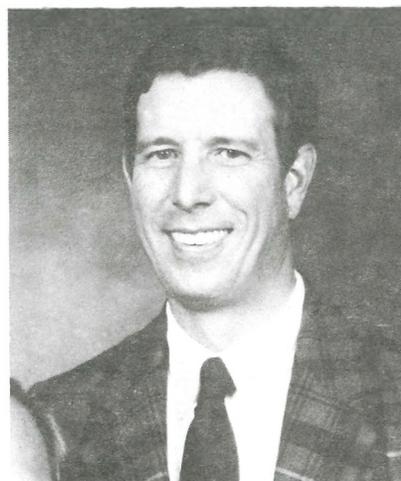
Lewis S. W. Crampton, EPA associate administrator for communications and public affairs, said "We hope these commercials will create more awareness of the need to use lawn care chemicals judiciously."

Stephen G. Cadenelli, CGCS, GCSAA president, added, "GCSAA is pleased to be part of this unique public education program. It is our pleasure to offer expertise to help America's homeowners maintain great home lawns in an environmentally responsible manner."

GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT TESTIFIES AT CONGRESSIONAL HEARING

"Golf and the golf course superintendent have a very real interest in reducing pesticide use," said William R. Roberts, CGCS, in testimony before the recent Senate subcommittee hearing on toxic substances and environmental oversight. Roberts, vice president of GCSAA, testified on behalf of the association.

Roberts, the superintendent at the Lochmoor Club, Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan, was invited by the subcommittee to represent the 10,800 members of GCSAA. Subcommittee chairman, Sen. Harry Reid (D-Nev.), invited Roberts and



William R. Roberts, CGCS
Vice President of GCSAA

GCSAA to appear because of the association's recognized leadership in the fields of turfgrass management and professional education. Roberts also testified at last year's subcommittee hearing at Sen. Reid's invitation.

In his testimony, Roberts highlight GCSAA's ongoing education programs and the association's stance on posting and pre-notification of pesticide applications. He also reconfirmed GCSAA's "diligence in asking the hard questions and finding the right answers which will lead to a minimization of overall pesticide inputs to our environment."

Roberts' testimony touched on GCSAA's willingness to work within the regulatory process. The subcommittee was briefed on the public education/public service announcement which GCSAA produced in conjunction with the EPA. The PSA, entitled "Think Before You Apply," educates homeowners about environmentally responsible lawn care practices. A copy of the television PSA was entered into the official hearing record.

The May 9 hearing also included testimony from representatives of the EPA, the Professional Lawn Care Association of America, the Chemical Producers and Distributors Association, the Federal Trade Commission, and the General Accounting Office.

"If creeping bentgrass is going to compete, you've got to take good care of it."

Joe Vargas, Ph.D., Professor of Botany and Plant Pathology
Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

In his 22 years as a plant pathologist at Michigan State University, Dr. Joe Vargas has helped dozens of golf course superintendents across the country to establish and maintain the kind of attractive, high-quality turf that golfers expect. More and more, he's finding that golfers -- and superintendents -- expect bentgrass.

"Creeping bentgrass is really the preferred grass for most superintendents everywhere. Superintendents in the northern, cool-season growing region prefer creeping bentgrass for greens and fairways, while superintendents in the South prefer it over Bermudagrass for greens.

"I think the reason why people like creeping bentgrass is that, compared to its main competitor, *Poa annua*, it has great cold and heat tolerance. Bentgrass tends to survive well in the cold, whether it's covered with ice or open to dessication by the wind. It also survives the stress periods of summer in much better condition."

Why, then, does *Poa annua* remain a problem on so many courses? Dr. Vargas has an answer: "Bentgrass doesn't produce any viable seed to re-establish itself, but *Poa* seeds constantly.

When voids occur in creeping bentgrass turf due to disease or other factors, it is very difficult for the bentgrass to fill them in because it can only do so vegetatively, by putting out stolons that spread over the open area."

If the open area persists into fall, he warns, "the *Poa annua* seeds are going to germinate. Then, you start losing your creeping bentgrass."

Coping with disease problems

"The most commonly occurring diseases on creeping bentgrass are Leafspot, Dollar spot, Brown patch and

Pythium blight," says Dr. Vargas. "All of these are capable of thinning or causing holes in bentgrass turf where *Poa* can invade. Leafspot occurs in cool, wet weather, especially in spring, and tends to thin the turf out. "Dollar spot" he adds "can occur all year long, but it's usually heaviest in late summer." That's when rapid drops in nighttime temperature cause the release of guttation water from the grass leaves. "This fluid is rich in carbohydrates and amino acids, which are good food for the Dollar spot fungus.

"In the summer, Brown patch is a problem while the temperatures are in the 80s to 90s, with high humidity and nighttime temperatures staying up around 70 degrees. When the daytime temperature starts getting into the 90s, with high humidity, then we see Pythium blight ... Brown patch kills patches anywhere from six inches to three feet in diameter. Pythium just kind of kills everything in its path. It starts out small, then quickly covers large areas, especially where there is standing water or poor drainage."

Maintaining a solid fungicide program can be difficult through the season, but it's essential. One complicating factor, says Dr. Vargas, "is that most courses don't have

pure bentgrass. A new course would be close to 90% bentgrass; but, as times goes on, *Poa* creeps in on shaded areas, on tees, and sometimes on the greens."

As a result, he says that many superintendents tank-mix combinations of multi-site contact fungicides, which are strong on bentgrass diseases, such as Daconil 2787, with single-site, systemic products that control diseases of *Poa annua*, such as Banner, Bayleton, and Rubigan. In spring, these mixes control Leafspot and Dollar spot on bentgrass, while preventing summer patch on *Poa*. In summer, while Daconil 2787 fungicide protects against Brown patch, the systemic products combat Anthracnose.

(continued on page 9.)

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(continued from page 8.)

A practical approach to fungicide resistance problems

"I would say that fungicide resistance is certainly feared among superintendents, but the only disease where resistance has been observed on a widespread basis has been Dollar spot," says Dr. Vargas. "We have also seen resistance to Pythium blight, but that affects a different set of fungicides."

Dr. Vargas recommends a "practical approach" for minimizing the risk of Dollar spot resistance to systemic fungicides. "Use a contact fungicide to control Dollar spot throughout the year, except when Dollar spot pressure is heaviest." Then, he recommends a single application of a systemic. If Dollar spot recurs during the same season, "go back with a contact fungicide only." By applying systemics only once a year, and rotating them on a three-year basis, he believes resistance potential is minimized.

Dr. Vargas also agrees with widely published Pythium control guidelines established by Dr. Pat Sanders at Penn State University for using low-rate mixtures of the systemic Pythium control fungicides. The guidelines have two key elements, he explains. "One is the use of low rates. At the lower rate, you do less harm to the wild-type fungal population. The second element is the use of different fungicide chemistry in the mixture. This reduces the chance of the Pythium fungus de-

veloping resistance as it might well do if the fungicides were used alone or in alternation."

Improving bentgrass competitiveness

"The greatest problem in turfgrass research for the last 50 years is that university people have said that *Poa* is the weaker grass ... I think this led to the idea that you can do anything with bentgrass and it would still win out. That's simply not the case.

"People need to change their thinking about bentgrass. They need to remember, 'bentgrass is the weaker grass when it comes to competition, so I have to take good care of it. I can't let disease in there. I've got to mow it at a decent height. Collect the clippings and nurture it so that there aren't any voids where *Poa* can establish itself.' "

"In recent times, because of improved cultural practices and careful use of existing fungicides, there has been a reestablishment of creeping bentgrass on many golf courses that were primarily *Poa annua*," says Dr. Vargas.

"I've seen a tremendous increase in the bentgrass content of fairways where lightweight mowing and clipping removal have been used during the summer months." He also feels that plant growth regulators, which slow the growth of *Poa*, as well as reduced nitrogen fertilization, can be important factors in improving bentgrass competitiveness.

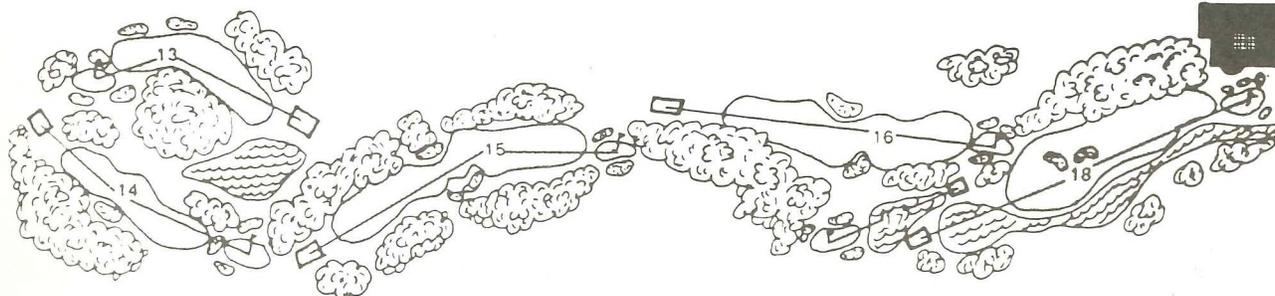
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The Clippings



Calendar

CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	HOST
June 25	CAGCS Annual Invitational Tournament	Woodbridge Country Club Woodbridge, CT	John F. Streeter
July 9	CAGCS Monthly Meeting	Willimantic Country Club Willimantic, CT	Steve Rackliffe
August TBA	<i>"Oldies But Goodies" Cruise</i>		
Sept. 10	CAGCS Monthly Meeting	Yale University Country Club New Haven, CT	Harry Meusel
October 1	S & R Tournament	Farmington Woods Country Club Unionville, CT	Greg Bradley
October 17	CAGCS Monthly Meeting	Tallwood Country Club Hebron, CT	Michael Ovia
November TBA	CAGCS Annual Meeting	Pilgrim's Harbor Country Club Wallingford, CT	Ward Weischet

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Metro Milorganite (914) 666-3171

Fairway Landscapers, Inc.
Green, Tee, Bunker Construction
South Glastonbury, CT 06073
Walter Varni
(203) 633-1273

Glenmore Landscape Service
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Pound Ridge, NY 10576
Glenn S. Moore
(914) 764-4348

James Carriere & Sons, Inc.
Trap Sand - Partac Topdressing
Port Chester, NY 10573
Bill Carriere
(914) 937-2136

LESCO
20005 Lake Road
Rocky River, Ohio 44116
Mike Donahue
(800) 321-5325

The Magovern Company
Windsor Locks, CT 06096
Carl Wallace - Peter Moran
(203) 623-2508 - Windsor Locks
(203) 348-8211 - Stamford

Mantek
12 Bradley Street
Branford, CT 06405
Bob Reinhold
(203) 481-4321

Metro Milorganite
365 Adams Street
Bedford Hills, NY 10507
Joe Stahl
(914) 666-3171

Nor-Am Chemical Company
311 Carriage Drive
Kensington, CT 06037
David Sylvester
(203) 828-8905

Northeast Golf Construction
Green, Tee, Bunker Construction
Cart Path and Drain Installation
Waterbury, CT 06704
(203) 755-4690

O. M. Scott & Sons
Proturf Division
Marysville, OH 43041
Al Arison
(203) 336-9890

Old Fox Chemical, Inc.
249 Shaker Road, P. O. Box 2287
Enfield, CT 06082
Mike Dukette
(203) 684-9426

Partac Golf Course Top-Dressing
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Cart Path Mixes, Terra-Green;
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Pipe & Irrigation Equipment
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Milford, CT 06460
Paul J. Roche
(203) 878-0658

Pro-Lawn Products, Inc.
30 Nashville Road
Bethel, CT 06801
Stephen M. Kotowicz
(203) 792-3032

Reichert Company
P. O. Box 273
Riverside, CT 06878
Frank Reichert
(203) 637-2958

Shawnmark Industries, Inc.
Specialty Products & Service
Warwick, RI 02888
Matt Howland (24 hours a day)
(401) 295-1673

Terre Co.
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Clifton, NJ 07014
Byron Johnson, Jr.
H- (203) 748-5069/ W-(201) 473-3393

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Penncross ~ Bluegrass ~ Fescue ~ Rye
West Suffield, CT 06093
Skip Deubel
(800) 243-7582

Turf Products Corporation
157 Moody Rd., P. O. Box 2576
Enfield, CT 06082
John Ferry, Mark Loper
(203) 763-3581

Turf Specialty, Inc.
60 Merrimack Street
Hooksett, NH 03106
Dave Schermerhorn
(603) 485-7866

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